

TONIGHT'S PUBLIC MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to gather public input on the scope of the study, preliminary alternatives, and areas of concern.

This evening's meeting is an "Open House" during which you will be able to talk directly with members of the project team. An open microphone session will follow.

6:00 – 7:00 P.M. Open House

7:00 – 8:00 P.M. Open Microphone*

*Please register at the sign-in table if you wish to speak. Registration is first come, first served, and comments are limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT

Public Scoping Period – January 28 - February 28, 2011

Meeting # 1: Scoping/Alternatives Meeting – Tonight

Meeting #2: Public Hearing on the EA – Summer 2011

HOW TO COMMENT

Tonight: Fill out a comment form, talk to a court reporter, or sign up to speak at the microphone.

Mail: District Department of Transportation
Planning, Policy, and Sustainability Administration
2000 14th Street NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
Attn: Austina Casey

Online: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RockCreekTrailRehab/>

Comments must be received by **February 28, 2011** to receive consideration in the Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Evaluation.



SCHEDULE/NEXT STEPS

Project Milestone	Date
Project Initiation	November 2010
Public/Agency Scoping Period	January – February 2011
Agency Scoping Meeting	February 15, 2011
Public Scoping Meeting	February 23, 2011
Notice of Availability of the EA	Late Spring 2011
Public Hearing on the EA	Summer 2011
NEPA Decision Document	Fall 2011

ROCK CREEK PARK MULTI-USE TRAIL REHABILITATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

AND

SECTION 106 EVALUATION

**PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2011**



PROJECT BACKGROUND

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), proposes to rehabilitate the Rock Creek Park multi-use trail.

An Environmental Assessment is being prepared in accordance with the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**, **NPS Director's Order #12**, and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

A Section 106 Evaluation is also being prepared in accordance with the **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**.



PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this action is to improve the safety and connectivity of the deteriorating Rock Creek Park multi-use trail system in order to enhance visitor use and experience within Rock Creek Park.

The proposed action would result in: improved visitor safety and experience; protection of park resources; improved access to the Rock Creek Park multi-use trail system from other pedestrian and bicycle facilities, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods; and more effective drainage and erosion control, thereby reducing trail maintenance.

Specific issues creating the project needs include:

- **Safety** – deteriorated segments and current widths may not meet current safety standards.
- **Environmental Protection** – soil compaction and vegetation damage have occurred where visitors have created “social trails.”
- **System Connectivity** – current pavement gaps and lack of access points to Rock Creek Park.
- **Visitor Use and Experience** – support of current diverse user groups: walkers, runners, bicyclists, those enjoying nature, etc.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES AND OPTIONS

The following alternatives and options are under consideration for detailed analysis in the EA and Section 106 Evaluation.

ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION

Under the no action alternative, NPS would continue to maintain the existing trails and no new construction would occur. The no action alternative sets a baseline against which to compare impacts of the build alternatives.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL BUILD ALTERNATIVES

New Connections

- Blagden Avenue
- Broad Branch Road
- Beach Drive
- Piney Branch Parkway trail
- Arkansas Avenue
- Porter Street ramp
- P Street (both sides of ramp)
- Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway trail
- Rose Park trail

Spot Improvements

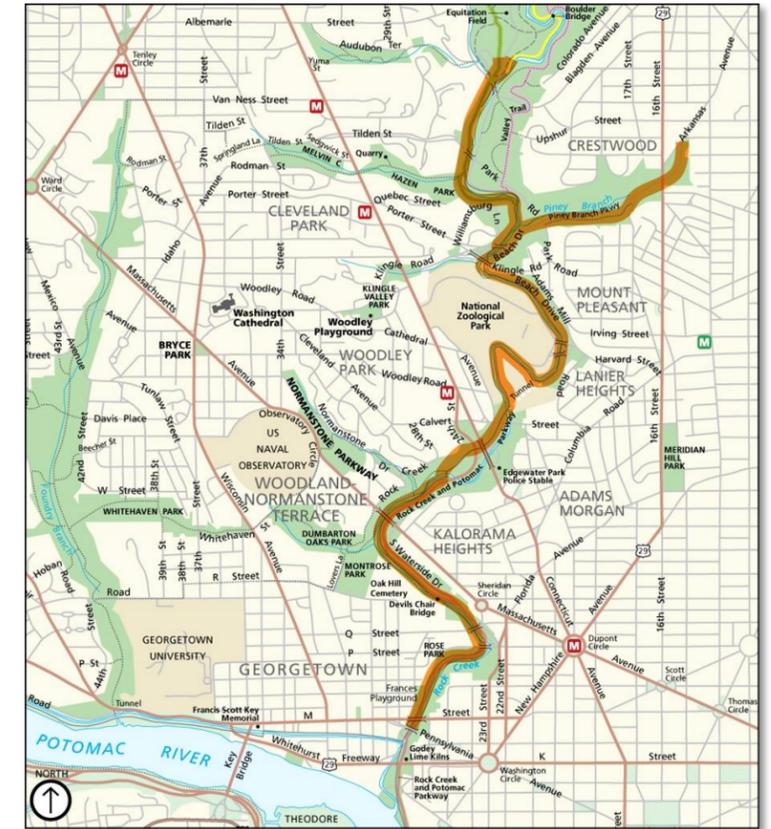
- Minor trail realignments at curves and approaches
- Roadway crossing safety improvements
- Improved crossing at Beach Drive bridge over Rock Creek (south of Zoo tunnel)
- Drainage and erosion control
- Grade improvements

ALTERNATIVE 2: RESURFACING

In addition to spot improvements and new connections, the Rock Creek Park multi-use trail would be resurfaced at existing widths. The Piney Branch Parkway trail would be resurfaced to a varying width of 6 to 8 feet.

ALTERNATIVE 3: RESURFACING AND WIDENING

In addition to spot improvements and new connections, the Rock Creek Park multi-use trail would be resurfaced and widened a minimum of 6 feet up to a maximum of 10 feet, depending on environmental constraints. The Piney Branch Parkway trail would be resurfaced to a varying width of 6 to 8 feet.



PEIRCE MILL TRAIL SPUR OPTIONS

An 8-10 foot wide “social trail” has been created by users along Rock Creek from Blagden Avenue to the Peirce Mill parking lot.

Option A: No Action – The social trail would remain unchanged.

Option B: 8-10 Foot Paved Trail Spur – The social trail would be resurfaced at its current location to a varying width of 8-10 feet.

ROSE PARK TRAIL OPTIONS

The Rose Park trail currently varies in width from 5-6 feet.

Option A: No Action – NPS would continue to maintain the trail.

Option B: 6 Foot Trail – The trail would be resurfaced at its current alignment to a width of 6 feet, including improved connections to P Street, NW and M Street, NW.

Option C: 8 Foot Trail – The trail would be resurfaced at its current alignment to a width of 8 feet, including improved connections to P Street, NW and M Street, NW.

