
APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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United States Department of the Interior



IN REPLY REFER TO:

D30 (3450)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region

Rock Creek Park

3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

OCT 05 2011

Mr. Leopoldo Miranda
Field Supervisor, Chesapeake Bay Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Safety Improvements at Waterside Drive, Rock Creek Park and Rock Creek Parkway: Request Concurrence on Species List within Action Area

Dear Mr. Miranda:

We are writing to reinitiate informal consultation concerning a construction project at Waterside Drive along the Rock Creek Parkway.

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment to evaluate proposed safety improvements at Waterside Drive. These improvements originally were part of a larger planning effort, undertaken by the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration in 2006, to reconstruct and rehabilitate Beach Drive and the parkway from Calvert Street, N.W., to P Street, N.W. An Environmental Assessment was prepared in 2006 for the rehabilitation project, part of which included proposed safety improvements at Waterside Drive (see Figure 1). In July 2011, soon after construction began at the intersection, the National Park Service learned that this section of the project was not following the preferred alternative discussed in the Environmental Assessment. Consequently, the National Park Service halted construction at Waterside Drive to re-initiate planning and compliance for this portion of the project. Construction of other portions of the project will continue as planned.

In compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, we are consulting with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the existence of one federally listed species, Hay's Spring amphipod (*Stygobromus hayi*), and one candidate species, Kenk's amphipod (*Stygobromus kenki*), within the project area. The closest Hay's Spring amphipod population is within the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo, which is approximately 2 kilometers northeast of the project site. The Hay's Spring and Kenk's amphipod populations within Rock Creek Park are approximately 4 kilometers to the northeast of the project site, as shown in the American University 2004 study by Dr. David Culver. Therefore, there is no evidence of the presence of either the Hay's Spring amphipod or the Kenk's amphipod within the proposed project's location.

We are seeking your concurrence that the aforementioned listed species comprise the entire list of threatened or endangered species within or nearby the proposed project's location.

Correspondence with the Chesapeake Bay Field Office regarding the original, larger planning effort to rebuild and rehabilitate Rock Creek Parkway between Calvert Street and P Streets initially was conducted in a letter dated May 13, 2004. On July 15, 2004, Mr. Andrew Moser of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office responded to the letter. He stated that the endangered Hay's Spring amphipod "is known to occur in several springs in Rock Creek Park" and that "[p]otential impact on this groundwater species should be evaluated as part of your environmental assessment."

"Except for occasional transient individuals, no other federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area," Mr. Moser stated. "Should plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered."


To improve traffic flow and to minimize the number of accidents along the parkway in the vicinity of Waterside Drive, a combination of improvements are proposed to accommodate a new acceleration lane along the parkway where the southbound ramp from Waterside Drive merges.

Due to the physical constraints of the site, accommodating the proposed safety improvements may require the construction of a retaining wall to support this section of roadway. This retaining wall may encroach into Rock Creek. In addition, the National Park Service also will be considering ecologically sensitive methods of stabilizing the streambank within the project area that is opposite of Rock Creek Parkway. In addition to addressing safety improvements at Waterside Drive, the Environmental Assessment also will consider ecologically sensitive methods of stabilizing the streambank on the opposite side of Rock Creek from Waterside Drive. Severe erosion of this bank occurred during August and September of 2011, the result of flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. This erosion is affecting the stability of the adjacent Rock Creek Multi-use Trail.

For reference, the project area can be found on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 series quadrangle map for Washington West, DC. Please also refer to the enclosed park map and figure of the project area.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Rock Creek Park Deputy Superintendent Cindy Cox at 202-895-6010, or by email at cindy_cox@nps.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tara Morrison", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tara Morrison
Superintendent
Rock Creek Park

Enclosure

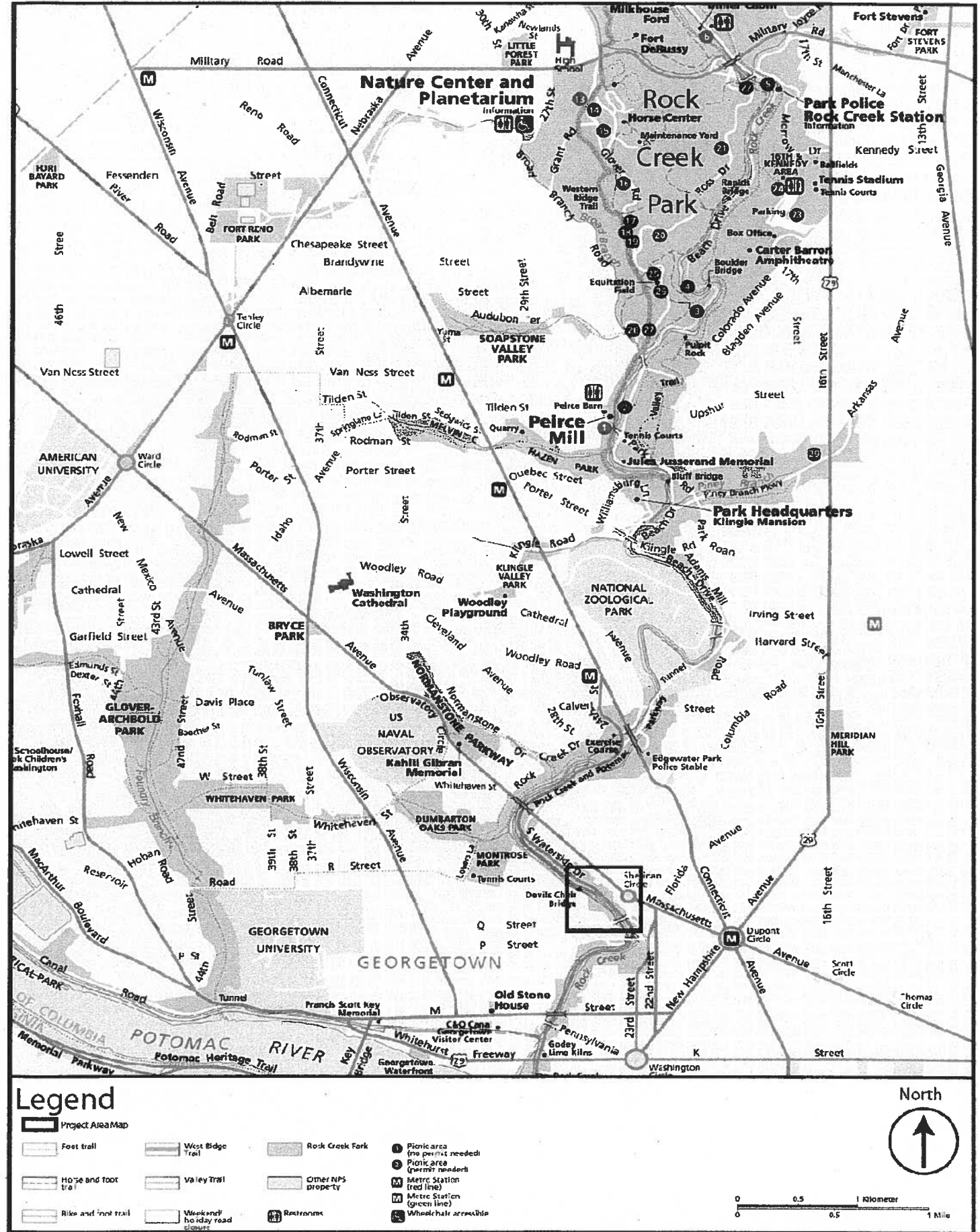
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Figure 2: Proposed Project Area





IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region

Rock Creek Park

3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008-1207



April 16, 2011

Mr. Leopoldo Miranda
Field Supervisor, Chesapeake Bay Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Safety Improvements at Waterside Drive, Rock Creek Park and Rock Creek Parkway:
Request Concurrence on Species List within Action Area

Dear Mr. Miranda:

We are writing as a follow-up to our letter of October 3, 2011, in which we seek to reinitiate informal consultation concerning a construction project at Waterside Drive along the Rock Creek Parkway.

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment to evaluate proposed safety improvements at Waterside Drive. These improvements originally were part of a larger planning effort, undertaken by the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration in 2006, to reconstruct and rehabilitate Beach Drive and the parkway from Calvert Street, N.W., to P Street, N.W. An Environmental Assessment was prepared in 2006 for the rehabilitation project, part of which included proposed safety improvements at Waterside Drive (see Figure 1). In July 2011, soon after construction began at the intersection, the National Park Service learned that this section of the project was not following the preferred alternative discussed in the Environmental Assessment. Consequently, the National Park Service halted construction at Waterside Drive to re-initiate planning and compliance for this portion of the project. Construction of other portions of the project will continue as planned.

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either the Hay's Spring amphipod or the Kenk's amphipod within the proposed project's location.

We are seeking your concurrence that the aforementioned listed species comprise the entire list of threatened or endangered species within or nearby the proposed project's location.

Correspondence with the Chesapeake Bay Field Office regarding the original, larger planning effort to rebuild and rehabilitate Rock Creek Parkway between Calvert Street and P Streets initially was conducted in a letter dated May 13, 2004. On July 15, 2004, Mr. Andrew Moser of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office responded to the letter. He stated that the endangered Hay's Spring amphipod "is known to occur in several springs in Rock Creek Park" and that "[p]otential impact on this groundwater species should be evaluated as part of your environmental assessment."

"Except for occasional transient individuals, no other federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area," Mr. Moser stated. "Should plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered."

To improve traffic flow and to minimize the number of accidents along the parkway in the vicinity of Waterside Drive, a combination of improvements are proposed to accommodate a new acceleration lane along the parkway where the southbound ramp from Waterside Drive merges.

Due to the physical constraints of the site, accommodating the proposed safety improvements may require the construction of a retaining wall to support this section of roadway. This retaining wall may encroach into Rock Creek. In addition, the National Park Service also will be considering ecologically sensitive methods of stabilizing the streambank within the project area that is opposite of Rock Creek Parkway. In addition to addressing safety improvements at Waterside Drive, the Environmental Assessment also will consider ecologically sensitive methods of stabilizing the streambank on the opposite side of Rock Creek from Waterside Drive. Severe erosion of this bank occurred during August and September of 2011, the result of flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. This erosion is affecting the stability of the adjacent Rock Creek Multi-use Trail.

For reference, the project area can be found on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 series quadrangle map for Washington West, DC. Please also refer to the enclosed park map and figure of the project area.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Rock Creek Park Deputy Superintendent Cindy Cox at 202-895-6010, or by email at cindy_cox@nps.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara Morrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

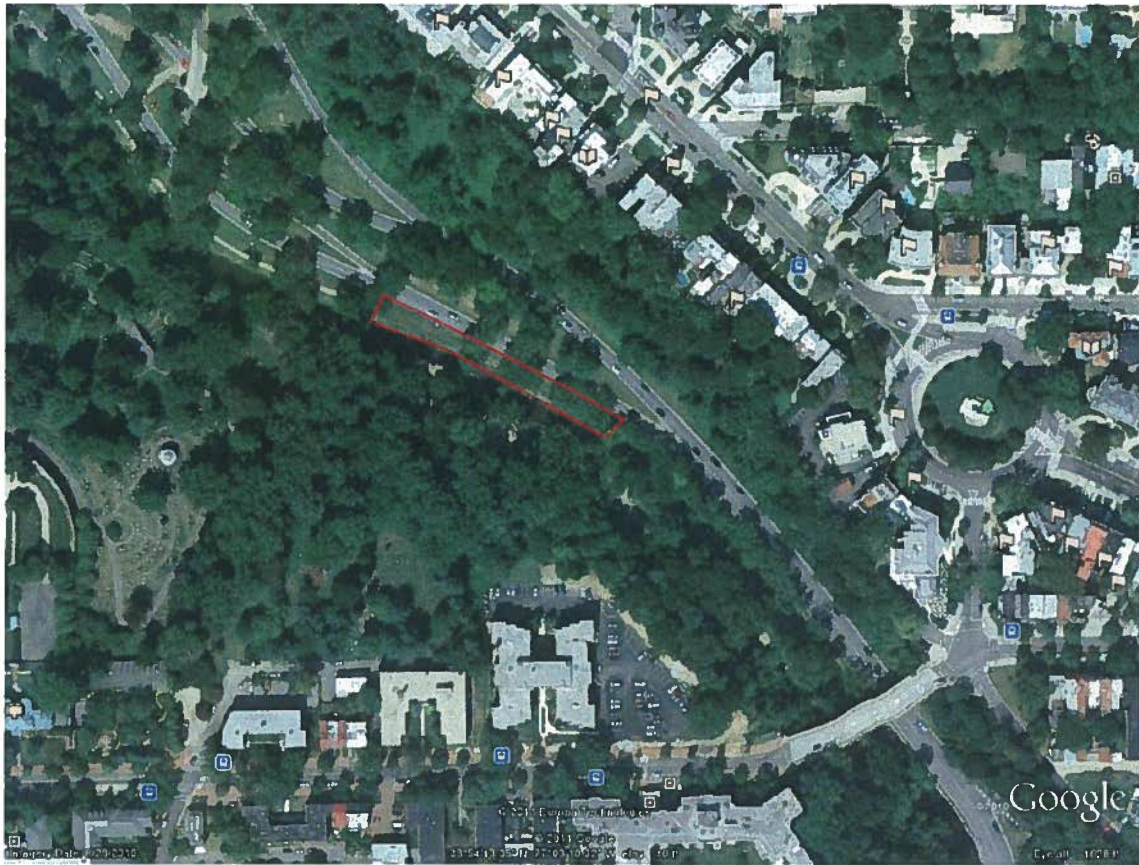
Tara Morrison
Superintendent
Rock Creek Park

Enclosures:

Figure 1: Rock Creek Park and Vicinity



Figure 2: Proposed Project Area





United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
<http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay>

April 24, 2012

Ms. Tara Morrison
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

*Re: Safety Improvements at Waterside Drive, Rock Creek Park and Rock Creek Parkway:
Request for Concurrence with Species List for Action Area*

Dear Ms. Morrison:

This responds to your April 16, 2012, letter requesting our concurrence with your list of Federal candidates and Federally listed endangered or threatened species in the project action area. We have reviewed the information you enclosed and are providing comments in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

We concur that one federal candidate species, Kenk's amphipod (*Stygobromus kenki*) and one federally listed species, Hay's Spring amphipod (*Stygobromus hayi*) occur in Rock Creek Park and that no other federally listed or candidate species are known to occur there. We also concur with your findings concerning the distances between the springs known to support these species and the action area for the referenced project, and further concur that neither of these species are known to occur in the area affected by this project. Therefore, no further Section 7 consultation regarding this project is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species or candidate species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

We appreciate your interest in threatened and endangered species and their protection. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on the conservation of these two rare amphipods. Should you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Andy Moser of my Endangered Species Staff at (410) 573-4537.

Sincerely,

Genevieve LaRouche
Supervisor





United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region

Rock Creek Park

3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D30 (3450)

OCT 05 2011

Mr. David Maloney
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Planning, District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Safety Improvements at Waterside Drive, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration are proposing to implement road safety improvements where the southbound ramp from Waterside Drive, NW merges onto the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. We are writing to formally initiate consultation on this project with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office, in accordance with 36CFR800.3 of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The National Park Service will develop an Environmental Assessment for this project and is requesting streamlining Section 106 with the National Environmental Policy Act requirements in accordance with 36CFR800.8. This project may have an effect on the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The purpose of this proposed project is to improve traffic flow and to minimize the number of accidents along the parkway in the vicinity of Waterside Drive. (Please refer to the enclosed park map and figure of the project area.)

The proposed safety improvements at this location originally were part of a larger planning effort, undertaken by the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration in 2006, to reconstruct and rehabilitate the parkway from P Street to Calvert Street, NW as well as Beach Drive from Shoreham Drive to the Maryland border. At that time, an Environmental Assessment was prepared for this project, part of which discussed safety improvements at Waterside Drive and identified a preferred alternative. In July 2011, soon after construction began at the intersection, the National Park Service learned that the design for this section of the project was different from what was described in the 2006 Environmental Assessment. Consequently, the National Park Service halted construction at Waterside Drive to re-initiate planning and compliance for this portion of the project. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service is preparing a separate Environmental Assessment to evaluate these proposed safety improvements, which originally were part of the

larger planning effort. Construction of other portions of the project at Cathedral Avenue, Shoreham Drive, and Beach Drive, NW is not affected and will continue as planned.

Due to the physical constraints of the site, the proposed safety improvements may require constructing a retaining wall to support this section of roadway. It is possible that the retaining wall could encroach into Rock Creek.

In addition to addressing safety improvements at Waterside Drive, the Environmental Assessment also will consider ecologically sensitive methods of stabilizing the stream bank on the opposite side of Rock Creek from Waterside Drive. Severe erosion of this bank occurred during August and September of 2011, the result of flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. This erosion is affecting the stability of the adjacent Rock Creek Multi-use Trail.

We look forward to working with your office, other consulting parties and the public as we proceed with the environmental planning process for this project. If you should have any questions, please contact Deputy Superintendent Cindy Cox at 202-895-6004, or by email at cindy_cox@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara Morrison', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tara Morrison
Superintendent
Rock Creek Park

Enclosure