



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive SE
Washington, D.C. 20020

L7617 (NPS-NACE/RM)

June 21, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to repair and improve connectivity of the Civil War Defenses of Washington (CWDW) Hiker/Mountain Biker Trail. The proposed project area is a 7-mile hiker/mountain biker trail located in Southeast Washington, D.C. and would involve Fort Mahan, Fort Dupont, Fort Davis, Fort Stanton, and Fort Ricketts; all administrative units of National Capital Parks – East. The project would include tasks that improve connectivity of the trail system by creating connecting trail segments, installing new bridges and replacing several deteriorated bridges. Additional work items would also include the installation of standard motor vehicle prevention and the resurfacing of asphalt pavement. The project would also include installation of six prefabricated bridges (two new bridges, four replacements of existing bridges), 11 sections of new trail to improve connectivity, installation of 28 new vehicle prevention structures, and five areas where existing asphalt would be resurfaced. One new bridge would include the removal of the existing culvert and repairing the stream and riparian area.

The National Capital Parks-East portion of the CWDW is a series of protected open spaces along the hilltops southeast of the Anacostia River in the District of Columbia and nearby Maryland. The park holdings encompass the Civil War defense areas of Fort Mahan, Fort Chaplin, Fort Dupont, Fort Davis, Fort Stanton, Fort Ricketts, Battery Carroll, Fort Greble, and extend into Maryland with Fort Foote along the Potomac River. Along with a link to the country's history, these former defense sites, along with the corridors parkland that connect them, constitute green space that evolved from some of the earliest urban planning efforts related to public recreation in the United States (in the 1902 "Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia"). Beginning with legislation passed in 1924 that established the National Capital Park Commission (Public Law 592, 43 Stat. 463), which was later renamed the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in 1926 (44 Stat. 374), the CWDW was a part of the park, parkway, and playground system of the National Capital. Initially planned as the Fort Drive that helped "to preserve the forests and natural scenery in and about Washington", and later corroborated in the 1960's National Capital Planning Commission recommendations emphasizing a "fort park system" emphasizing recreation with a continuous "bicycle and pedestrian way."

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate these proposed actions. The EA will address the project background, the purpose and need for the proposed actions, a determination

of environmental issues and potential impacts resulting from the alternatives considered (including the no action alternative), and public involvement and agency coordination.

At this time, the NPS is announcing a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments on this proposal, from June 21 – July 21. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment. You may submit comments electronically at the NPS's *Planning, Environment, and Public Comment* website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/hikerbiker>) or submit written comments to:

Superintendent
National Capital Parks-East
Attn: CWDW Hiker/Mountain Biker Trail
1900 Anacostia Park, S.E.
Washington, DC 20020

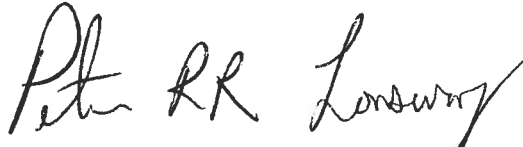
Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you require additional information or special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting, please contact Robert Mocko, Environmental Protection Specialist/Compliance Coordinator, at the NPS at 202-690-5170.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,

Gopaul Noojibail
Acting Superintendent


Peter R.R. Lonsway
Acting Superintendent