

KENNEDY CENTER EXPANSION CONNECTION PROJECT

Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting

December 10, 2015
9:30 am

NCPC

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Section 106 Overview
- Project Description and Background
- Presentation of Alternatives
- Section 106 Process and Identification of Historic Resources
- Preliminary Discussion of Effects
- Questions, Comments, and Next Steps

Section 106 Overview

- The NPCP and NPS are acting as co-lead agencies in cooperation with the Kennedy Center to fulfill the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the proposed Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project.
- In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NPCP and NPS are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify alternatives and assess the potential impacts of the Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project.
- A NEPA public scoping meeting and S106 Consulting Parties Meeting was held on September 29, 2015.
- S106 consultation was initiated with the DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO) on November 9, 2015.



Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail and to improve access and create a public waterfront link to and from the Kennedy Center, the National Mall and Memorial Parks, the Potomac River waterfront, and the surrounding vicinity.



Project Background

- The Kennedy Center is a Congressionally-designated national showcase for the performing arts and a living memorial to President Kennedy.
- To serve its existing and future programming, the Kennedy Center is expanding its facilities through the construction of a new building featuring three land-based pavilions located south of the existing building on a site formerly used for parking.
- The design for the Expansion was approved by NCPC in July 2015.
- The proposed Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project will provide a direct link between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail along the Potomac waterfront.
- There are four action alternatives and a no action alternative being considered for the project.

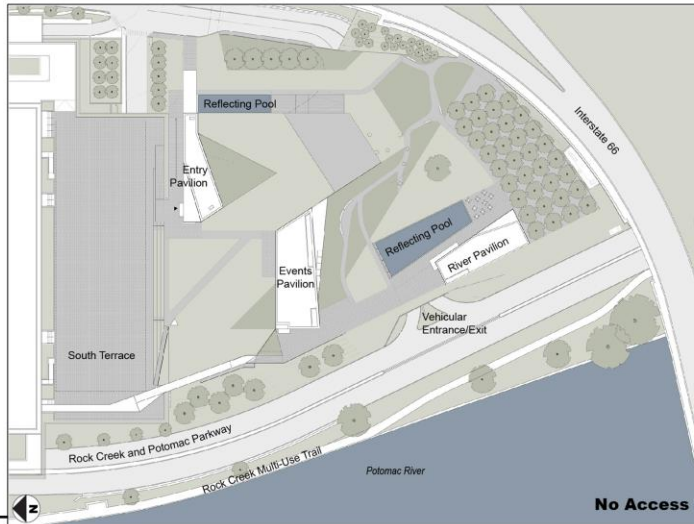


Project Area

The proposed connection would be located on a site roughly bounded by F Street, NW, to the north, the Potomac River Freeway and ramp to Roosevelt Bridge on the east and southeast, and the Potomac River on the west.



No Action Alternative

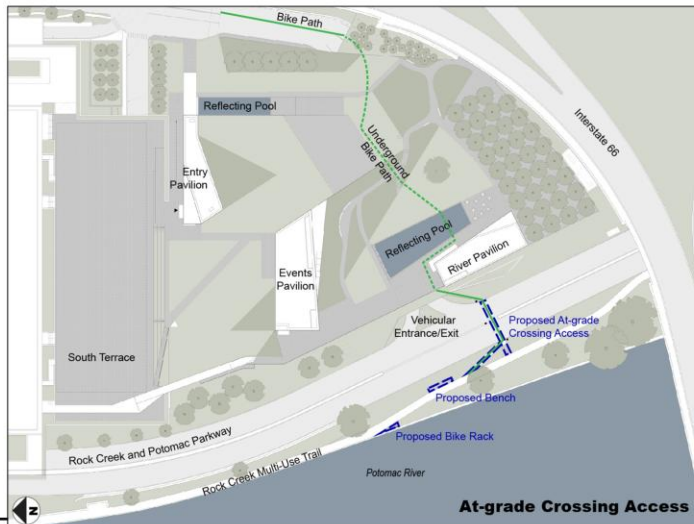


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KC

[Under the No Action alternative, the Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project would not be implemented. This alternative describes the continuation of the existing conditions, operations, and maintenance of the Kennedy Center, including the planned and NCPC-approved Kennedy Center Expansion Project, which will construct a new building featuring three land-based pavilions located south of the existing facility. This alternative also describes the continuation of the existing conditions, operations, and maintenance of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail.]

At-Grade Crossing Access Alternative

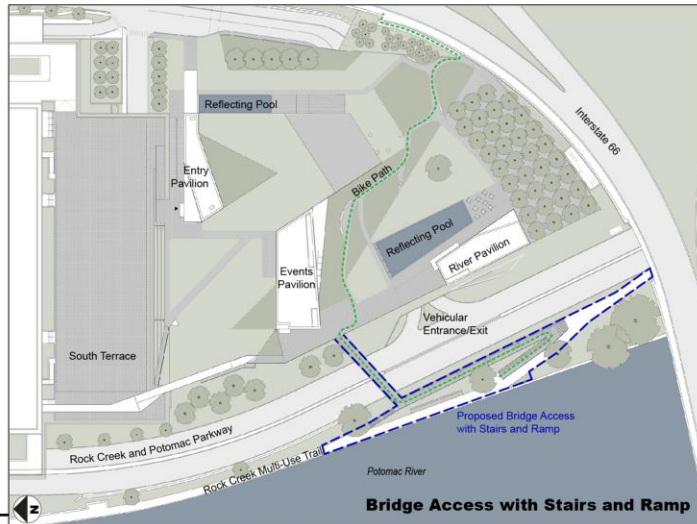


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KC

[The At-Grade Access Alternative proposes to connect the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail via an at-grade crossing that would traverse the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP. Under this alternative, the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail would not be rerouted and no trees would be removed or relocated. Two trail spurs would be added to connect the at-grade crossing with the Multi-Use Trail. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack, would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the crossing. The pedestrian and bike route under this alternative would go through the Kennedy Center garage.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative



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KC

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative proposes to connect the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail via a bridge that would span the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP and would be accessed from the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail by both a ramp and stairs. The connection would be a steel structure, and the bridge component would measure approximately 11-feet wide. Under this alternative, a section of the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail would be rerouted and three trail spurs would be added to connect the trail with the landing of the stair at the south end of the ramp, the ramp landing, and the landing of the north stair. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack (location to be determined), would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the bridge. One tree would be removed for the construction of the ramp, and a replacement tree would be planted near the location of the original.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative

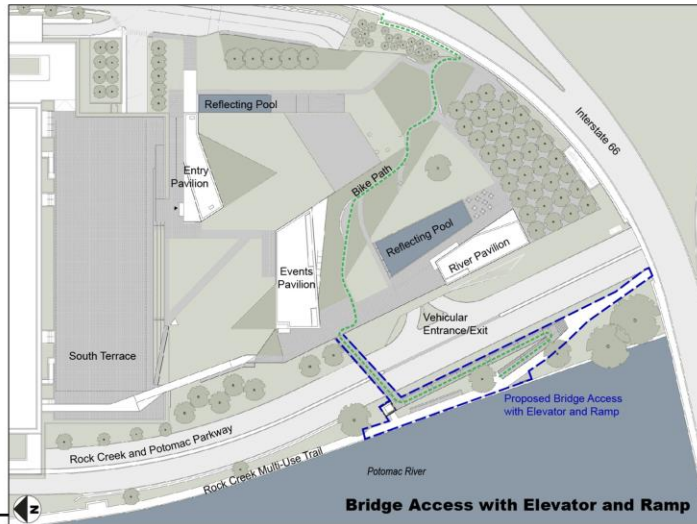


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KC

[Oblique view of the Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative



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KC

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative proposes to connect the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail via a bridge that would span the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP and would be accessed from the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail by both a ramp and an elevator. The connection would be a steel structure, and the bridge component would measure approximately 11-feet wide. Under this alternative, a section of the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail would be rerouted and three trail spurs would be added to connect the trail with the landing of the stair at the south end of the ramp, the ramp landing, and the elevator threshold. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack (location to be determined), would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the bridge. One tree would be removed for the construction of the ramp, and a replacement tree would be planted near the location of the original.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative

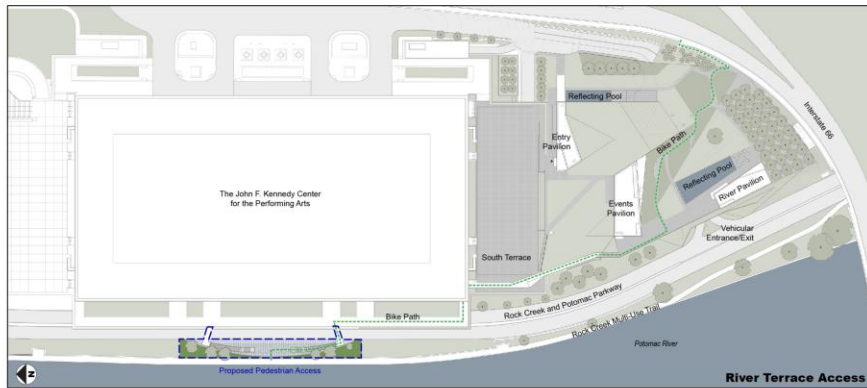


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KC

[Oblique view of the Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative.]

River Terrace Access Alternative



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KC

[The River Terrace Access Alternative proposes a pair of curved staircases with integrated elevators that would provide access between the Kennedy Center River Terrace and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail. Under this alternative, portions of the existing terrace wall and planter structure would be removed from the River Terrace and two 20-foot wide platforms would extend approximately 16 feet out over the southbound lanes of the RCPP. Each platform would be centered on the existing terrace fountains and the entrances to the Hall of Nations and the Hall of States. A paved plaza that tied into the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail would be constructed at the bottom of the stair and elevator structures. This alternative would have no dedicated bicycle access. Bikes would have to be carried up the stairs or put on an elevator.]

River Terrace Access Alternative



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KC

[Oblique view of the River Terrace Access Alternative.]

SECTION 106
OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA)



Area of Potential Effects (APE)

BUILDINGS

- ① Kennedy Center
- ② Watergate Complex

STRUCTURES

- ③ Arlington Memorial Bridge

DISTRICTS

- ④ George Washington Memorial Parkway
- ⑤ Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway
- East & West Potomac Parks Historic District
- Georgetown Historic District

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

- Lady Bird Johnson Park
- Lincoln Memorial Grounds
- Memorial Avenue Corridor
- Theodore Roosevelt Island



Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center was determined eligible for the National Register by the DC HPO on February 13, 2012, under:

- National Register Criteria B for properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- National Register Criteria C for properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values;
- Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties; and
- Criteria Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years.



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R&A

[In the following slides, we will present the NR status and contributing features of two historic resources within the project area – the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway.]

Kennedy Center Character-Defining Features

- bilateral symmetry
- long, low horizontality
- organized, hierarchical facades
- clear, geometric form
- thin-clad marble curtain walls
- the size and location of the plaza-level glass curtain walls
- roof overhangs, including marble-paneled fascia
- peripteral columns
- engraved quotations and bronze wall signage
- stage access doors and the vertical paired openings in the north, south, and center bays of the east facade



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R&A

[The Kennedy Center DOE identified contributing exterior features and contributing site features. (Interior elements were not evaluated.)]

Kennedy Center Character-Defining Features

Contributing features of the terraces and Entrance Plaza include:

- the footprint and cantilevered structure of the West (River) Terrace
- the marble panels of the north, west, and south fascia of the West Terrace overhang
- the shape and location of the planting boxes and double row of willow trees of the West Terrace
- the shape and location of the water features of the West Terrace
- the size and location of the water features of the Entrance Plaza
- the Entrance Plaza public art



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R&A

Kennedy Center Character-Defining Features

Contributing views from the Kennedy Center include:

- the 360-degree panoramic view from the Roof Terrace
- views from the River Terrace of the Potomac River
- views from the River Terrace of Theodore Roosevelt Island
- views from the River Terrace of the Virginia shoreline



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R&A

[In September 2014, an addendum to the Kennedy Center DOE was prepared identifying contributing views of the Kennedy Center.]

Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway

- The Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway (RCPP) is a designed linear landscape dedicated to scenic driving.
- It was officially authorized in 1913 to provide a landscaped roadway connection between the Mall and Potomac Park (later renamed East and West Potomac Parks) and the already established Rock Creek Park and National Zoo.
- The RCPP was the first parkway in the metropolitan region and one of the earliest parkways in the nation.
- The RCPP was listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites on November 8, 1964, and in the NRHP on May 4, 2005, under the multiple property listing "Parkways of the National Capital Region, 1913-1965."



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R&A

RCPP Character-Defining Features

The RCPP features twenty-eight contributing resources, seven of which are located within the APE. These include:

- *The Arts of Peace*
- Millet Lamp posts
- Stone Seawalls
- Rock Creek
- Sycamore Allée
- Roadway
- Network of Trails

Significant views from the RCPP include:

- panoramic views of the Potomac River and Theodore Roosevelt Island



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R&A

[The RCPP features twenty-eight contributing resources, seven of which are located within the APE. Although these character-defining features are located within the APE, the only character-defining features in the project area are segments of the Roadway and the Network of Trails.]

[(The contributing section of the Stone Seawalls is located south of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. The Sycamore Allée is only present in the section of the tree line in front of the Watergate building.)]

Criteria of Adverse Effect

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property.



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R&A

[To facilitate discussions, preliminary effects are presented here for Consulting Parties input. Effects will be presented more solidly in the AOE (available in March) and discussed further in the next Consulting Parties meeting.]

No Action Alternative



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R&A

[The No Action Alternative appears to have no adverse effect on the overall integrity or character-defining features of the cultural resources within the APE.]

Action Alternatives

Due to sightlines and distances, the action alternatives would have no adverse effect on the following resources:

- Arlington Memorial Bridge and Related Features
- George Washington Memorial Parkway
- East and West Potomac Parks Historic District
- Georgetown Historic District
- Lady Bird Johnson Park
- Lincoln Memorial Grounds
- Memorial Avenue Corridor
- Theodore Roosevelt Bridge

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R&A

[Now we will present an overview of the potential effects of the Action Alternatives.]

[Due to sightlines and distances, the action alternatives appear to have no adverse effect on the following resources:

- Arlington Memorial Bridge and Related Features
- George Washington Memorial Parkway
- East and West Potomac Parks Historic District
- Georgetown Historic District
- Lady Bird Johnson Park
- Lincoln Memorial Grounds
- Memorial Avenue Corridor
- Theodore Roosevelt Bridge]



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R&A

[View of the project area from the west end of the Arlington Memorial Bridge.]



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R&A

[View from the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Lady Bird Johnson Park.]



R&A

[View from the Lincoln Memorial Grounds and the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District.]



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R&A

[View from the Georgetown Historic District.]



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R&A

[View from the Watergate grounds.]

[Note that under the River Terrace Access Alternative, the staircase platforms would project approximately 16 feet out over the southbound lanes of the RCPP. However, the platforms would be set back from the northern and southern edges of the existing Kennedy Center River Terrace and would appear to only insignificantly alter existing views along the Potomac from the Watergate Complex. As a result, the River Terrace Access Alternative appears to have no adverse effect on the Watergate Complex.]



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R&A

[View from the Memorial Avenue Corridor.]



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R&A

[View from Theodore Roosevelt Island.]

[Note that the design of Theodore Roosevelt Island was meant to be secluded. Contributing views and vistas are limited to the views within and across the plaza of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial. There are no significant historic views looking east from TR Island across the Potomac.]

Action Alternatives

Under the Action Alternatives, two resources within the APE would be directly affected:

- John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway

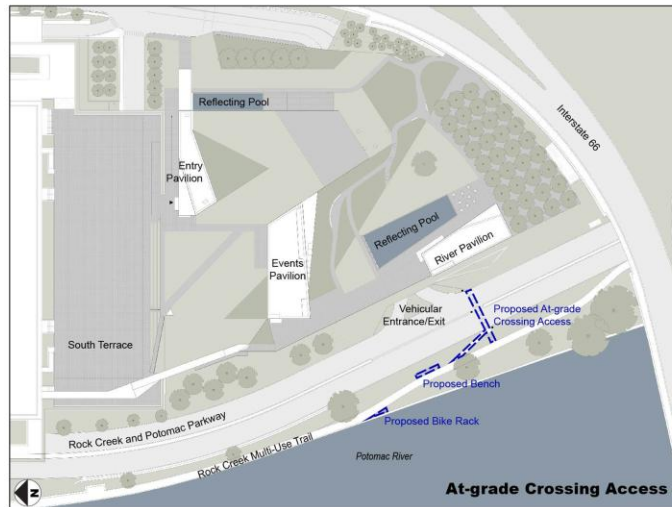


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R&A

[Under the Action Alternatives, two resources within the APE appear to be directly affected: the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The next few slides will illustrate the potential adverse effects of the action alternatives on the Kennedy Center.]

At-Grade Access Alternative

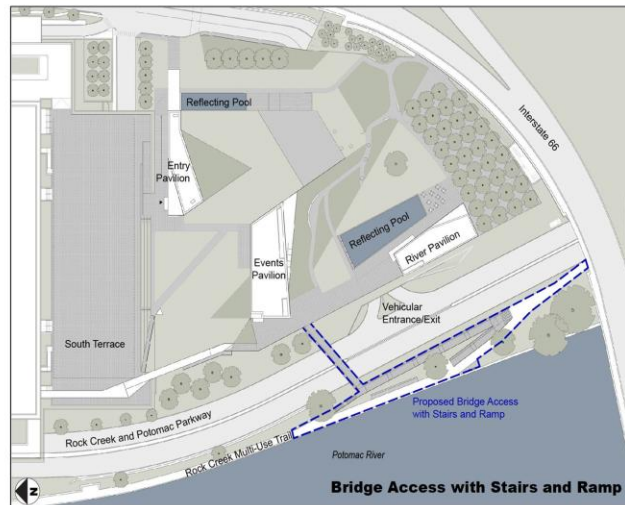


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R&A

[The At Grade Access Alternative appears to have no adverse effect on the Kennedy Center. The alternative does not touch the historic building.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative

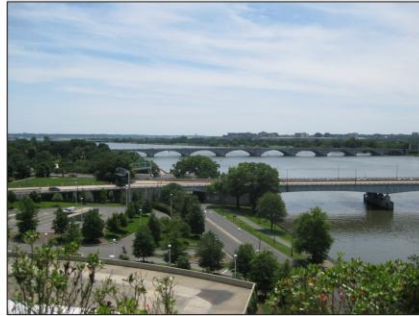


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R&A

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative appears to have no direct adverse effects on the Kennedy Center. The alternative does not touch the historic building.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative

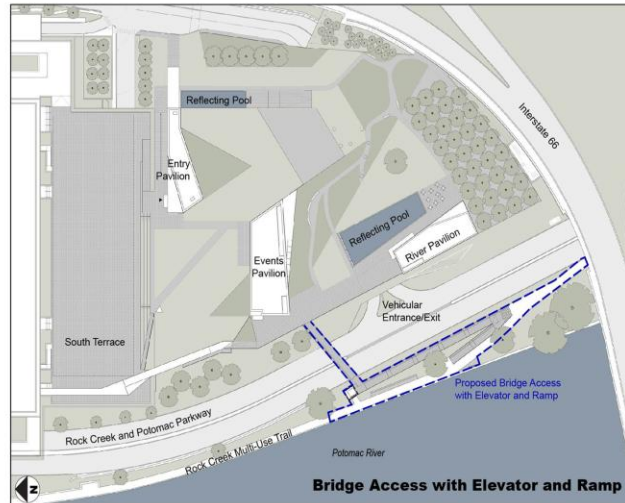


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R&A

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative appears to have no adverse effect on views from the Kennedy Center River Terrace. The potential adverse effect on the 360 panoramic view from the Kennedy Center Roof Terrace would also be minimal.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative

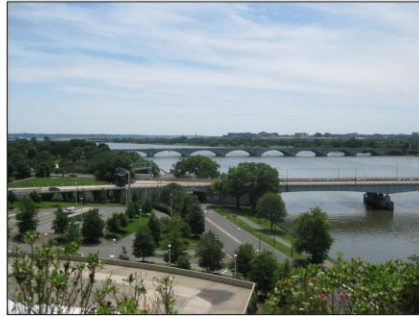


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R&A

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative appears to have no direct adverse effect on the Kennedy Center. The alternative does not touch the historic building.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative

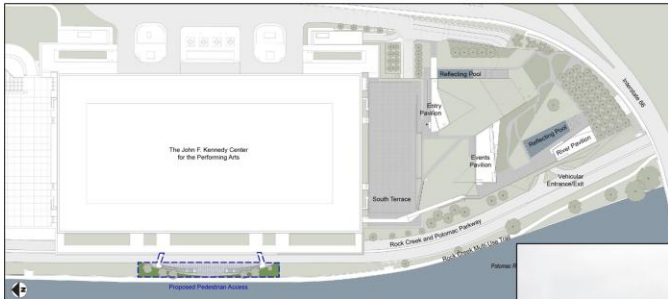


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R&A

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative appears to have no adverse effect on views from the Kennedy Center River Terrace. The potential adverse effect on the 360 panoramic view from the Kennedy Center Roof Terrace would also be minimal.]

River Terrace Access Alternative



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R&A

[The River Terrace Access Alternative appears to have a direct adverse effect on the Kennedy Center and would have adverse effects on contributing views.]

At-Grade Access Alternative



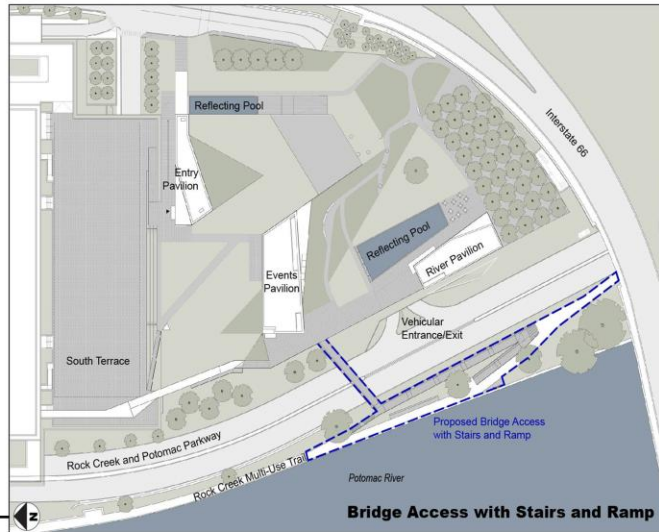
40

R&A

[Now we can look at potential adverse effects of the action alternatives on the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway.]

[The At-Grade Access Alternative would add two trail spurs to the multi-use trail, a contributing feature of the RCPP.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative



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R&A

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative would reroute a section of the multi-use trail, add trail spurs, and interrupt views along the parkway.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative

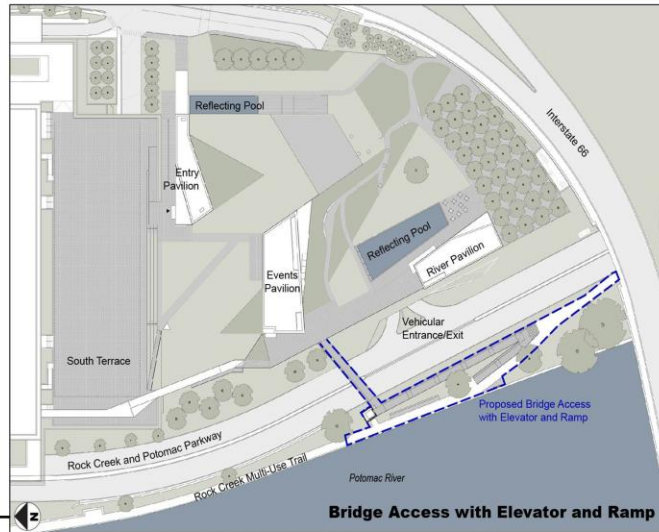


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R&A

[View looking north (top) and south (bottom) along the RCPP.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative



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R&A

[The Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative would reroute a section of the multi-use trail, add trail spurs, and interrupt views along the parkway.]

Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative

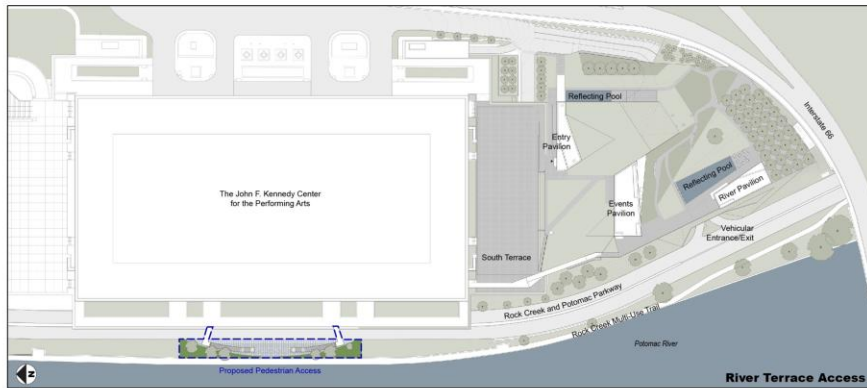


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R&A

[View looking north (top) and south (bottom) along the RCPP.]

River Terrace Access Alternative

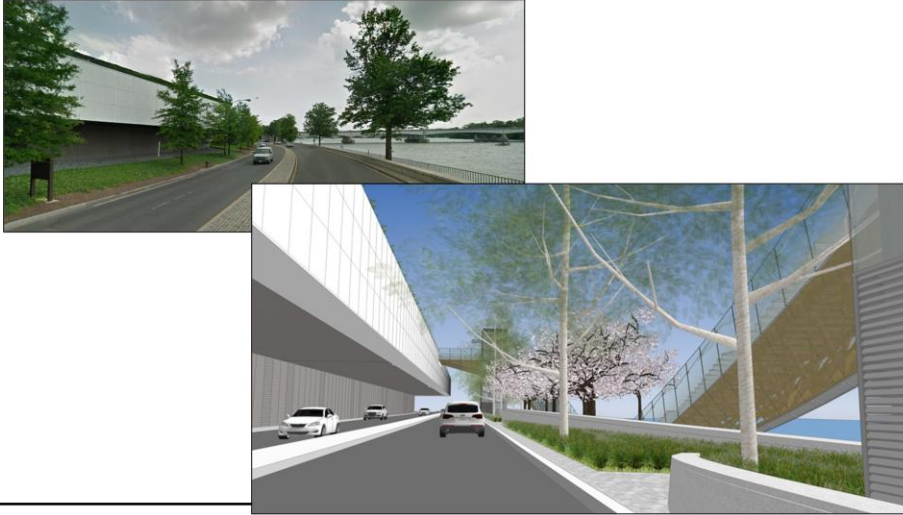


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R&A

[The River Terrace Access Alternative would alter the character of a section of the parkway and interrupt views.]

River Terrace Access Alternative



R&A

[View looking south along the RCPP.]

Questions, Comments, and Next Steps

- Post presentation materials to NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site and collect public comments via:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NAMA>
- Complete a Section 106 Assessment of Effects Report and the NEPA Environmental Assessment
- Conduct a third Consulting Parties Meeting to further evaluate adverse effects, identify ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the effects, and discuss the MOA