



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and
Memorial Parks

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National Mall and Memorial Parks News Release

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National Park Service Seeks Comment on Proposed Pedestrian/Bicycle Connection Between Kennedy Center and Rock Creek Paved Recreational Trail

Washington – The National Park Service (NPS), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts are accepting comments from the public on the environmental impacts of a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. The project would provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle link between the Kennedy Center and the trail, would improve access, and create a public waterfront link to and from the Kennedy Center to the Potomac River waterfront, the National Mall, and the surrounding vicinity. Comments are being accepted through April 25, 2016 through the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website.

A copy of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Expansion Connection Project Environmental Assessment is available for public review online at <http://go.nps.gov/ConnectionEA>, and at the following locations:

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
2700 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20566

West End Library
2522 Virginia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Library
901 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Southwest Library
900 Wesley Place, SW
Washington, DC 20024

How to Comment

The preferred manner for providing comments is via an online form through the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website, used by the agency to manage official correspondence and analyze public comment in the planning process. The EA is available to download, and a link to provide comments, is available at <http://go.nps.gov/ConnectionEA>.

Comments may also be submitted in writing to:

Mr. Tom Whitaker,
Interim Vice President of Facilities
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
2700 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20566

Comments must be entered into the website or postmarked by April 25, 2016 to receive consideration. Please be aware that the entire comment submitted – including personal identifying information such as address, phone number, email address – may be made publicly available. Requests to withhold such personal identifying information from public release will be considered, but there is no guarantee that they will be withheld.

About the Project

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center) is proposing a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail (RCPP). Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the NPS and NCPC acting as co-lead federal agencies have prepared the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Environmental Assessment (EA) in cooperation with the Kennedy Center to examine the environmental impacts of the proposed Kennedy Center Expansion Connection project.

Under the proposal, the NPS would transfer jurisdiction of a portion of NPS administered property to the Kennedy Center. The project is needed because there is no direct access to and from the Kennedy Center to the east, or southeastward to Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, the National Mall, and the Potomac River. The only pedestrian/bicycle access from the Potomac riverfront to the Kennedy Center is provided by a series of crosswalks across F Street NW and the RCPP, approximately 0.25 miles north of the Kennedy Center's south parking garage.

This lack of a direct and convenient path not only limits visitors' access to both NPS and Kennedy Center amenities, but also creates a disconnect between the Kennedy Center, which is the United States' living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, and other presidential memorials found within the National Mall, including the Washington Monument, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. In addition, Theodore Roosevelt Island, which is also a memorial to President Theodore Roosevelt, is located directly across from the Kennedy Center on the western edge of the Potomac River.

Creating this link would benefit visitors to the Kennedy Center, the National Mall, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and the Potomac River waterfront by providing a convenient and logical pedestrian/bicycle connection and expanded interpretation opportunities of the area's presidential memorials.

NPS