

George Washington Memorial Parkway

Arlington County and Fairfax County, Virginia

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Capital Region



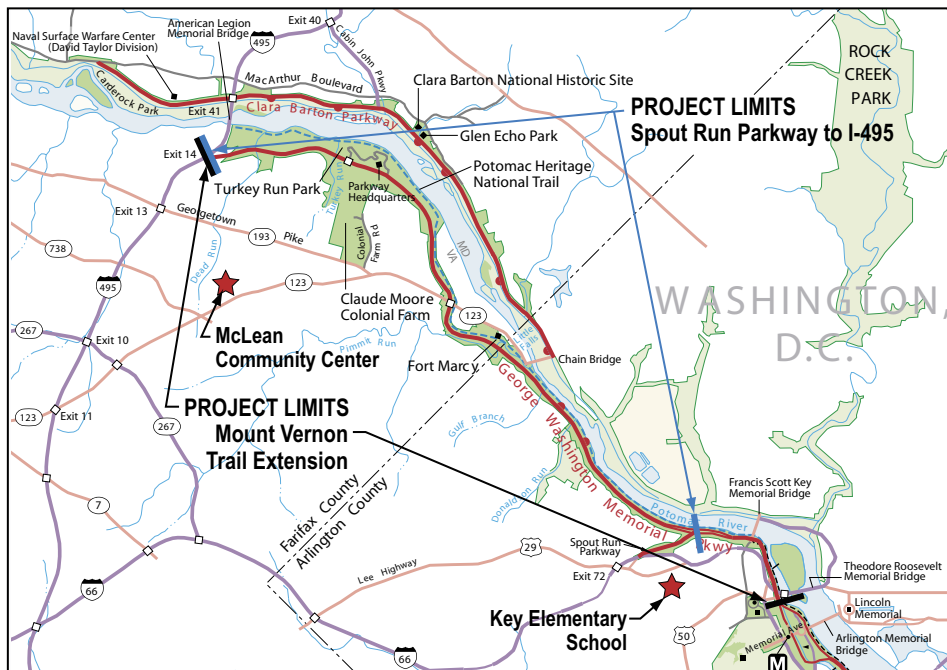
Informational Open Houses

On the Rehabilitation of the GWMP from Spout Run Parkway to I-495 and the Mount Vernon Trail Extension

Dear Friends:

The National Park Service (NPS) invites you to join us at our Informational Open Houses on July 20th and 21st. Informational Open Houses are a great way to learn about current projects on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Park staff will be on hand with the goal of obtaining public comments and participation in the scoping process. Public scoping is the earliest part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Any issues or concerns brought to the Park's attention during these open houses will be crucial to developing alternatives for each project. This will not only protect the Park's cultural and natural resources, but will also provide the local communities with a safe and more user-friendly park. Information about each project can also be found at www.nps.gov/gwmp/. Please feel free to stop by any time between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to discuss these projects with us, or you may provide comments via email at gwmp_superintendent@nps.gov.

Sincerely,
Audrey F. Calhoun, Park Superintendent



Informational Open House Schedule:

Arlington County Date: July 20, 2005

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location:

Key Elementary School
2300 Key Boulevard (on Veitch Street
between Wilson and Key Boulevards)
Arlington, VA 22209

Fairfax County Date: July 21, 2005

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location:

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue
McLean, VA 22101

Rehabilitation of the GWMP from Spout Run Parkway to I-495

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to rehabilitate the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) from Spout Run to I-495. The proposed project would upgrade northbound and southbound lanes and improve drainage and safety between Spout Run and I-495.

Scope of the Project

The scope of the project includes:

- Milling and overlaying the asphalt pavement;
- Constructing new cast-in-place concrete curb and gutter;
- Replacing drainage inlets and culverts;
- Consideration to extending the acceleration and deceleration lanes at the Park Police/Park Headquarters, and the two scenic overlooks;
- Reconfiguring the southbound side of the Route 123/GWMP interchange to include construction of new entrance and exit ramps; and
- Upgrading of guard walls.

Need for the Project

Rehabilitation of the GWMP from Spout Run to I-495 is needed because:

- Existing roadway conditions and configurations in combination with excessive use and heavy traffic volumes present safety and drainage concerns;
- The entrance to the Park Police/GWMP Headquarters does not have an appropriate deceleration lane length and there is not an acceleration lane;
- At the Donaldson Run North and South Overlooks, the entrance and exits do not have appropriate lane lengths to allow visitors enough distance to accelerate or decelerate;
- The existing drop inlets are located on the road surface with no gutter, causing drainage problems. Ponding occurs on the road surface, resulting in a driving hazard during storm events;
- Poor outfall construction is resulting in areas of severe erosion on the steep banks of the Potomac River; and
- At the Route 123/GWMP southbound interchange, the existing configuration presents a safety concern. The cloverleaf exit ramp from the Parkway to Route 123 has a very tight geometry, and the deceleration lane length does not meet NPS standards.



Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be produced that analyzes the potential impacts of the feasible alternatives (including the No-Action Alternative) on the human environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Furthermore, the National Park Service is initiating consultation and inviting interested parties to participate in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Draft EA will be made available for public review and comment. Thereafter, at least one more public meeting will take place to further give the public an opportunity to provide input into the NPS's planning for the project. Issues and concerns are archeological and cultural resources, rare species, aesthetics, and transportation safety.

Mount Vernon Trail Extension

The National Park Service in cooperation with Fairfax County and Arlington County, Virginia, are considering the extension of the Mount Vernon Trail from its northern terminus at Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot to the American Legion Bridge at I-495. The project would provide visitors with a paved, multiple-use trail along the northern section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) to enhance opportunities for recreation and non-motorized commuting to parts of Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, and eventually Maryland.

Project History

In January 1998, the Virginia Bicycling Federation (VBF) and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) presented a proposal to the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study, which would examine an extension of the Mount Vernon Trail from the trails terminus at Key Bridge to I-495. The National Park Service performed a technical feasibility study that considered the placement of a paved trail extension and proposed various alternatives. The report described various alternatives for extending the trail along Parkway lands, through neighboring subdivisions, and along county roads. The report also examined how the extension of the Mount Vernon Trail could connect to other trails and recreational resources.

Scope of the Project

The potential scope items of this project includes:

- NPS lands (does not include county lands or lands owned by other Federal agencies);
- The construction of a trail extension from the parking lot at Theodore Roosevelt Island to the American Legion Bridge at I-495;
- Construction would consist of a 9-foot-wide, paved, multiple-use trail with 1 foot of unpaved clearance on both sides of the trail; and
- In some areas, construction would also include stream crossings, boardwalks, and the grading of steep embankments.

Need for the Project

The project is needed because:

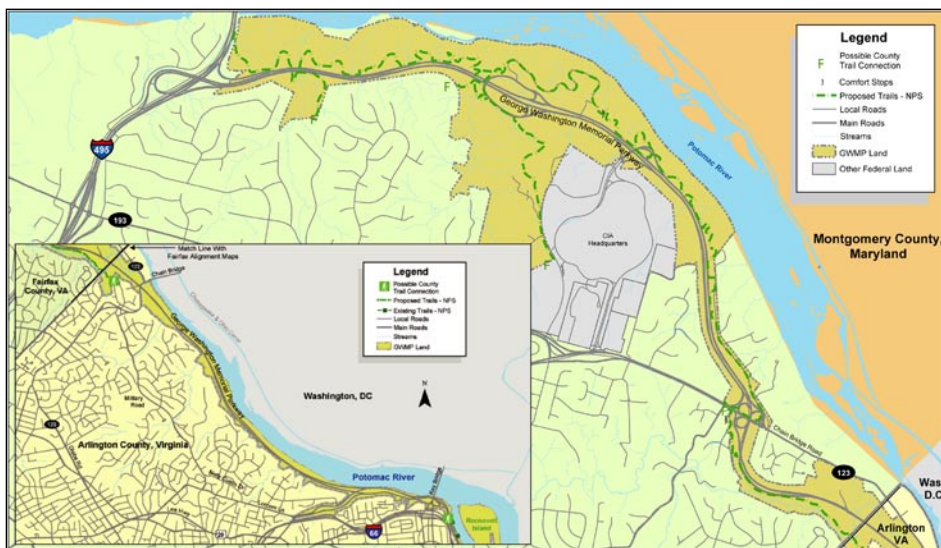
- Past regional and local studies support the need to extend the Mount Vernon Trail to enhance recreational opportunities on the north section of the Parkway;
- Presently, the north section of the GWMP does not provide a multiple-use, non-motorized transportation route for visitors; and
- To access the recreational multiple-use trails on the GWMP from the west, users must travel to the Theodore Roosevelt



Island parking area or connect via county trail system at I-395, Four Mile Run, and Crystal City.

Environmental Assessment

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Come See Us at Our Open House

Informational Open Houses (Public Scoping) will be held for the public. Each project will be displayed. Members of the public are invited to help park managers and planners by providing opinions and suggestions regarding the projects described in this pamphlet. In order to be sure that we identify and consider all of the feasible alternatives for both projects, your feedback is important. Input from neighbors, community groups, stakeholders, and area agencies are used to explore concepts and alternatives for a potential extension to the Mount Vernon Trail and the rehabilitation of the GWMP from Spout Run to I-495.

Arlington County Open House Date:
July 20, 2005

Time:
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location:
Key Elementary School
2300 Key Boulevard (Veitch Street
Between Wilson and Key Boulevards)
Arlington, VA 22201

Fairfax County Open House Date:
July 21, 2005

Time:
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location:
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue
McLean, VA 22101

**Please note this is an open house - you may stop by at any time between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.*

Contacts

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