



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Hot Springs National Park
101 Reserve Street
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901



January 10, 2018

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public input regarding a proposed Pullman Avenue Trail Connection. The project area is located within Hot Springs National Park near the north end of the City of Hot Springs, AR, and would connect the Park Avenue area of the city to its Northwoods Urban Forest Park and Cedar Glades Park trail network that is currently under construction. The proposed new trail through Hot Springs National Park would begin in 2018.

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the City of Hot Springs and Visit Hot Springs, with technical assistance from the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), proposes to extend the existing road that lies north of Pullman Avenue to connect to the new city trail network. As currently proposed, the new trail would be a multi-use, natural soil trail of a gentle grade to accommodate recreational uses, such as hiking and mountain biking.

The trail connection would be designed as a safe, sustainable, and planned route that would be maintained by community partnerships for the recreational and health benefit of local residents and visitors. This proposal does not include any existing park trails, which are not and will not be open to bicycles.

The NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the proposed trail connection in a manner that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the NPS Bike Rule, Hot Springs National Park resources and values, and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

The public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project:

- During this project scoping period from January 16, 2018 – February 16, 2018
- Following the release of the EA, during a 30-day public review period

During the project scoping period and after the release of the EA, written comments may be submitted at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=75408>. The NPS, in partnership with the City of Hot Springs and Visit Hot Springs, will also hold a public open house to provide the opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the proposal and provide feedback. The open house will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Transportation Depot located at 100 Broadway Terrace in Hot Springs. The National Park Service will accept comments at this event.

All comments, questions, and suggestions related to the project are welcome. During the public scoping period, the following types of comments are particularly helpful:

- Information about the project area that should be considered during the analysis of the trail connection,
- Information about how you use the project area and how the project might affect that use,

- Other projects or activities that might affect or be affected by the project, and
- Other ideas or alternative ways of meeting the project objectives.

Please provide all comments by February 16, 2018. We will consider these comments during preparation of the EA. Thank you in advance for your comments and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please contact hosp_park_information@nps.gov. Commenters should be aware that their entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While commenters can ask that their identifying information be withheld from public review, the National Park Service cannot guarantee that this will be possible. Thank you for your comments and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josie Fernandez", written in a cursive style.

Josie Fernandez
Superintendent