



Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment and Assessment of Effect

April 2018

About the Project

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment and Assessment of Effect (CLR/EA) for Theodore Roosevelt Island (TR Island). The purpose of the project is to provide guidance and recommendations for the long-term stewardship and preservation of the park. The project has resulted in recommendations for preserving historically significant features within the site and improving or modernizing certain visitor amenities, access areas, and conditions.

TR Island is a memorial to the 26th president of the United States, spanning the jurisdictions of Washington, DC and Rosslyn, Virginia. The park is administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP).

Project Area

The Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment has provided historical analysis and treatment recommendations for the Study Area outlined in red on the map below.



Park Management Philosophy

Preserve and maintain Theodore Roosevelt Island's natural environment and historic features while providing public access, education, interpretation, and other low impact uses that are compatible with the cultural landscape and natural surroundings.

Treatment Recommendations

This CLR/EA recommends rehabilitation for TR Island. The rehabilitation approach provides a framework for the treatment of the landscape that preserves historic resources in their multilayered context. While the landscape conditions at TR Island strongly evoke the site's memorial character, the CLR/EA also recommends enhanced interpretation of the earlier historic themes.

Archeology

- Document, conserve, protect, and manage.

Natural Systems & Features

- Preserve and protect the Potomac River, river edge, diverse island ecosystems, and terrestrial and aquatic species.
- Monitor sea level rise and climate change effects.



Vegetation

- Document, protect, and enhance the 11 diverse island vegetation zones.
- Restore damaged tree canopy with replanting of native tree species.
- Rehabilitate the Memorial plaza landscape.

Spatial Organization & Land Use

- Preserve the existing relationship of built features to natural systems..
- Maintain the existing land use as a Presidential Memorial focused on visitor education, interpretation, and passive recreation.

Topography

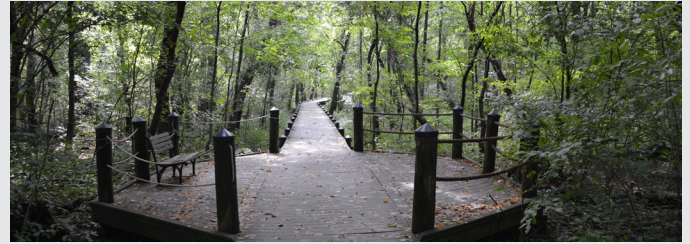
- Preserve existing topography, which establishes the framework for the natural vegetation systems and built structures and features.

Small Scale Features

- Protect and preserve small scale features.

Circulation

- Preserve or enhance land trails and make portions of trails universally accessible.
- Rehabilitate Bridge 31 of Mount Vernon Trail.
- Install soft water landing(s) and one floating dock for small nonmotorized watercraft on north and south ends of island.



Buildings & Structures

- Rehabilitate existing historic Comfort Station as a universally accessible restroom open year-round.
- Rehabilitate historic Memorial plaza landscape. Incorporate universal access to the Theodore Roosevelt statue.

Constructed Water Features

- Repair pools and fountains at plaza.
- Develop design for more effective wildlife crossings.



Views & Vistas

- Undertake select view and vista clearing; reinstate key historic viewpoints.
- Maintain historic land/water views.
- Maintain historically planned views across the memorial plaza.

Environmental Alternatives



Historic Comfort Station

1. No Action: maintain in existing, partially-functional condition.
2. **PREFERRED:** Rehabilitate as fully functional, universally accessible, year-round facility.
3. Rehabilitate for adaptive reuse and build new restroom facility elsewhere.
4. Rehabilitate as fully functional, universally accessible, year-round facility and build additional new facility elsewhere.



Water Circulation

1. No Action: maintain existing condition of no formal water access or landings on island.
2. Establish Soft Landings for Non-Motorized Watercraft
3. **PREFERRED:** Establish Soft Landings for Non-Motorized Watercraft and a Floating Dock.



Land Circulation – On Island Trails

1. No Action: maintain trails in existing condition.
2. Social Trail Decommissioning and Vegetation Restoration
3. **PREFERRED:** Trail Improvements and Viewpoint/Wayfinding Creation



Land Circulation – Off Island Trails

1. No Action: maintain trails in existing condition.
2. Rehabilitate Bridge 31 at Mount Vernon Trail
 - a. Option 1: Realignment with One New Pile
 - b. Option 2: Realignment with Three New Piles
 - c. Option 3: Realignment with Five New Piles
 - d. **PREFERRED:** Option 4: Realignment with Three New Piles and larger left turn lane



1955, Naturalist and Tour Group (Brochure, TR Center)

How You Can Be Involved

The NPS welcomes your input on what the current issues are within the project area and potential ideas for improvements that will maintain the historical significance and integrity of the park.

On-Site Open House

Park staff will be available to provide information on the project and how you can participate at the new plaza directly south of the TR Island parking lot on April 19, 2018 from 2:30pm to 5:00 pm.

How to Comment

Please submit your comments online at:

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tri_clr_ea

or by mail to:

Superintendent
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Attn: Theodore Roosevelt Island CLR/EA
Turkey Run Headquarters
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
McLean, VA 22101

**Comments are requested no later
than May 3, 2018.**

Planning Timeline

April - May 2018:

- Public Review of Report
- Assessment of Effects

May - June 2018:

- Final Cultural Landscape Report/EA & NPS Decision Document



1967, Crowd viewing statue (TR Digital Library, Dickinson State University)



2017, TR Island Public Event (NPS)