



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
George Washington Memorial Parkway
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
McLean, VA 22101

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 22, 2022

SUBJECT: *Public scoping notice for George Washington Memorial Parkway South Section and Mount Vernon Trail Improvement Plan / Environmental Assessment*

Dear Sir or Madam –

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing a Plan / Environmental Assessment (Plan) to evaluate improvements to the southern portion of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GW Parkway) and the majority of the Mount Vernon Trail (MV Trail) to address deferred maintenance needs and safety issues. The project area includes the southern portion of the GW Parkway which extends 15.2 miles along the Potomac River from Arlington Memorial Bridge to Mount Vernon in Virginia and the majority of the MV Trail which is an 18-mile paved multi-use trail, that extends from Theodore Roosevelt Island and the intersection with the Custis Trail in Arlington, Virginia, to Mount Vernon (the portion of the GW Parkway and MV Trail under the jurisdiction of the City of Alexandria would not be part of this planning exercise). See attached project location map.

The Plan is needed to help preserve the historic parkway for future generations, improve the visitor experience, reduce annual park operations and maintenance costs, and improve visitor safety. The Plan for providing these safety improvements and addressing deferred maintenance would be informed by the recently completed GW Parkway Traffic and Safety Context Sensitive Solutions Assessment, the MV Trail Corridor Study, the project scoping assessment for the MV Trail, as well as the Cultural Landscape Reports and the Cultural Landscape Inventory as baseline documents in evaluating alternatives.

Safety enhancements for the trail would include potential trail widening and intersection improvements and for the road would include the potential for the implementation of a road diet, crosswalks, and intersection improvements. The road and trail improvements being considered would enhance the visitor experience for drivers, pedestrians, and bicycle riders by addressing safety and maintenance needs.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NPS is preparing an EA to identify alternatives and assess the potential impacts of the Plan. Concurrent to the NEPA process, the NPS will work with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other consulting parties to develop a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended consultation process. The purpose of the Section 106 consultation process is to identify historic properties that could be affected by the Plan/EA; assess adverse effects on those properties; and develop ways to resolve those effects through appropriate avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The NPS is inviting public comment regarding potential impacts on cultural and environmental resources that should be considered during the planning processes. I encourage you to participate in the planning process. Public participation is vital to the planning process. A virtual public meeting will be held on December 6, 2022 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. The purpose of this meeting will be to present initial plan

alternatives and invite comment on the potential impacts on cultural and environmental resources. Comments will be accepted from December 6 through January 4, 2023.

Here is how you can get involved:

Virtual Scoping Webinar: The NPS will be hosting a public scoping webinar using the GoToWebinar virtual meeting platform on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 7:00 pm eastern standard time. The webinar will last approximately 1.5-hours and there will be an opportunity to submit questions. You can access the meeting a couple of ways. You do not need to pre-register for the meeting.

1. At the time of the meeting, [click here to join](#) on your computer or mobile device and enter the Webinar ID and your email. If you do not have GoToWebinar, you will be prompted to install a small file to your computer or download the app on your mobile device.

Webinar ID: 314-024-315

2. You can call into the meeting (no video) using the toll-free phone number and webinar ID:

Toll Free Number: (877) 309-2074

Phone Webinar ID: 278-447-448

The webinar will be recorded and will be posted online at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/GWMP_South for you to review at your convenience if you are not able to attend the live session.

Submit Comments: Formal comments can be submitted online at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/GWMP_South. Comments are requested by January 4, 2023.

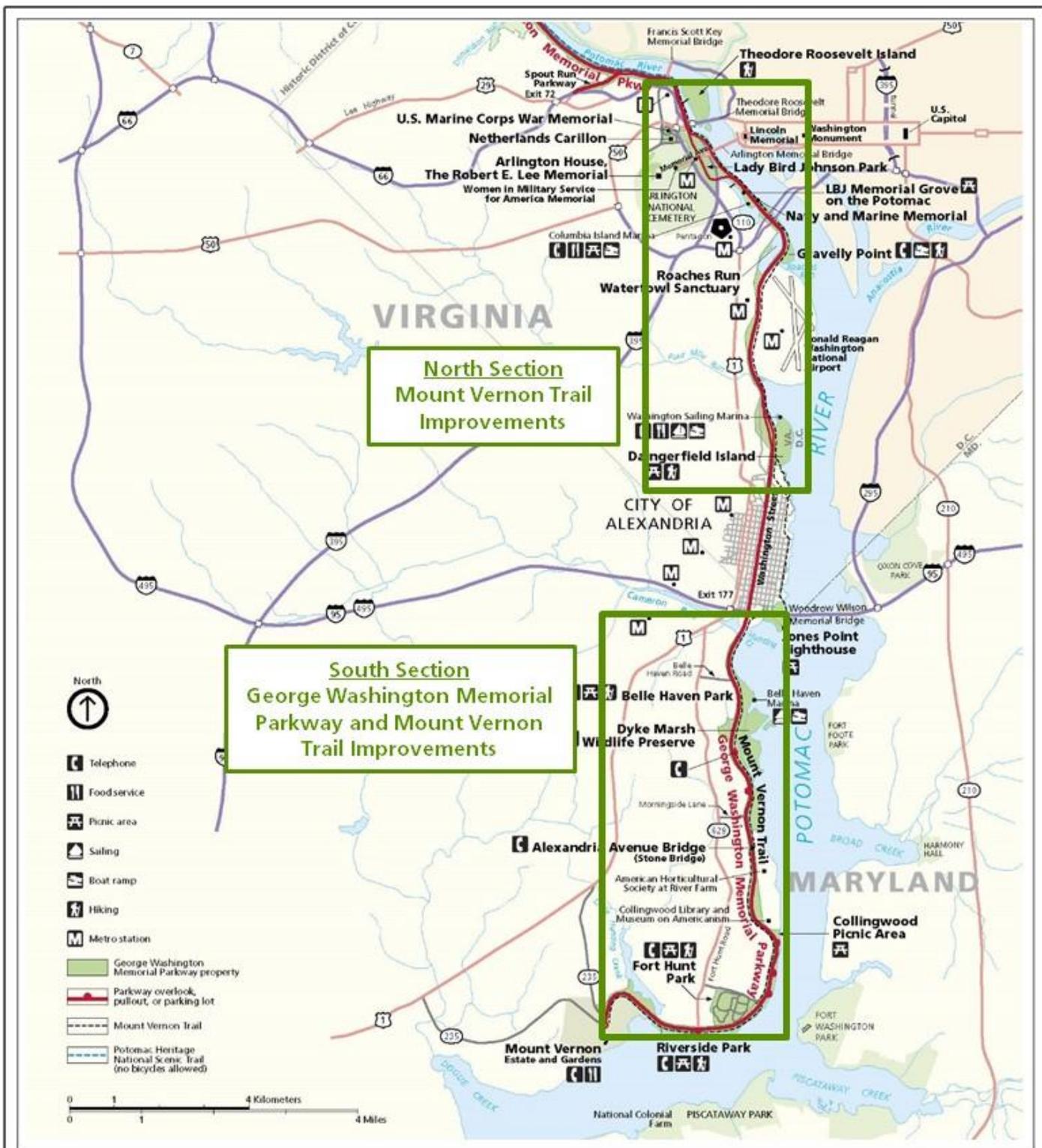
If you prefer to mail your comments, make sure they are postmarked by January 4, 2023, to receive consideration. Mail comments to the following address:

Superintendent
Attn: GWMP South and MVT Plan / EA
700 George Washington Mem Parkway
McLean, VA 22101

Thank you for your interest and participation in this planning process. We look forward to your comments and appreciate your feedback on the GW Parkway South Section and MV Trail Improvements Plan / EA. If you have any questions or would like to request additional information, please send an email to GWMP_Superintendent@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Charles Cuvelier
Superintendent



**GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY
SOUTH SECTION AND MOUNT VERNON TRAIL
IMPROVEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**



PROJECT LOCATION MAP