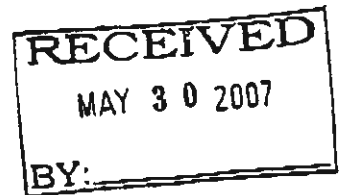


GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
OFFICE OF PLANNING



May 29, 2007

Adrienne A. Coleman, Superintendent
Rock Creek Park
National Park Service
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

Dear Ms. Coleman:

Thank you for your letter of May 14 in which you initiate Section 106 review of the slope stabilization project along Georgetown University's West Perimeter Road.

Although located within view of historic buildings on the campus, we believe that some grading and filling and reinforcement of the slope will not have adverse effects upon known historic properties.

There is always the possibility of unearthing historic or prehistoric artifacts or features in such a location when there is ground disturbance. If any such resources are uncovered, work should stop immediately, and our office should be contacted for on-site inspection.

Sincerely,

David Maloney
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region

Rock Creek Park

3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

L76 (NCR-ROCR)

MAY 14 2007

Mr. David Maloney
Acting District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia Office of Planning
801 North Capitol Street, NE, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Maloney:

We are writing with regard to Georgetown University's (University) proposed slope stabilization project. In order to address existing deficiencies in storm water management and soil composition that combine to threaten the integrity of West Perimeter Road, the University's north-south service road, the University has developed a comprehensive plan to stabilize an approximately 300-foot long segment of the roadway's supporting slope.

The proposed project will occur entirely on University property at a location in proximity to the University's border with U.S. Reservation 450, Archbold Parkway. However, by virtue of a Deed of Easement dated September 15, 2003, the University granted the United States a perpetual scenic easement interest in a 2.5-acre portion of the University's property within which the proposed slope stabilization project will take place. Although the terms of the scenic easement allow for the construction of a service road and the cutting of trees for the building of such road within the 2.5 acre parcel, certain slope stabilization activities associated with the proposed project are not specifically permitted by the provisions of the easement. Thus, subsequent authorization of the National Park Service (NPS) is required prior to the initiation of the project.

The proposed project includes the following actions: demolition of a segment of the existing roadway, clearing the existing vegetation and removal of the unstable fill material within a 300-foot long segment of the aforementioned slope, installation of a comprehensive storm water management system designed to channel storm water run-off from the roadway to a water quality dissipation device located at the base of the slope, placement of new engineered fill over geotextile fabric and re-contouring the slope to better manage storm water, construction of a new stone-faced retaining wall at the base of the slope, re-construction of a segment of the roadway to include curbing and a catch basin, and implementation of a new landscape plan for the slope approved by NPS.

In March 2007, NPS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental affects associated with two distinct alternatives; the "no-build" alternative, and the University's proposed slope stabilization project or the "environmentally preferred" alternative. Enclosed for your use is a copy of the EA. Although variations of the environmentally preferred alternative were initially discussed between NPS and University representatives, it was jointly agreed that a comprehensive series of improvements was required to adequately address the current condition of the slope. Our analysis of impacts associated with the environmentally preferred alternative concludes that although short-term adverse impacts would result from initial construction related activities, long-term moderate to major beneficial impacts are projected as a result of the mitigation measures associated with the project. Conversely, electing not to take any action to rectify the current problem would impart major adverse environmental impacts.

Although the property owned by the University is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it does abut Archbold Parkway which is listed in the National Register. Pursuant to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we have applied the criteria of effect of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and have determined that the slope stabilization project will have no adverse effect on the National Register qualities of Archbold Parkway. Further, we believe that the project will have moderate to major beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape of the parkway. We hope that you will concur with our determination.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Joseph Cook, Chief, Land Resources Program Center on (202) 619-7034.

Sincerely,



Adrienne A. Coleman
Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

Enclosure

I concur with a determination of no adverse effect:

Acting District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer

Date