



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L76 (NCR-NACE/RM)

December 19, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the availability of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Section 3 Realignment Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment.

The National Park Service, National Capital Parks – East, in collaboration with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, proposes to construct Section 3 of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail through Kenilworth Park. The project site is located east of the Anacostia River in the northeast section of Washington, D.C., and would extend into Maryland. As part of this proposal, a trail bridge that crosses the Anacostia River would be constructed that connects the proposed new trail alignment to U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Arboretum. This section of trail would serve to link other sections of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, as well as other District trail tie-ins. Two alternatives were looked at in the draft EA, Alternative A (No Action) and Alternative B (Realignment of Section 3 of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail).

The purpose of the project is to realign Section 3 of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, which had previously been identified and analyzed in a 2004 environmental assessment that covered three sections of the trail. The realignment of Section 3 of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail is needed based on additional site investigations and reviews that were conducted after the completion of the 2004 *Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Environmental Assessment*. A field assessment showed that the previously identified alignment had security and construction feasibility issues that had not been known or anticipated. The proposed realignment would avoid these issues and would also provide a more natural visitor experience for users. The proposed realignment would also provide better connectivity for visitors, including a proposed pedestrian bridge across the Anacostia River, connecting the park with the National Arboretum.

This Draft EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and implementing regulations 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and NPS Director's Order #12 and Handbook, Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making (DO-12). Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is occurring in parallel with the NEPA process.

Access to the Document:

Public review copies of the Draft EA will be available at the following locations:

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Visitor Center
1550 Anacostia Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20019

Southeast Branch Library
403 7th Street SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

National Capital Parks-East Headquarters
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE
Washington, D.C. 20020

Benning Branch Library
3935 Benning Road NE
Washington, D.C. 20019

Available electronically at:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/art_section_3

Mailed directly to:

Alexcy Romero, Superintendent
Re: Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Section 3 Realignment
National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive SE
Washington, D.C. 20020

Note to Reviewers and Respondents:

If you wish to comment on the Draft EA, you may submit them electronically or mail comments directly. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments on the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Section 3 Realignment Draft Environmental Assessment may be submitted on-line by following the appropriate links at (*The NPS preferred method of receiving comments*):

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/art_section_3

Comments on the Draft EA will be accepted through January 31, 2012.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,



Alexcy Romero
Superintendent
National Capital Parks-East