



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

OCT 9 2009

H4217(NCR-NACE)

### To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Council of Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the National Park Service (NPS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled *Granting of Right Of Way Access By National Park Service To Ann Arundel County, Maryland For The Installation Of Utilities Beneath The Baltimore-Washington Parkway At The Maryland Route 198 Interchange And For The Acquisition Of Additional Protection For The Parkway And Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Environmental Assessment, Maryland, 2009*. This Environmental Assessment (EA) is intended to assist the NPS in making a decision as to whether to grant a ROW permit to the County authorizing the extension of existing utilities across the Parkway.

The EA evaluates the potential for direct and cumulative impacts on natural and cultural resources associated with the Parkway and the Refuge from the implementation of two feasible alternatives. Alternative 1, the no action alternative, evaluates the potential impacts anticipated to result from future development along the MD 198 corridor east of the Parkway. This is based on both the current extent of available public utilities and future enhanced public utilities achieved without crossing the Parkway. Alternative 2, the proposed action alternative, assesses the potential impacts to the Parkway and the Refuge that would result from NPS granting a ROW permit authorizing the installation of utilities crossing under the Parkway near its intersection with MD 198.

Impacts of the proposed alternatives were assessed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., 1969, as amended) the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the National Park Service Director's Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision Making, which requires that impacts to the park resources be analyzed in terms of their context, duration and intensity (rev. January 8, 2001).

The EA is now available for review and comment. We will be accepting comments on the EA until November 13, 2009.

We invite you to review the EA and to provide us with your feedback on these projects. Copies of the *Granting of Right Of Way Access By National Park Service To Ann Arundel County, Maryland For The Installation Of Utilities Beneath The Baltimore-Washington Parkway At The Maryland Route 198 Interchange And For The Acquisition Of Additional Protection For The Parkway And Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel*, EA are available at the following locations:

Greenbelt Park Ranger Station  
U.S. National Park Service  
6565 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
Hours: 8:00am to 3:00pm, Daily  
Tel: 301-344-3944

Patuxent Research Refuge  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel, Maryland 20708 – 4027  
Hours: 9:00am to 4:00pm, Daily  
Tel: 301-497-5510

National Capital Parks-East Headquarters  
U.S. National Park Service  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020  
Hours: 8:30am to 3:30pm, Monday-Friday  
Tel: 202-690-5185

You may also access, review, and submit your comments or concerns online at the *Baltimore-Washington Parkway/MD Route 198 Utility Right-of-Way EA* online by following the links at National Park Service's *Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC)* website at:

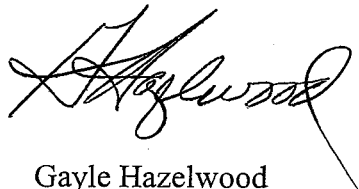
<http://Parkplanning.NPS.Gov/NACE>

Comments and concerns on the proposal can also be sent directly to:

Superintendent  
National Capital Parks-East  
Re. *Baltimore-Washington Parkway/MD Rt 198 Utility ROW EA*  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020  
Fax: 202-690-0862

If there are any questions or if there is a need for additional information, please call Stephen Syphax in our Resource Management Division at 202-690-5160.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle Hazelwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Gayle Hazelwood  
Superintendent