

FONSI ATTACHMENT C

Final EA Appendix E: Section 106 Coordination Errata

- 1_DCHPO_CanopyTrail_Section106_FinalEffectsDeterm_July29_2024.
- 2_Email_DCHPO_Conditional_106_Final Effects_071124.pdf
- 3_USNA_CanopyTrail_106_Final_Effects_Ltr&Pkg_DCHPO_062724.pdf
- 4_Email_toConsultingParties_USNA_Canopy Trail 106 Consultation_062724.pdf
- 5_Email_CanopyTrail_DesignChanges_106_ConsultingParties_Pkg&Responses_062424
- 6_USNA_CanopyTrail_106 Draft_Effects_LetterPkg_DCHPO_032924



DC STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
SECTION 106 REVIEW FORM

TO: Katie Stefanic, Principal Investigator, Gray & Pape;
Carrie Albee, History/Architecture Practice Lead, Gray & Pape;
Dr. Richard Olsen, Director, U.S. National Arboretum

PROJECT NAME/DESCRIPTION: Proposed Canopy Trail at the United States National Arboretum

PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION DESCRIPTION: U.S. National Arboretum, south of Crabtree Rd, east of Ellipse Rd

DC SHPO PROJECT NUMBER: 21-0829; 22-0600

The DC State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) has reviewed the above-referenced federal undertaking(s) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and has determined that:

[] This project will have no effect on historic properties. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.

[] There are no historic properties that will be affected by this project. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.

[] This project will have no adverse effect on historic properties. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.

[x] This project will have no adverse effect on historic properties conditioned upon fulfillment of the measures stipulated below.

[x] Other Comments / Additional Comments (see below):

The DC SHPO has reviewed this undertaking for effects on above-ground historic properties and determines it will have no adverse effect on above-ground historic properties. The DC SHPO has also reviewed the results of the Phase I archaeological survey (Report #882) conducted by Gray & Pape Heritage Management and concurs with the conclusions and recommendations made. No archaeological resources were identified, and no additional archaeological investigations are necessary at this time. Therefore, we have made a finding of Conditional No Adverse Effect for this undertaking. The conditions of this finding include the following: 1) Submission of a final, full technical report revised per DC SHPO comments and per DC Archaeology Guidelines; 2) submission to the DC HPO of copies of all data generated (digital and paper) of all field notes, associated records, and GIS data for curation, all prepared following DC Archaeology Guidelines and the existing Collections Agreement for this project; and 3) Additional consultation with the DC SHPO should project plans change. If any type of post-review/ unanticipated archaeological discovery is made during construction, immediately contact the City Archaeologist, Dr. Ruth Troccoli at 202-442-8836 or ruth.troccoli@dc.gov and/or Assistant City Archaeologist, Christine Ames at 202-741-5246 or christine.ames@dc.gov.

BY: [Signature]
Christine Ames, RPA, Assist. Archaeologist, State Historic Preservation Office

DATE: 29 July 2024



From: [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#)
To: [Katie Stefanic](#)
Cc: [Carrie Albee](#); anne.brockett@dc.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov
Subject: RE: DC HPO Project #: 21-0829, Final USNA Canopy Trail Report
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 6:17:56 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi Katie,

Thanks for sending the revised report & hanging in there with us. Just to confirm- the only change to the report you uploaded on 6/28 was the addition of Appendix D, correct? When I compare the 6/28 report to the May 2024 report, this seems to be the case, but I just want to be sure. If that is the case, there are a few of our (archaeology) comments from 2022 that remain to be addressed but we overall concur with the results & recommendations made. For the archaeology we're making a **conditional** No Adverse Effect finding. This is conditioned on finishing up report revisions- see below- and submitting the final report & collection to us per *Guidelines*.

Once these revisions are made, we can accept the report as final and move towards final submission of report & collection. SHPO is curating the original collection on behalf of USNA, but SHPO also receives copies of all data generated regardless of who curates original collection. The Collections Submission checklist reflects all scenarios- collections that contain artifacts & records or just records. So some line items may not apply. When able, let us know the size of that original collection (half box, etc.) so we can prepare. Reports and records can be housed together. Otherwise, all digital files can be submitted to us using Box.com FTP- PDFs, image files, GIS data, etc. Our HPO Accession numbers match our report numbers. This is Report 882/ Accession 882.

Report Comments still need addressing:

- 1- Need spot elevations included on the cut & fill results. Also, road centerlines.
- 2- Need Feature 2 displayed on Figure 6-11.
- 3- Need a verbal description of the utility locations in the report to connect to the STP log.
- 4- We will need a separate photo log file (to be submitted along with associated records) of the photos taken for both built environment & archaeology surveys, including location and cardinal directions & ensure this connects to reporting.

Reminder that in addition to the digital copy of the final report SHPO still receives (2) hard copies & don't forget about the repositories listed in our *Guidelines*.

Let us know if you need any extra info as you prep.

Chrissy

HPO 21-0829



Christine Ames, RPA

Assistant District Archaeologist • DC Office of Planning

Pronouns: she/her/hers • [Why Pronouns Matter?](#)

1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024

202.741.5246

christine.ames@dc.gov

planning.dc.gov

Telework Day: Wednesday. I can still be reached via email and phone during these days.

[Sign up here](#) for OP's newsletter and announcements

From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>

Sent: Friday, June 28, 2024 9:11 AM

To: Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: DC HPO Project #: 21-0829, Final USNA Canopy Trail Report

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Hi Ruth,

I've just uploaded a revised final copy of the USNA Canopy Trail report that now includes an appendix of proposed drawings for the project. Anne asked us to add this, so you'll now find it in Appendix D. The report is in the Gray & Pape section of Box in a folder titled "Final Report 2 with Drawings 6.28.24". I've also included the submission checklist in that folder. Since there were no archaeological artifacts, I was unsure how to fill out the collections checklist, but I can work with Chrissy when she's back in the office to do that as well. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 3:13 PM

To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; anne.brockett@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: DC HPO Project #: 21-0829, Final USNA Canopy Trail Report

Thanks, Katie. We'll let you know if it downloads ok and if we have any questions. You can always use the project subfolder we created on our box.com account to share files with us.

Cheers-
Ruth



Ruth Troccoli, Ph.D.

District Archaeologist • DC Office of Planning

Historic Preservation Office

She/Her • [Why Pronouns Matter?](#)

1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024

202.442.8836

ruth.troccoli@dc.gov

planning.dc.gov/page/archaeology-district-columbia

Telework Day: Tuesday. I can still be reached via email and phone during this day.

[Sign up here](#) for OP's newsletter and announcements.

From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 3:01 PM

To: Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: DC HPO Project #: 21-0829, Final USNA Canopy Trail Report

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Hello DC HPO staff,

I hope you're all doing well! Please see below the link (too large to attach) to the final USNA Canopy Trail combined cultural resources report that addresses DC HPO comments from October 2022 and has additional information about the canopy trail design. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

 [USNA Canopy Trail Report_Final.pdf](#)

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Principal Investigator, History/Architecture



2119 East Franklin Street, Terrace Level
Richmond, Virginia 23223
Phone 804.644.0656
Cell 540.395.6729
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:: CAUTION :: This email originated from outside of Gray & Pape. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Katie Stefanic](#)
To: david.maloney@dc.gov
Cc: anne.brockett@dc.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#); crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov
Subject: US National Arboretum Canopy Trail Section 106 DOE Letter
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 3:46:30 PM
Attachments: [USNA Canopy Trail 106 Effects Letter 2024.6.27 with figures.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Maloney,

On behalf of the USDA, please see attached Section 106 Determination of Effects Letter from the US National Arboretum regarding the proposed Canopy Trail project. Please let us know if you have any questions or need any further information. Ruth, Anne, and Chrissy have been involved in the consultation meetings for this project and have provided valuable feedback over the past two years. We look forward to your response. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Katie Stefanic

Katie Stefanic
Principal Investigator, History/Architecture



2119 East Franklin Street, Terrace Level
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Email kstefanic@graypape.com



Mr. David Maloney
District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW
Suite 650 East
Washington, DC 20024

June 27, 2024

Re: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Proposed Canopy Trail (DC HPO Project No. 21-0829) at the United States National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Maloney:

As you are aware, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) proposes to partner with the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) to construct a canopy trail at the United States National Arboretum (USNA, "National Arboretum") in northeast Washington, D.C. (Project) for the purposes of expanding educational and visitor opportunities and generating revenue for the USNA. In June 2022 the USDA determined that the Project is an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), and formally initiated the Section 106 consultation process consistent with the NHPA and its implementing regulations (36 CFR §800).

Since that time the USDA has participated in consultation meetings with the United States Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO), and other Consulting Parties. Based upon input received, the USDA has revised the Project to respond to feedback received during consultation. Summary information is provided below.

The NCPC is also participating as a "cooperating agency" during the Environmental Assessment process so that we can rely on the study document to satisfy the Commission's National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) obligation for the project.

Definition of the Undertaking

The Canopy Trail Project is located in the southeastern section of the USNA property, in an area that is largely undeveloped. While much of the Project will require little to no ground disturbance, portions of the Project will necessitate ground-disturbing activities, such as grading for access roads, staging areas, and pedestrian paths. The Canopy Trail Project includes the phased installation of Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)-compliant and static bridges, suspension bridges, decks/platforms, a custom net-scape, and a

U.S. National Arboretum
Director's Office
3501 New York Avenue, NE.
Washington, DC 20002

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treehouse to serve as a controlled entrance where tickets are purchased. This aboveground trail will allow for an aerial perspective of the forested portion of the National Arboretum. Stabilization of the canopy trail utilizes proprietary hardware attached to the existing trees to limit the amount of damage to both the trees and ground surface. The Project will also improve the existing nature play area near the existing Washington Youth Garden and include construction of an ADA-compliant sidewalk connecting the treehouse to Ellipse Road, NE, and a fence on the north, east, and west sides of the forested area to prevent after-hours access. The canopy trail is designed to blend into the existing natural area and will not extend higher than the current tree canopy. Vegetative clearance will be minimal (Figure 1).

Area of Potential Effects

The USDA has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of the maximum possible Limit of Disturbance (LOD) as indicated by the Tree-Mendous design team in consultation with FONIA and USNA, and an additional buffer area on the north, west, south, and east as follows: 1,000 feet (304.8 meters) from the northern boundary of the LOD to the north, over mostly open land, towards Meadow Road, NE, between Eagle Nest Road, NE, and Ellipse Road, NE; 700 feet (213.36 meters) to the west of Ellipse Road, NE, towards Eagle Nest Road, NE; 400 feet (121.92 meters) to the south of the southern boundary of the LOD, towards Langston Golf Course, to the edge of the dense vegetation around the LOD; and between 200 feet (60.96 meters) and 400 feet (121.92 meters) to the east of the eastern boundary of the LOD, towards Langston Golf Course, to the edge of the dense vegetation around the LOD (Figure 2).

Historic Properties in the APE

The USDA has identified one aboveground historic property located within the APE for the Project: the Arboretum, itself, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No other aboveground historic properties are known to be present in the APE.

National Arboretum. The National Arboretum was established by an Act of Congress in 1927, but it was not until the late 1950s that the property began to resemble what it is today. Most of the buildings and landscape features that characterize the property were planned and built in the 20-year period from 1947, when preparation of the 1947–1948 master plan began, and 1967. The National Arboretum first opened to the public in 1949, but multiple sources indicate that access was limited to the Spring months or by appointment, and to a 60-acre area until 1959. Prepared in 1973, the NRHP nomination form for the National Arboretum does not directly address the period of significance for the property and only references the original date of establishment by Congress in 1927. In 2019, the USDA retained heritage management consulting firm Gray & Pape, Inc. (Gray & Pape) to conduct research as part of the perimeter fence replacement project (DC HPO #19-0371). Gray & Pape recommended that a period of significance be considered from 1927 through at least 1967 when the USNA took on the configuration that it has today.

Archaeological Resources. The USDA retained Gray & Pape to conduct a Phase I archaeological investigation within the LOD for the Canopy Trail Project, consistent with the requirements of the DCHPO. The process included a literature review, pedestrian survey, and shovel test pits, all completed in consultation with the DCHPO. No archaeological sites were found. Of the 66 shovel tests excavated across the LOD, 45 displayed intact soils, most of which displayed a modern A-horizon over an intact B-horizon (subsoil). The draft Phase I combined cultural resources report was submitted to the DCHPO on August 18, 2022. A final Phase I combined cultural resources report was submitted to the DCHPO on May 13, 2024.



Consultation

In June 2022, the USDA invited the DCHPO and 11 potential stakeholders to participate in Section 106 consultation for the Project. The following parties elected to participate as Consulting Parties:

- the United States Commission of Fine Arts (CFA);
- the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC);
- the D.C. Preservation League (DCPL);
- the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5D (ANC5D); and
- the District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE).

Two consultation meetings were held via video call with the Consulting Parties on July 27, 2022 and December 15, 2023, as well as an in-person site visit and consultation meeting at the USNA on July 12, 2023.

At the July 27, 2022 virtual meeting the USDA presented its concept for the canopy trail and the purpose and goals of the Project. Photos of the Project area vicinity were shown as well as conceptual drawings, an initial site plan, and sections of the Canopy Trail superimposed on a 3D model produced via laser scanning the limit of disturbance. Consulting Parties inquired about the materiality of the trail, if there would be a need for fencing and what the treehouse/ticket booth would look like.

At the July 12, 2023 meeting, the USDA and FONA hosted the Consulting Parties on site and walked through the upper portion of the forested area where the Canopy Trail is proposed. This was intended to help the Consulting Parties better visualize the Project and see the dramatic changes in topography in the LOD down to the ravine. An in-person meeting was then held in one of the USNA classrooms where updated drawings were shared. The Consulting Parties were concerned about the design of the stave church treehouse/ticket booth design and encouraged the USDA to consider something more secular and more local for design inspiration.

At the December 15, 2023 virtual meeting, the USDA presented a second treehouse design that was based off of early settler's cabin and barn designs, and an entrance gate design based off of the brick kilns at the United Brick Corporation, which is now part of the USNA property along New York Avenue. Consultation was focused primarily on Consulting Parties' concerns about the design of the entrance ticket booth/treehouse.

In response to these concerns raised during the December 15, 2023 virtual meeting, USDA revised the treehouse/ticket booth design for a third time. The attached third version of the treehouse design was shared with the Consulting Parties in March 2024 (Figure 3). Feedback on this design from the CFA and other Consulting Parties has been positive. In June 2024, a fence design was shared with the Consulting Parties via email and preliminary feedback from DCHPO, DOEE, and NCPC was also positive (Figure 4).

Determination of Effects

The USDA has determined that the proposed Project will have a direct effect on the NRHP-listed National Arboretum, however, that the effect will not be adverse. The LOD is a densely vegetated forest area with steep inclines down to a ravine with water collecting at the bottom. The Canopy Trail will be built using natural materials, such as Black Locust logs, that are designed to blend into the existing environment. While visibility of the trail will be greater in the winter months, it is still not likely that the Canopy Trail will adversely affect character-defining USNA viewsheds from any portion of the APE.

The forest where the Canopy Trail will be located is not a designed feature like the nearby National Grove of State Trees, and instead, it has been allowed to grow freely for many decades. The Washington Youth Garden is the closest built resource to the proposed trail entrance, and its existing wood-chipped trail and play area will be improved during this project. The Canopy Trail is designed to blend into the existing natural area and will not extend higher than the current tree canopy. Vegetative clearance will be minimal, if at all. Tree-Mendous prides itself on providing a nature experience, and the purpose of the project is to immerse people in nature without disturbing the dense forest as it exists today. The USDA has assessed effects for all stages of the phased installation approach to the proposed Canopy Trail project. In conclusion, the proposed Canopy Trail Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations (36 CFR §800), the USDA requests concurrence from the DCHPO on its determination of no adverse effect for the Project.

Questions may be directed to me at 202.245.4539 (office), 202.257.1167 (mobile), or richard.olsen@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Olsen, Ph.D.
Director, The United States National Arboretum

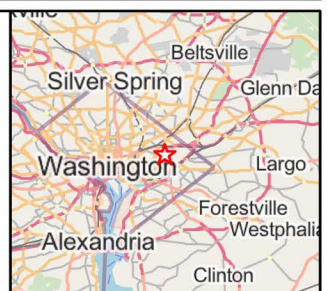
Attachments: Figure 1 – Proposed Overall Site Plan
Figure 2 – Proposed Canopy Trail LOD and APE
Figure 3 – Proposed Treehouse Design #3
Figure 4 – Proposed Fence Design



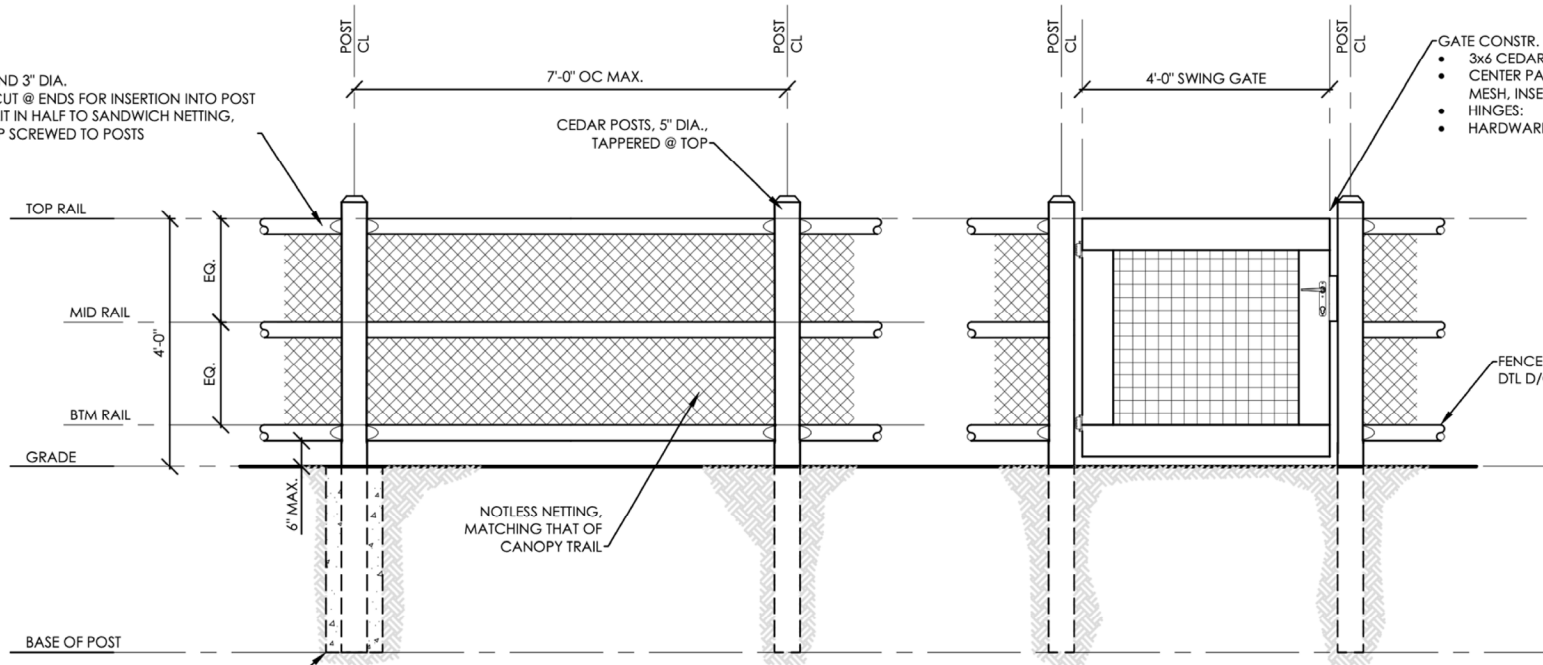
USNA Proposed Canopy Trail.



- Limit of Disturbance
- Area of Potential Effects



- FENCE RAILS
- CEDAR ROUND 3" DIA.
 - TOP & BTM CUT @ ENDS FOR INSERTION INTO POST
 - MID-RAIL SPLIT IN HALF TO SANDWICH NETTING,
 - MID-RAIL TOP SCREWED TO POSTS



- GATE CONSTR.
- 3x6 CEDAR PERIMETER FRAME
 - CENTER PANEL: 2x2 STAINLESS WOVEN MESH, INSET INTO 1" CENTER GROOVE
 - HINGES:
 - HARDWARE:

CONC. BACKFILL, 8" DIA., AROUND ALL POSTS, 4,000 PSI, TYP.

D PERIMETER FENCE
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

E ACCESS GATE, TYP.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

From: [Katie Stefanic](#)
To: [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\)](#); lee.webb@ncpc.gov; anne.brockett@dc.gov; [Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador \(SMD 5D05\)](#); [Fox, Dan; Zachary Burt](#); kucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#); anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; [Flis, Matthew](#); [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\)](#); [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\)](#); [Hart, Carlton](#); [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\)](#); [Shipman, Laura](#); [Gerhard Komenda](#); dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; [Martha Van Dale](#); [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\)](#)
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; [Susan Manes](#); [Carrie Albee](#)
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 3:50:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[USNA Canopy Trail 106 Effects Letter 2024.6.27 with figures.pdf](#)

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Greetings Consulting Parties,

The attached Section 106 Determination of Effects letter was sent today to David Maloney, the SHPO at the DCHPO for review. Given the robust consultation meetings and feedback we have received from you all over the past two years, we feel that the canopy trail design is now in a place to move forward in the NEPA and Section 106 processes. The letter proposes the project will have no adverse effects on the historic property of the USNA. Please see attached and let us know if you have any questions. We appreciate your continued participation in this consultation and over the past two years. Thank you!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:12 PM
To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; anne.brockett@dc.gov; [Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador \(SMD 5D05\)](#) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; Fox, Dan <dfox@cfa.gov>; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; kucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; Flis, Matthew <matthew.flis@ncpc.gov>; [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\)](mailto:Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE)) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\)](mailto:Jackson, Richard (DOEE)) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Hart, Carlton <chart@cfa.gov>; [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\)](mailto:Bautista, Julienne (DOEE)) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Shipman, Laura <laura.shipman@ncpc.gov>; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\)](mailto:Rauch, Daniel (DOEE)) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: Re: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Hi Katie,

The DOEE wetland and stream regulatory team has no issue with the proposed fence.

Thanks,

Jennifer Dietzen

Environmental Protection Specialist
Regulatory Review Division
Department of Energy & Environment
Government of the District of Columbia
1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Desk: (202) 481-3942
Cell: (202) 536-8556
Web: doee.dc.gov

From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 1:40 PM

To: lee.webb@ncpc.gov <lee.webb@ncpc.gov>; Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; Fox, Dan <dfox@cfa.gov>; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov <klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov>; Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com <anc5d05@gmail.com>; sbatcheler@cfa.gov <sbatcheler@cfa.gov>; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; Flis, Matthew <matthew.flis@ncpc.gov>; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Hart, Carlton <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; Shipman, Laura <laura.shipman@ncpc.gov>; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com <dproper@po-eng.com>; brandon@tree-mendous.com <brandon@tree-mendous.com>; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org <crand@fona.org>; richard.olsen@usda.gov <richard.olsen@usda.gov>; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

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Thank you, Lee! As a reminder, all, please send any thoughts on the fence design by COB today if you haven't already. Thanks!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Webb, Lee <lee.webb@ncpc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 1:23 PM

To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; anne.brockett@dc.gov; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; Fox, Dan <dfox@cfa.gov>; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; Flis, Matthew <matthew.flis@ncpc.gov>; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Hart, Carlton <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; Shipman, Laura <laura.shipman@ncpc.gov>; Gerhard

Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

All-

NCPC staff does not have any comments on the proposed fence design or site plan, in respect to historic preservation and Section 106 perimeters.

Thank you!

--Lee

Lee A. Webb

Federal Preservation Officer | Urban Design and Plan Review Division

401 9th Street, NW | Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20004

202 482 7240 | www.ncpc.gov | lee.webb@ncpc.gov

From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 1:27 PM

To: anne.brockett@dc.gov; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; Fox, Dan <dfox@cfa.gov>; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; Flis, Matthew <matthew.flis@ncpc.gov>; Webb, Lee <lee.webb@ncpc.gov>; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Hart, Carlton <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; Shipman, Laura <laura.shipman@ncpc.gov>; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Thanks, Anne, for letting us know! I will wait until COB on Wednesday, June 26 to see if anyone else has any comments, and then I will prepare the final DOE letter and circulate it to you all as well.

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic

From: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 12:50 PM
To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julianne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Thanks for the prompt on the fence and for the site plan. The SHPO has no comments on the proposed fence design

Thanks,
Anne



Anne O. Brockett

Architectural Historian • DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office

Pronouns: she/her/hers • [Why Pronouns Matter?](#)

1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024

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anne.brockett@dc.gov

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From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:36 AM
To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julianne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Importance: High

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Hello again USNA Canopy Trail Consulting Parties,

I hope everyone is having a great summer! I am writing to solicit feedback on the fence design that was sent out on 6/14. Could you please let me know your thoughts **by COB on Wednesday, June 26th**? If you think we need to have another meeting, please let me know. We can certainly try, but I know summer schedules can be difficult to align. The two major developments since our last Consulting Parties Meeting in December have been the revised treehouse/entrance booth design and the fence design. I have attached both here. Please let me know if you need any further information. Thank you!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Principal Investigator, History/Architecture



2119 East Franklin Street, Terrace Level
Richmond, Virginia 23223
Phone 804.644.0656
Cell 540.395.6729
Email kstefanic@graypape.com

From: Katie Stefanic

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 12:49 PM

To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.trocolli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julianne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Hello USNA Canopy Trail Consulting Parties,

Happy summer! I hope everyone is doing well! Please see attached fence design and please let us know your feedback. If you need to see any of the other drawings again, please let us know. We would like to wrap up Section 106 Consultation soon, as the NEPA process is moving forward as well. Thank you!

Best,

Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julianne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Please submit a fence proposal when you are able as we need to evaluate its presence and design for effects.

Thanks,
Anne



Anne O. Brockett

Architectural Historian • DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office

Pronouns: she/her/hers • [Why Pronouns Matter?](#)

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From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:23 PM
To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julianne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from kstefanic@graypape.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings, Consulting Parties,

On behalf of the USDA-ARS and FONA, we are writing to let you know that the Canopy Trail project at the USNA continues to move forward. We wanted to share with you the latest treehouse/ticket booth design to get your feedback in a more informal way, as requested at the December meeting. Please let us know your thoughts (attached PDF).

The NEPA process continues to move forward as well, with submission to the NCPC today (3/29/24) to meet the preliminary review submittal deadline for the May Commission meeting. In order for us to submit the draft Environmental Assessment, we needed to include a draft Section 106 Determination of Effects Letter. This by no means suggests that consultation is complete, and we have included a draft of the letter here in this email as well, for your review. We wanted to make sure that you all received this draft letter, since it will become publicly available with the EA beginning tomorrow (attached PDF). We welcome your feedback. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Principal Investigator, History/Architecture
2119 East Franklin Street, Terrace Level
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Mr. David Maloney
District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW
Suite 650 East
Washington, DC 20024

June 27, 2024

Re: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Proposed Canopy Trail (DC HPO Project No. 21-0829) at the United States National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Maloney:

As you are aware, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) proposes to partner with the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) to construct a canopy trail at the United States National Arboretum (USNA, "National Arboretum") in northeast Washington, D.C. (Project) for the purposes of expanding educational and visitor opportunities and generating revenue for the USNA. In June 2022 the USDA determined that the Project is an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), and formally initiated the Section 106 consultation process consistent with the NHPA and its implementing regulations (36 CFR §800).

Since that time the USDA has participated in consultation meetings with the United States Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO), and other Consulting Parties. Based upon input received, the USDA has revised the Project to respond to feedback received during consultation. Summary information is provided below.

The NCPC is also participating as a "cooperating agency" during the Environmental Assessment process so that we can rely on the study document to satisfy the Commission's National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) obligation for the project.

Definition of the Undertaking

The Canopy Trail Project is located in the southeastern section of the USNA property, in an area that is largely undeveloped. While much of the Project will require little to no ground disturbance, portions of the Project will necessitate ground-disturbing activities, such as grading for access roads, staging areas, and pedestrian paths. The Canopy Trail Project includes the phased installation of Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)-compliant and static bridges, suspension bridges, decks/platforms, a custom net-scape, and a

U.S. National Arboretum
Director's Office
3501 New York Avenue, NE.
Washington, DC 20002

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treehouse to serve as a controlled entrance where tickets are purchased. This aboveground trail will allow for an aerial perspective of the forested portion of the National Arboretum. Stabilization of the canopy trail utilizes proprietary hardware attached to the existing trees to limit the amount of damage to both the trees and ground surface. The Project will also improve the existing nature play area near the existing Washington Youth Garden and include construction of an ADA-compliant sidewalk connecting the treehouse to Ellipse Road, NE, and a fence on the north, east, and west sides of the forested area to prevent after-hours access. The canopy trail is designed to blend into the existing natural area and will not extend higher than the current tree canopy. Vegetative clearance will be minimal (Figure 1).

Area of Potential Effects

The USDA has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of the maximum possible Limit of Disturbance (LOD) as indicated by the Tree-Mendous design team in consultation with FONIA and USNA, and an additional buffer area on the north, west, south, and east as follows: 1,000 feet (304.8 meters) from the northern boundary of the LOD to the north, over mostly open land, towards Meadow Road, NE, between Eagle Nest Road, NE, and Ellipse Road, NE; 700 feet (213.36 meters) to the west of Ellipse Road, NE, towards Eagle Nest Road, NE; 400 feet (121.92 meters) to the south of the southern boundary of the LOD, towards Langston Golf Course, to the edge of the dense vegetation around the LOD; and between 200 feet (60.96 meters) and 400 feet (121.92 meters) to the east of the eastern boundary of the LOD, towards Langston Golf Course, to the edge of the dense vegetation around the LOD (Figure 2).

Historic Properties in the APE

The USDA has identified one aboveground historic property located within the APE for the Project: the Arboretum, itself, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No other aboveground historic properties are known to be present in the APE.

National Arboretum. The National Arboretum was established by an Act of Congress in 1927, but it was not until the late 1950s that the property began to resemble what it is today. Most of the buildings and landscape features that characterize the property were planned and built in the 20-year period from 1947, when preparation of the 1947–1948 master plan began, and 1967. The National Arboretum first opened to the public in 1949, but multiple sources indicate that access was limited to the Spring months or by appointment, and to a 60-acre area until 1959. Prepared in 1973, the NRHP nomination form for the National Arboretum does not directly address the period of significance for the property and only references the original date of establishment by Congress in 1927. In 2019, the USDA retained heritage management consulting firm Gray & Pape, Inc. (Gray & Pape) to conduct research as part of the perimeter fence replacement project (DC HPO #19-0371). Gray & Pape recommended that a period of significance be considered from 1927 through at least 1967 when the USNA took on the configuration that it has today.

Archaeological Resources. The USDA retained Gray & Pape to conduct a Phase I archaeological investigation within the LOD for the Canopy Trail Project, consistent with the requirements of the DCHPO. The process included a literature review, pedestrian survey, and shovel test pits, all completed in consultation with the DCHPO. No archaeological sites were found. Of the 66 shovel tests excavated across the LOD, 45 displayed intact soils, most of which displayed a modern A-horizon over an intact B-horizon (subsoil). The draft Phase I combined cultural resources report was submitted to the DCHPO on August 18, 2022. A final Phase I combined cultural resources report was submitted to the DCHPO on May 13, 2024.



Consultation

In June 2022, the USDA invited the DCHPO and 11 potential stakeholders to participate in Section 106 consultation for the Project. The following parties elected to participate as Consulting Parties:

- the United States Commission of Fine Arts (CFA);
- the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC);
- the D.C. Preservation League (DCPL);
- the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5D (ANC5D); and
- the District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE).

Two consultation meetings were held via video call with the Consulting Parties on July 27, 2022 and December 15, 2023, as well as an in-person site visit and consultation meeting at the USNA on July 12, 2023.

At the July 27, 2022 virtual meeting the USDA presented its concept for the canopy trail and the purpose and goals of the Project. Photos of the Project area vicinity were shown as well as conceptual drawings, an initial site plan, and sections of the Canopy Trail superimposed on a 3D model produced via laser scanning the limit of disturbance. Consulting Parties inquired about the materiality of the trail, if there would be a need for fencing and what the treehouse/ticket booth would look like.

At the July 12, 2023 meeting, the USDA and FONA hosted the Consulting Parties on site and walked through the upper portion of the forested area where the Canopy Trail is proposed. This was intended to help the Consulting Parties better visualize the Project and see the dramatic changes in topography in the LOD down to the ravine. An in-person meeting was then held in one of the USNA classrooms where updated drawings were shared. The Consulting Parties were concerned about the design of the stave church treehouse/ticket booth design and encouraged the USDA to consider something more secular and more local for design inspiration.

At the December 15, 2023 virtual meeting, the USDA presented a second treehouse design that was based off of early settler's cabin and barn designs, and an entrance gate design based off of the brick kilns at the United Brick Corporation, which is now part of the USNA property along New York Avenue. Consultation was focused primarily on Consulting Parties' concerns about the design of the entrance ticket booth/treehouse.

In response to these concerns raised during the December 15, 2023 virtual meeting, USDA revised the treehouse/ticket booth design for a third time. The attached third version of the treehouse design was shared with the Consulting Parties in March 2024 (Figure 3). Feedback on this design from the CFA and other Consulting Parties has been positive. In June 2024, a fence design was shared with the Consulting Parties via email and preliminary feedback from DCHPO, DOEE, and NCPC was also positive (Figure 4).

Determination of Effects

The USDA has determined that the proposed Project will have a direct effect on the NRHP-listed National Arboretum, however, that the effect will not be adverse. The LOD is a densely vegetated forest area with steep inclines down to a ravine with water collecting at the bottom. The Canopy Trail will be built using natural materials, such as Black Locust logs, that are designed to blend into the existing environment. While visibility of the trail will be greater in the winter months, it is still not likely that the Canopy Trail will adversely affect character-defining USNA viewsheds from any portion of the APE.

The forest where the Canopy Trail will be located is not a designed feature like the nearby National Grove of State Trees, and instead, it has been allowed to grow freely for many decades. The Washington Youth Garden is the closest built resource to the proposed trail entrance, and its existing wood-chipped trail and play area will be improved during this project. The Canopy Trail is designed to blend into the existing natural area and will not extend higher than the current tree canopy. Vegetative clearance will be minimal, if at all. Tree-Mendous prides itself on providing a nature experience, and the purpose of the project is to immerse people in nature without disturbing the dense forest as it exists today. The USDA has assessed effects for all stages of the phased installation approach to the proposed Canopy Trail project. In conclusion, the proposed Canopy Trail Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations (36 CFR §800), the USDA requests concurrence from the DCHPO on its determination of no adverse effect for the Project.

Questions may be directed to me at 202.245.4539 (office), 202.257.1167 (mobile), or richard.olsen@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Olsen, Ph.D.
Director, The United States National Arboretum

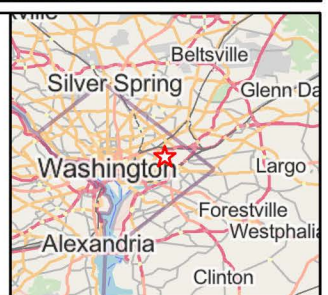
Attachments: Figure 1 – Proposed Overall Site Plan
Figure 2 – Proposed Canopy Trail LOD and APE
Figure 3 – Proposed Treehouse Design #3
Figure 4 – Proposed Fence Design



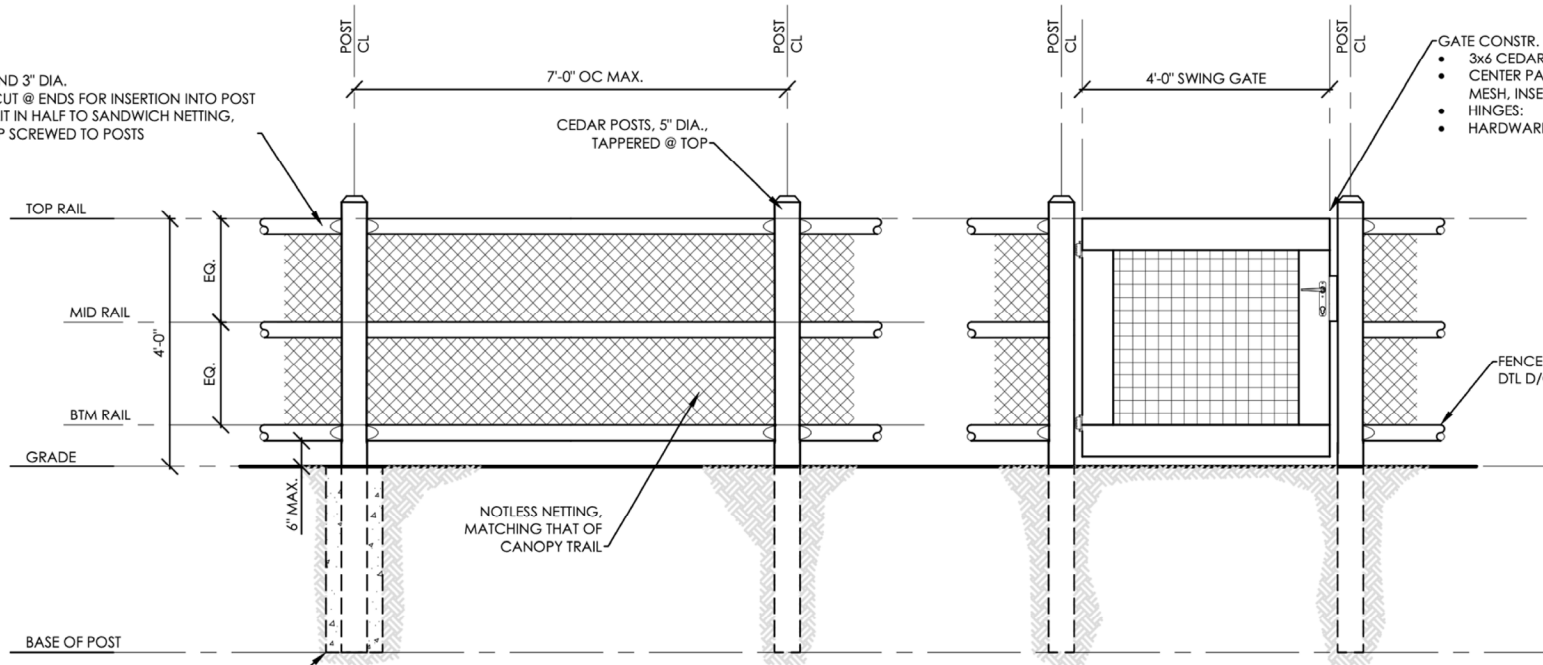
USNA Proposed Canopy Trail.



- Limit of Disturbance
- Area of Potential Effects



- FENCE RAILS
- CEDAR ROUND 3" DIA.
 - TOP & BTM CUT @ ENDS FOR INSERTION INTO POST
 - MID-RAIL SPLIT IN HALF TO SANDWICH NETTING,
 - MID-RAIL TOP SCREWED TO POSTS



- GATE CONSTR.
- 3x6 CEDAR PERIMETER FRAME
 - CENTER PANEL: 2x2 STAINLESS WOVEN MESH, INSET INTO 1" CENTER GROOVE
 - HINGES:
 - HARDWARE:

CONC. BACKFILL, 8" DIA., AROUND ALL POSTS, 4,000 PSI, TYP.

D PERIMETER FENCE
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

E ACCESS GATE, TYP.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

From: [Katie Stefanic](#)
To: [anne.brockett@dc.gov](#); [Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador \(SMD 5D05\)](#); [dfox@cfa.gov](#); [Zachary Burt](#); [klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov](#); [ruth.troccoli@dc.gov](#); [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#); [anc5d05@gmail.com](#); [sbatcheler@cfa.gov](#); [michael.weil@ncpc.gov](#); [matthew.flis@ncpc.gov](#); [lee.webb@ncpc.gov](#); [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\)](#); [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\)](#); [Carlton Hart](#); [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\)](#); [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\)](#); [laura.shipman@ncpc.gov](#); [Gerhard Komenda](#); [dproper@po-eng.com](#); [brandon@tree-mendous.com](#); [Martha Van Dale](#); [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\)](#)
Cc: [crand@fona.org](#); [richard.olsen@usda.gov](#); [Susan Manes](#); [Carrie Albee](#)
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:39:08 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Canopy Trail Fence Design.png](#)
[Arboretum Treehouse Prop #3 3-19-24.pdf](#)
Importance: High

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Hello again USNA Canopy Trail Consulting Parties,

I hope everyone is having a great summer! I am writing to solicit feedback on the fence design that was sent out on 6/14. Could you please let me know your thoughts **by COB on Wednesday, June 26th**? If you think we need to have another meeting, please let me know. We can certainly try, but I know summer schedules can be difficult to align. The two major developments since our last Consulting Parties Meeting in December have been the revised treehouse/entrance booth design and the fence design. I have attached both here. Please let me know if you need any further information. Thank you!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Principal Investigator, History/Architecture



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From: Katie Stefanic
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 12:49 PM
To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\) <christine.ames@dc.gov>](mailto:Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>); anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>](mailto:Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>); [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>](mailto:Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>); Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>](mailto:Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>); [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>](mailto:Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>); laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>](mailto:Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>)
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Hello USNA Canopy Trail Consulting Parties,

Happy summer! I hope everyone is doing well! Please see attached fence design and please let us know your feedback. If you need to see any of the other drawings again, please let us know. We would like to wrap up Section 106 Consultation soon, as the NEPA process is moving forward as well. Thank you!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Please submit a fence proposal when you are able as we need to evaluate its presence and design for effects.

Thanks,
Anne



Anne O. Brockett

Architectural Historian • DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office

Pronouns: she/her/hers • [Why Pronouns Matter?](#)

1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024

202.442.8842

anne.brockett@dc.gov

planning.dc.gov

From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:23 PM
To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov;

lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from kstefanic@graypape.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings, Consulting Parties,

On behalf of the USDA-ARS and FONA, we are writing to let you know that the Canopy Trail project at the USNA continues to move forward. We wanted to share with you the latest treehouse/ticket booth design to get your feedback in a more informal way, as requested at the December meeting. Please let us know your thoughts (attached PDF).

The NEPA process continues to move forward as well, with submission to the NCPC today (3/29/24) to meet the preliminary review submittal deadline for the May Commission meeting. In order for us to submit the draft Environmental Assessment, we needed to include a draft Section 106 Determination of Effects Letter. This by no means suggests that consultation is complete, and we have included a draft of the letter here in this email as well, for your review. We wanted to make sure that you all received this draft letter, since it will become publicly available with the EA beginning tomorrow (attached PDF). We welcome your feedback. Please let us know if you have any questions.

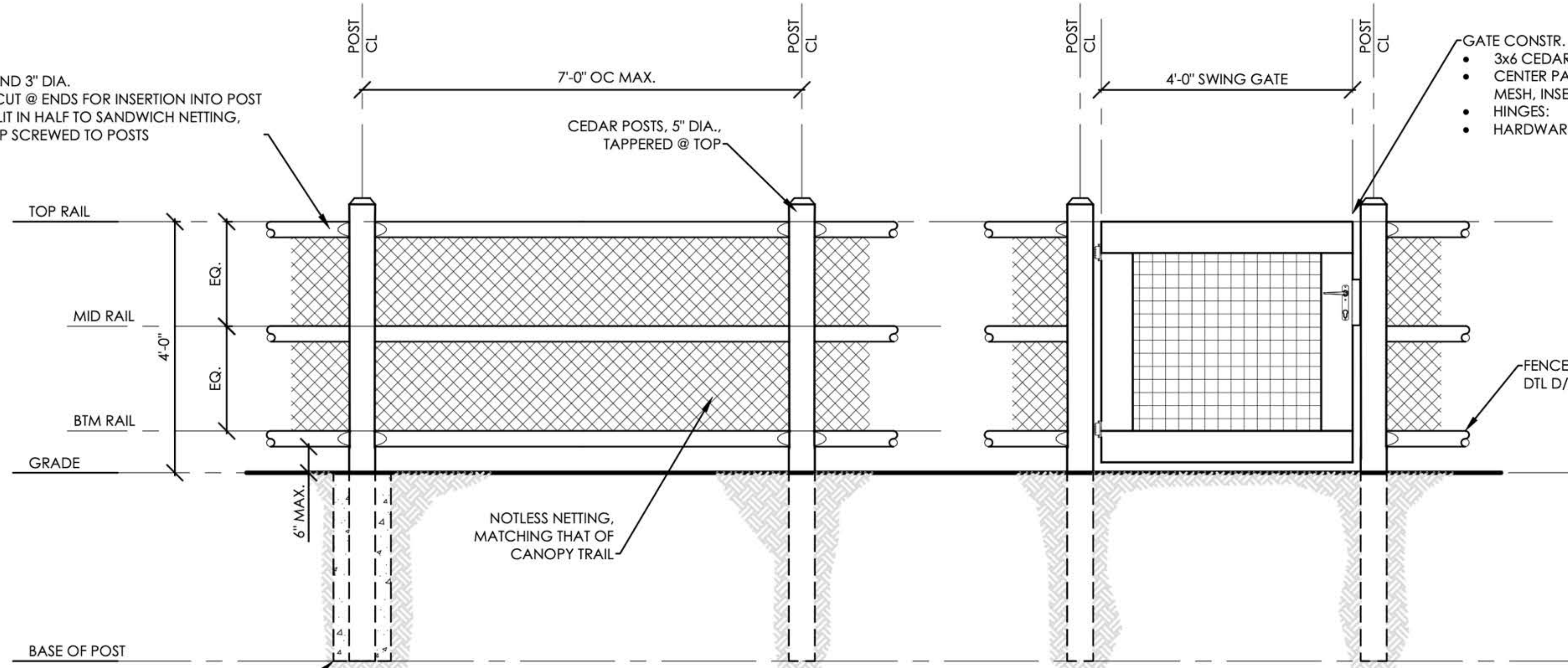
Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Principal Investigator, History/Architecture
2119 East Franklin Street, Terrace Level
Richmond, Virginia 23223
Phone 804.644.0656
Cell 540.395.6729
Email kstefanic@graypape.com

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FENCE RAILS

- CEDAR ROUND 3" DIA.
- TOP & BTM CUT @ ENDS FOR INSERTION INTO POST
- MID-RAIL SPLIT IN HALF TO SANDWICH NETTING,
- MID-RAIL TOP SCREWED TO POSTS



D PERIMETER FENCE
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

E ACCESS GATE, TYP.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

From: [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\)](#)
To: [Katie Stefanic](#); lee.webb@ncpc.gov; anne.brockett@dc.gov; [Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador \(SMD 5D05\)](#); [Fox, Dan](#); [Zachary Burt](#); klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#); anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; [Flis, Matthew](#); [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\)](#); [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\)](#); [Hart, Carlton](#); [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\)](#); [Shipman, Laura](#); [Gerhard Komenda](#); dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; [Martha Van Dale](#); [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\)](#)
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; [Susan Manes](#); [Carrie Albee](#)
Subject: Re: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:11:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Katie,

The DOEE wetland and stream regulatory team has no issue with the proposed fence.

Thanks,

Jennifer Dietzen
Environmental Protection Specialist
Regulatory Review Division
Department of Energy & Environment
Government of the District of Columbia
1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Desk: (202) 481-3942
Cell: (202) 536-8556
Web: doee.dc.gov

From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 1:40 PM
To: lee.webb@ncpc.gov <lee.webb@ncpc.gov>; [Brockett, Anne \(OP\)](#) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; [Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador \(SMD 5D05\)](#) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; [Fox, Dan](#) <dfox@cfa.gov>; [Zachary Burt](#) <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov <klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov>; [Troccoli, Ruth \(OP\)](#) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com <anc5d05@gmail.com>; sbatcheler@cfa.gov <sbatcheler@cfa.gov>; [Weil, Michael](#) <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; [Flis, Matthew](#) <matthew.flis@ncpc.gov>; [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\)](#) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\)](#) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; [Hart, Carlton](#) <chart@cfa.gov>; [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\)](#) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\)](#) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; [Shipman, Laura](#) <laura.shipman@ncpc.gov>; [Gerhard Komenda](#) <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com <dproper@po-eng.com>; brandon@tree-mendous.com <brandon@tree-mendous.com>; [Martha Van Dale](#) <martha.dale@nasda.org>; [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\)](#) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org <crand@fona.org>; richard.olsen@usda.gov <richard.olsen@usda.gov>; [Susan Manes](#) <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; [Carrie Albee](#) <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

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Thank you, Lee! As a reminder, all, please send any thoughts on the fence design by COB today if you

haven't already. Thanks!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Webb, Lee <lee.webb@ncpc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 1:23 PM

To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; anne.brockett@dc.gov; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; Fox, Dan <dfox@cfa.gov>; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.trocolli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; Flis, Matthew <matthew.flis@ncpc.gov>; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Hart, Carlton <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; Shipman, Laura <laura.shipman@ncpc.gov>; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

All-

NCPC staff does not have any comments on the proposed fence design or site plan, in respect to historic preservation and Section 106 perimeters.

Thank you!

--Lee

Lee A. Webb

Federal Preservation Officer | Urban Design and Plan Review Division

401 9th Street, NW | Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20004

202 482 7240 | www.ncpc.gov | lee.webb@ncpc.gov

From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 1:27 PM

To: anne.brockett@dc.gov; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; Fox, Dan <dfox@cfa.gov>; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.trocolli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; Flis, Matthew <matthew.flis@ncpc.gov>; Webb, Lee <lee.webb@ncpc.gov>; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson,

Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Hart, Carlton <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; Shipman, Laura <laura.shipman@ncpc.gov>; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Thanks, Anne, for letting us know! I will wait until COB on Wednesday, June 26 to see if anyone else has any comments, and then I will prepare the final DOE letter and circulate it to you all as well.

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 12:50 PM

To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Thanks for the prompt on the fence and for the site plan. The SHPO has no comments on the proposed fence design

Thanks,
Anne



Anne O. Brockett

Architectural Historian • DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office

Pronouns: she/her/hers • [Why Pronouns Matter?](#)

1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024

202.442.8842

anne.brockett@dc.gov

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From: [Katie Stefanic](#)
To: anne.brockett@dc.gov; [Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador \(SMD 5D05\)](#); dfox@cfa.gov; [Zachary Burt](#); klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\)](#); anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\)](#); [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\)](#); [Carlton Hart](#); [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\)](#); [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\)](mailto:Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE)); laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; [Gerhard Komenda](#); dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; [Martha Van Dale](#); [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\)](#)
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; [Susan Manes](#); [Carrie Albee](#)
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 1:26:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Thanks, Anne, for letting us know! I will wait until COB on Wednesday, June 26 to see if anyone else has any comments, and then I will prepare the final DOE letter and circulate it to you all as well.

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 12:50 PM
To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; zach@dcpreservation.org; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\) <christine.ames@dc.gov>](mailto:Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>); anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>](#); richard.jackson2@dc.gov; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; julienne.bautista@dc.gov; [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>](mailto:Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>); laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>](mailto:Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>)
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Thanks for the prompt on the fence and for the site plan. The SHPO has no comments on the proposed fence design

Thanks,
Anne



Anne O. Brockett

Architectural Historian • DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office

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1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024

202.442.8842

anne.brockett@dc.gov

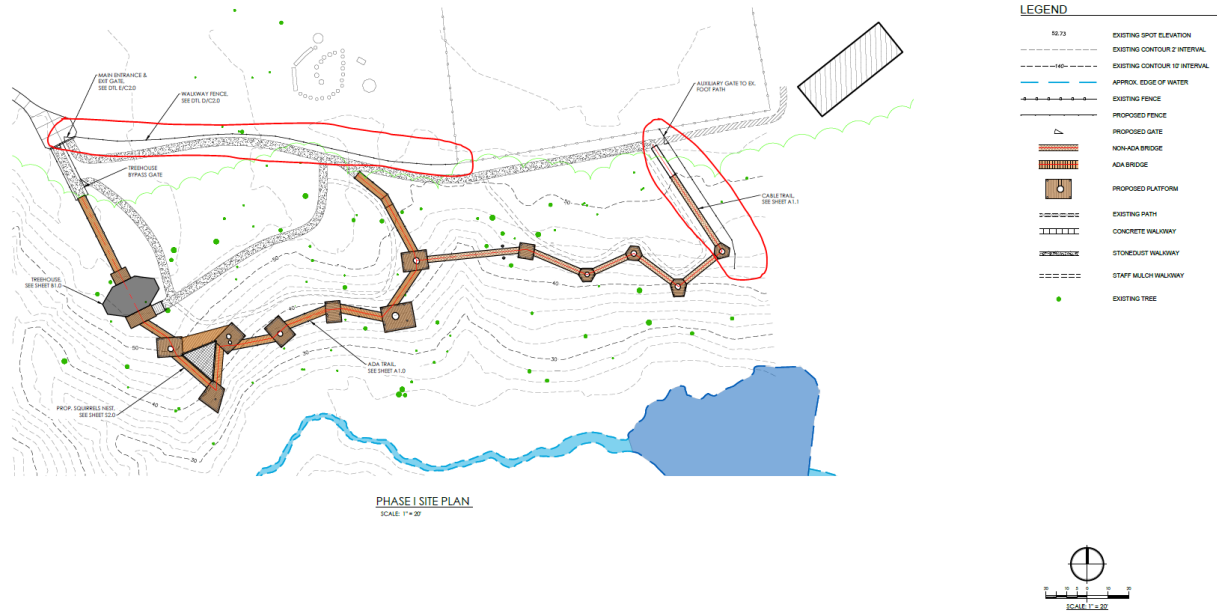
From: [Katie Stefanic](mailto:katie.stefanic@hsg.com)
To: anne.brockett@dc.gov; [Sauceda-Guzman, Salvador \(SMD 5D05\)](mailto:Sauceda-Guzman_Salvador(SMD_5D05)); dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\); anc5d05@gmail.com](mailto:Ames, Christine (OP); anc5d05@gmail.com); sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\); Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\); Carlton Hart](mailto:Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE); jackson, richard (DOEE); carlton hart); [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\); Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\); Laura Shipman@ncpc.gov](mailto:Bautista, Julienne (DOEE); dietzen, jennifer (DOEE); laura.shipman@ncpc.gov); Gerhard Komenda; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; [crand@fona.org](mailto:Martha Van Dale; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE)

Cc: <a href=); richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes; Carrie Albee
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:11:45 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Anne,

Yes, please see below. I've circled in red where this new fence will be. The places without fence around the east, west, and south have extensive slope and vegetation preventing anyone from accessing after hours. Thanks all!



Best,
 Katie

Katie Stefanic
 Cell 540.395.6729

From: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:55 AM
To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; [Ames, Christine \(OP\) <christine.ames@dc.gov>](mailto:Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>); anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; [Upchurch, Meredith \(DOEE\) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>](mailto:Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>); [Jackson, Richard \(DOEE\) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>](mailto:jackson, richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>); Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; [Bautista, Julienne \(DOEE\) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>](mailto:Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>); [Dietzen, Jennifer \(DOEE\) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>](mailto:Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>); laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; [Rauch, Daniel \(DOEE\) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>](mailto:Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>)
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Is there a plan that shows the fenceline?

Many thanks,
 Anne

Anne O. Brockett



Architectural Historian • DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office
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1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024
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From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:36 AM

To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Importance: High

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Hello again USNA Canopy Trail Consulting Parties,

I hope everyone is having a great summer! I am writing to solicit feedback on the fence design that was sent out on 6/14. Could you please let me know your thoughts **by COB on Wednesday, June 26th**? If you think we need to have another meeting, please let me know. We can certainly try, but I know summer schedules can be difficult to align. The two major developments since our last Consulting Parties Meeting in December have been the revised treehouse/entrance booth design and the fence design. I have attached both here. Please let me know if you need any further information. Thank you!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Principal Investigator, History/Architecture



2119 East Franklin Street, Terrace Level
Richmond, Virginia 23223
Phone 804.644.0656
Cell 540.395.6729
Email kstefanic@graypape.com

From: Katie Stefanic

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 12:49 PM

To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>

Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>

Subject: RE: Fence Design- National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Hello USNA Canopy Trail Consulting Parties,

Happy summer! I hope everyone is doing well! Please see attached fence design and please let us know your feedback. If you need to see any of the other drawings again, please let us know. We would like to wrap up Section 106 Consultation soon, as the NEPA process is moving forward as well. Thank you!

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
Cell 540.395.6729

From: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; ruth.troccoli@dc.gov; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; michael.weil@ncpc.gov; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: RE: National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

Please submit a fence proposal when you are able as we need to evaluate its presence and design for effects.

Thanks,
Anne



Anne O. Brockett
Architectural Historian • DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office
Pronouns: she/her/hers • [Why Pronouns Matter?](#)
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024
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From: Katie Stefanic <kstefanic@graypape.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:23 PM
To: Brockett, Anne (OP) <anne.brockett@dc.gov>; Saucedo-Guzman, Salvador (SMD 5D05) <5D05@anc.dc.gov>; dfox@cfa.gov; Zachary Burt <zach@dcpreservation.org>; klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov; Troccoli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Troccoli@dc.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; anc5d05@gmail.com; sbatcheler@cfa.gov; Weil, Michael <michael.weil@ncpc.gov>; matthew.flis@ncpc.gov; lee.webb@ncpc.gov; Upchurch, Meredith (DOEE) <meredith.upchurch1@dc.gov>; Jackson, Richard (DOEE) <richard.jackson2@dc.gov>; Carlton Hart <chart@cfa.gov>; Bautista, Julienne (DOEE) <julienne.bautista@dc.gov>; Dietzen, Jennifer (DOEE) <jennifer.dietzen@dc.gov>; laura.shipman@ncpc.gov; Gerhard Komenda <gerhard@tree-mendous.com>; dproper@po-eng.com; brandon@tree-mendous.com; Martha Van Dale <martha.dale@nasda.org>; Rauch, Daniel (DOEE) <daniel.rauch@dc.gov>
Cc: crand@fona.org; richard.olsen@usda.gov; Susan Manes <Susan.manes@herndon-group.com>; Carrie Albee <calbee@graypape.com>
Subject: National Arboretum (USNA) Canopy Trail 106 Consultation

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Greetings, Consulting Parties,

On behalf of the USDA-ARS and FONA, we are writing to let you know that the Canopy Trail project at the USNA continues to move forward. We wanted to share with you the latest treehouse/ticket booth design to get your feedback in a more informal way, as requested at the December meeting. Please let us know your thoughts (attached PDF).

The NEPA process continues to move forward as well, with submission to the NCPC today (3/29/24) to meet the preliminary review submittal deadline for the May Commission meeting. In order for us to submit the draft Environmental Assessment, we needed to include a draft Section 106 Determination of Effects Letter. This by no means suggests that consultation is complete, and we have included a draft of the letter here in this email as well, for your review. We wanted to make sure that you all received this draft letter, since it will become publicly available with the EA beginning tomorrow (attached PDF). We welcome your feedback. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Best,
Katie

Katie Stefanic
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Mr. David Maloney
District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW
Suite 650 East
Washington, DC 20024

March 29, 2024

Re: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Proposed Canopy Trail (DC HPO Project No. 21-0829) at the United States National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Maloney:

As you are aware, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) proposes to partner with the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) to construct a canopy trail at the United States National Arboretum (USNA, "National Arboretum") in northeast Washington, D.C. (Project) for the purposes of expanding educational and visitor opportunities and generating revenue for the USNA. In June 2022 the USDA determined that the Project is an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), and formally initiated the Section 106 consultation process consistent with the NHPA and its implementing regulations (36 CFR §800).

Since that time the USDA has participated in consultation meetings with the United States Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO), and other Consulting Parties. Based upon input received, the USDA has revised the Project to respond to feedback received during consultation. Summary information is provided below.

The NCPC is also participating as a "cooperating agency" during the Environmental Assessment process so that we can rely on the study document to satisfy the Commission's National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) obligation for the project.

Definition of the Undertaking

The Canopy Trail Project is located in the southeastern section of the USNA property, in an area that is largely undeveloped. While much of the Project will require little to no ground disturbance, portions of the Project will necessitate ground-disturbing activities, such as grading for access roads, staging areas, and pedestrian paths. The Canopy Trail Project includes the phased installation of Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)-compliant and static bridges, suspension bridges, decks/platforms, a custom net-scape, and a

U.S. National Arboretum
Director's Office
3501 New York Avenue, NE.
Washington, DC 20002

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treehouse to serve as a controlled entrance where tickets are purchased. This aboveground trail will allow for an aerial perspective of the forested portion of the National Arboretum. Stabilization of the canopy trail utilizes proprietary hardware attached to the existing trees to limit the amount of damage to both the trees and ground surface. The Project will also improve the existing nature play area near the existing Washington Youth Garden and include construction of an ADA-compliant sidewalk connecting the treehouse to Ellipse Road, NE, and a fence on the north, east, and west sides of the forested area to prevent after-hours access. The canopy trail is designed to blend into the existing natural area and will not extend higher than the current tree canopy. Vegetative clearance will be minimal (Figure 1).

Area of Potential Effects

The USDA has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of the maximum possible Limit of Disturbance (LOD) as indicated by the Tree-Mendous design team in consultation with FONIA and USNA, and an additional buffer area on the north, west, south, and east as follows: 1,000 feet (304.8 meters) from the northern boundary of the LOD to the north, over mostly open land, towards Meadow Road, NE, between Eagle Nest Road, NE, and Ellipse Road, NE; 700 feet (213.36 meters) to the west of Ellipse Road, NE, towards Eagle Nest Road, NE; 400 feet (121.92 meters) to the south of the southern boundary of the LOD, towards Langston Golf Course, to the edge of the dense vegetation around the LOD; and between 200 feet (60.96 meters) and 400 feet (121.92 meters) to the east of the eastern boundary of the LOD, towards Langston Golf Course, to the edge of the dense vegetation around the LOD (Figure 2).

Historic Properties in the APE

The USDA has identified one aboveground historic property located within the APE for the Project: the Arboretum, itself, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No other aboveground historic properties are known to be present in the APE.

National Arboretum. The National Arboretum was established by an Act of Congress in 1927, but it was not until the late 1950s that the property began to resemble what it is today. Most of the buildings and landscape features that characterize the property were planned and built in the 20-year period from 1947, when preparation of the 1947–1948 master plan began, and 1967. The National Arboretum first opened to the public in 1949, but multiple sources indicate that access was limited to the Spring months or by appointment, and to a 60-acre area until 1959. Prepared in 1973, the NRHP nomination form for the National Arboretum does not directly address the period of significance for the property and only references the original date of establishment by Congress in 1927. In 2019, the USDA retained heritage management consulting firm Gray & Pape, Inc. (Gray & Pape) to conduct research as part of the perimeter fence replacement project (DC HPO #19-0371). Gray & Pape recommended that a period of significance be considered from 1927 through at least 1967 when the USNA took on the configuration that it has today.

Archaeological Resources. The USDA retained Gray & Pape to conduct a Phase I archaeological investigation within the LOD for the Canopy Trail Project, consistent with the requirements of the DCHPO. The process included a literature review, pedestrian survey, and shovel test pits, all completed in consultation with the DCHPO. No archaeological sites were found. Of the 66 shovel tests excavated across the LOD, 45 displayed intact soils, most of which displayed a modern A-horizon over an intact B-horizon (subsoil). The draft Phase I combined cultural resources report was submitted to the DCHPO on August 18, 2022.

Consultation



In June 2022, the USDA invited the DCHPO and 11 potential stakeholders to participate in Section 106 consultation for the Project. The following parties elected to participate as Consulting Parties:

- the United States Commission of Fine Arts (CFA);
- the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC);
- the D.C. Preservation League (DCPL);
- the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5D (ANC5D); and
- the District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE).

Two consultation meetings were held via video call with the Consulting Parties on July 27, 2022 and December 15, 2023, as well as an in-person site visit and consultation meeting at the USNA on July 12, 2023.

At the July 27, 2022 virtual meeting the USDA presented its concept for the canopy trail and the purpose and goals of the Project. Photos of the Project area vicinity were shown as well as conceptual drawings, an initial site plan, and sections of the Canopy Trail superimposed on a 3D model produced via laser scanning the limit of disturbance. Consulting Parties inquired about the materiality of the trail, if there would be a need for fencing and what the treehouse/ticket booth would look like.

At the July 12, 2023 meeting, the USDA and FONA hosted the Consulting Parties on site and walked through the upper portion of the forested area where the Canopy Trail is proposed. This was intended to help the Consulting Parties better visualize the Project and see the dramatic changes in topography in the LOD down to the ravine. An in-person meeting was then held in one of the USNA classrooms where updated drawings were shared. The Consulting Parties were concerned about the design of the stave church treehouse/ticket booth design and encouraged the USDA to consider something more secular and more local for design inspiration.

At the December 15, 2023 virtual meeting, the USDA presented a second treehouse design that was based off of early settler's cabin and barn designs, and an entrance gate design based off of the brick kilns at the United Brick Corporation, which is now part of the USNA property along New York Avenue. Consultation was focused primarily on Consulting Parties' concerns about the design of the entrance ticket booth/treehouse.

In response to these concerns raised during the December 15, 2023 virtual meeting, USDA revised the treehouse/ticket booth design for a third time. The attached third version of the treehouse design is being shared with the Consulting Parties in March 2023 (Figure 3). Preliminary feedback on this design from the CFA has been positive.

Determination of Effects

The USDA has determined that the proposed Project will have a direct effect on the NRHP-listed National Arboretum, however, that the effect will not be adverse. The LOD is a densely vegetated forest area with steep inclines down to a ravine with water collecting at the bottom. The Canopy Trail will be built using natural materials, such as Black Locust logs, that are designed to blend into the existing environment. While visibility of the trail will be greater in the winter months, it is still not likely that the Canopy Trail will adversely affect character-defining USNA viewsheds from any portion of the APE.

The forest where the Canopy Trail will be located is not a designed feature like the nearby National Grove of State Trees, and instead, it has been allowed to grow freely for many decades. The Washington Youth Garden is the closest built resource to the proposed trail entrance, and its existing wood-chipped trail and play area will be improved during this project. The Canopy Trail is designed to blend into the existing natural area and will not extend higher than the current tree canopy. Vegetative clearance will be minimal, if at all. Tree-Mendous prides itself on providing a nature experience, and the purpose of the project is to immerse people in nature without disturbing the dense forest as it exists today. The USDA has assessed effects for all stages of the phased installation approach to the proposed Canopy Trail project. In conclusion, the proposed Canopy Trail Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations (36 CFR §800), the USDA requests concurrence from the DCHPO on its determination of no adverse effect for the Project. Questions may be directed to me at 202.245.4539 (office), 202.257.1167 (mobile), or richard.olsen@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RTO', is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Richard T. Olsen, Ph.D.

Director, The United States National Arboretum

Attachments: Figure 1 – Proposed Overall Site Plan
Figure 2 – Proposed Canopy Trail LOD and APE
Figure 3 – Proposed Treehouse Design #3



USNA Proposed Canopy Trail.



- Limit of Disturbance
- Area of Potential Effects

