

Telephone: (303) 969-2851 [or (303) 969-2377].

Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS/GMP analyzes a "no-action" alternative and 4 "action" alternatives:

- *Alternative 1* (the no-action alternative) represents the continuation of existing conditions and management at the monument.
- *Alternative 2* would reduce overall development to improve the monument's natural setting; institute a reservation system during periods of peak visitation; convert the parking area at the base of the Tower to a pedestrian plaza; selectively restore natural vegetation; improve trail accessibility; and reduce the size of the Belle Fourche River campground.
- *Alternative 3* (the NPS preferred alternative) would institute a shuttle system for use during peak visitation periods; construct a shuttle staging area and visitor orientation facilities within the monument; convert the parking area at the base of the Tower to a pedestrian plaza; remove the Belle Fourche River campground and restore/revegetate disturbed areas; construct and reconfigure trails.
- *Alternative 4* would also institute a shuttle system, but would construct/relocate staging and visitor orientation facilities, along with headquarters and maintenance facilities, outside the monument boundaries; convert the parking area at the base of the Tower to a pedestrian plaza; retain camping in a portion of the Belle Fourche River campground; convert another part of the campground to a shuttle stop with visitor facilities; construct and reconfigure trails.
- *Alternative 5* would continue to offer visitor experiences similar to those presently available, but would expand, pave, and upgrade parking areas and roads, and/or add facilities to reduce visitor congestion.

The DEIS/GMP evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the other alternatives on natural resources (e.g. air quality, soils, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species); cultural resources (e.g. ethnographic resources of importance to American Indian tribes, Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed roadway features, etc.); the visitor experience; and socioeconomic resources (e.g. local businesses, construction-related employment, etc.).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Superintendent, Devils Tower National Monument, at the above address and telephone number.

Dated: June 14, 2001.

Jack Neckels,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service, Interior.

Environmental Assessment for Proposal To Address Safety Concerns Along the Mount Vernon Trail in and Around Bridge #12

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Availability of the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed safety improvements to Bridge #12 located approximately ¼ mile north of the southbound Fort Hunt exit off of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) along the Mount Vernon Trail (MVT).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service (NPS) policy, the NPS announces the availability of an EA for the proposed safety improvements on and around MVT Bridge #12 within GWMP. The EA examines several alternatives aimed to increase safety for trail users while maintaining the integrity of the natural and cultural resources at Bridge #12. The area on and around Bridge #12 has been identified as a safety concern, primarily due to the bridge and trail designs in relationship to the existing terrain and the increased speeds that bicyclists are now able to obtain. As the trail approaches the bridge from both the north and the south, it combines a series of sharp curves with a steep downhill grade which has resulted in serious accidents to bicyclists, especially when the bridge deck is wet or damp. The NPS is soliciting comments on this EA. These comments will be considered in evaluating it and making decisions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

DATES: The EA will remain available for public comment until August 1, 2001. Written comments should be received no later than this date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this EA should be submitted in writing to: Ms. Audrey F. Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia, 22101. The EA will be available for

public inspection Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 4 p.m., at GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia; on the NPS Website, www.nps.gov/gwmp; and at several libraries in Alexandria, Fairfax and Arlington, Virginia.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS proposes to increase safety for trail users while maintaining the integrity of the natural and cultural resources at Bridge #12, located approximately ¼ mile north of the southbound Fort Hunt exit off of the GWMP on the MVT. Approximately nine years ago, both ends of the bridge were widened to allow a greater turning radius for bicyclists to make the turn onto the bridge, a non-slip coating was applied to the bridge deck surface, and warning signs were posted at each end of the bridge. Although these modifications have lessened the existing safety hazards, accidents continue to occur on and around this bridge structure and it requires reconsideration. A 1990 NPS trail study entitled *Paved Recreational Trails of the National Capital Region: Recommendations for Improvements and Coordination to Form a Metropolitan Multi-Use Trail System* identified this area as a priority for safety improvements. The bridge traverses a ravine with a wetland area and small creek running through it. The existing bridge is approximately 165 feet long and is constructed from a combination of pressure treated lumber and creosote piles.

The following primary needs have been identified with this project to address the existing safety issues. There is a need:

1. For design changes to the bridge itself to make it a more sustainable structure and provide for safety on the bridge.
2. To change the steep, sharp curved approaches to the bridge.
3. To protect natural and cultural resources in and around the bridge area.

Incidents that have occurred at this location have been informally documented by observations by park staff and through conversations with visitors who have reported incidents. Physical evidence such as skid marks and bicycle paint and scrape marks on the wood of the bridge have also been observed. Finally, park staff have assisted injured bicyclists on several occasions on and around the bridge.

All interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are urged to provide comments on this EA. The NPS, in making a final decision regarding this matter, will consider all comments received by the closing date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dan Sealy (703) 289-2530 or via email at GWMP_IRRM_SECRETARY@NPS.GOV.

Audrey F. Calhoun,
Superintendent, George Washington
Memorial Parkway.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Assessment for Proposal to Replace the Existing Deteriorated North Arcade Structure and Damaged Portions of the Adjacent Arcade Structure With a New North Arcade Structure in Glen Echo Park, MD

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposal to replace the existing deteriorated North Arcade structure, and damaged portions of the adjacent arcade structure with a new North Arcade structure in Glen Echo Park (GLEC). Both structures are listed as contributing elements of the Glen Echo Park Historic District, Maryland.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service (NPS) policy, the NPS announces the availability of an EA for the proposed replacement of the existing deteriorated North Arcade structure and damaged portions of the adjacent arcade structure with a new North Arcade structure in GLEC, a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). The EA examines several alternatives aimed to correct the advanced deterioration and design deficiencies of the North Arcade structure. The building currently provides marginal space for park administrative offices, classrooms, a photography studio, and a police substation. The use of these spaces is severely impacted by this advanced deterioration.

The NPS is soliciting comments on this EA. These comments will be considered in evaluating it and making decisions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

DATES: The EA will remain available for public comment until August 1, 2001. Written comments should be received no later than this date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this EA should be submitted in writing to: Ms. Audrey F. Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway,

Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia, 22101. The EA will be available for public inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. at GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia; on the NPS Website, www.nps.gov/gwmp; at GLEC and at the following Montgomery County libraries: Bethesda Regional Library, Davis Library, and Little Falls.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS proposes to replace the existing deteriorated North Arcade structure and damaged portions of the adjacent arcade structure with a new North Arcade structure in GLEC. The intent of the proposed action is to: provide an interpretive area and classroom space to conduct and possibly expand programs; provide alternative space for the Puppet Company or a similar theatre group so that the main entrance of the Spanish Ballroom can be restored and used again; maintain and upgrade the space currently occupied by Photoworks, a portion of the lower level within the North Arcade; provide useful, efficient office space in place of what currently occupies a portion of the upper level within the North Arcade; address and correct structural deficiencies of the current structure (note that 40% of the current structure is vacant because of deterioration) and make the building accessible; address and correct Life and Safety Code deficiencies, including exit and egress requirements; address and correct Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility deficiencies; replace deteriorating mechanical and electrical systems that have exceeded their expected life cycle; enhance protection of natural and cultural resources within the park, especially those of the Glen Echo Historic District; attract more programs and users to the park to possibly create self-sufficiency; and respond to public requests for better facilities, maintenance and upkeep.

The proposed action is based on the fact that the building and canopy of the North Arcade have not fared well over time. This action aims to address structural deterioration of the outdoor concrete deck which has advanced to a state that does not allow use of the lower level rooftop plaza or the spaces below. It will also address other deficiencies, such as multiple floor level changes and varied construction practices that make the building generally unsafe to use and difficult to rehabilitate. In addition, the mechanical and electrical systems, which have been compromised through alteration and have far exceeded their expected life cycles will be replaced.

All interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are urged to provide comments on this EA. The NPS, in making a final decision regarding this matter, will consider all comments received by the closing date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dan Sealy (703) 289-2530 or via email at GWMP_IRRM_SECRETARY@NPS.GOV.

Dottie P. Marshall,

Acting Superintendent, George Washington
Memorial Parkway.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service, Interior

Notice of Availability of a Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment for a Proposed Three Dimensional Seismic Survey Within the Barataria Preserve Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Jefferson Parish, LA

SUMMARY: In accordance with § 9.52 of title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is hereby given that the National Park Service has received a Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment from Seitel Data, Inc. of Houston, Texas, for a Proposed Three Dimensional Seismic Survey within and near the Barataria Preserve unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

The Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment are available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days from the publication date of this notice, in the office of the Superintendent, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 365 Canal Street, Suite 2400, New Orleans, Louisiana and will be sent upon written request.

DATES: The proposed seismic operation will be initiated following the approval of the Plan of Operations and a Finding of No Significant Impact by the National Park Service Regional Director. Field operations will last approximately six weeks within the Preserve.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 365 Canal Street, Suite 2400, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve was established by Congress on November 10, 1978 (Public Law 95-625)