

**U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM**  
**RENOVATION OF THE DOGWOOD SHELTER**  
3501 New York Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**  
November 26, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the renovation of the Dogwood Shelter at the U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 43.20(38.00)41479.

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The Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for the renovation of the Dogwood Shelter at the U.S. Arboretum (USNA). The shelter is well situated on the high ground above the Anacostia River where it bends to the east at the northeast corner of the Arboretum. The building has been the subject of sporadic vandalism over the years. To provide an unobstructed view into and through the structure, which may decrease the incidence of vandalism as well as open views to the Anacostia River, USNA proposes enlarging the existing three exterior openings in the stone wall. Two will be lowered by 30 inches and the center opening will be lowered to the level of the shelter's floor. It will become the new front entrance. Flagstone to match the existing floor will be used at the new center entrance. Existing stone will be used and reinstalled. Further, the asbestos roof will be replaced with a new metal standing-seam roof. The building was struck by lightning, requiring major structural repairs that will not alter the appearance of the building once completed. These include the removal and restoration of the stone piers and the damaged Redwood components. Graffiti will be removed.

The Coordinating Committee coordinated the project at its meeting of November 10, 2004. Pursuant to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Arboretum completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Master Plan that included the renovation of the Dogwood Shelter and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact

(FONSI) in October 2000. The proposed renovation as submitted conforms to the Commission's Categorical Exclusion requirements at Section 8 of the Commission's Environmental Procedures. The D.C. State Historic Preservation Office has concurred with USNA's determination of No Adverse Effect on the historic qualities of the National Arboretum. The Dogwood Shelter was built in 1959 and is not a historic structure, although it is located at the National Arboretum, a historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP  
Executive Director