

**U. S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM
FLOWERING TREE WALK
3501 New York Avenue, NE**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

February 26, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary site development plans to construct a new pedestrian walkway, called the Flowering Tree Walk, at the U.S. National Arboretum central meadow, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 43.20(05.17)-41307.

* * *

The Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, has submitted preliminary site development plans for a new pedestrian walk at the National Arboretum, in conformance with the November 2000 Commission approved master plan.

The new walkway system at the National Arboretum would connect the National Capital Columns, the National Herb Garden, the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, and the Capital Columns Overlook. The walk would consist of a 6-foot-wide colored concrete sidewalk approximately 3,230 feet in length. The sidewalk design would also include two small bio-retention stormwater management basins and bench pads for seating at various locations yet to be determined.

The preliminary plans include the layout design of the proposed walkway. However, specifications include the requirement to salvage and use all clay pavers in the vicinity of the Herb Garden and reset them at the Garden. Improved access and American with Disabilities Act compliance for use of the area, and improved access to the above mentioned facilities at the Arboretum, would be the outcome of the project implementation. The project, which involves no built floor area and is consistent with the Commission approved master plan, would have no adverse impact on land uses or environmental resources of the general site.

The National Arboretum is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. An inventory of cultural resources within the site was completed in the summer of 2000. The D.C. State Historic Preservation Office has concurred with the Department's determination that the project would

have no adverse effect on historic properties. In conformance with its NEPA compliance procedures, the Department completed an environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the project as a portion of the master plan in October 2000. The Coordinating Committee coordinated the project at its February 11, 2004 meeting.

The Executive Director, in taking this action, notes to the Department of Agriculture that in the submission of final project site development plans to the Commission, the Department is to provide complete information on the required exterior lighting that may be proposed in the final design of the walkway and that complete documentation of the proposal include all seating areas and grading plans.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director