

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

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

July 2, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the final site development plans to construct a new pedestrian walkway, called the Flowering Tree Walk, at the U.S. National Arboretum central meadow, as depicted on NCPC Map File No. 43.20(05.17)-41382.

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

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 six-foot-wide colored concrete sidewalk approximately 3,230 feet in length. The sidewalk design would also include several small bio-retention stormwater management basins, bench pads for seating, and low level exterior lighting along the walkway.

The final plans include the layout, grading, and final landscaping design of the proposed walkway. Improved access and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance for using the walk would be the outcome of the project implementation. The project, which involves no built floor area is consistent with the master plan approved by the Commission, would have no adverse impact on land uses or environmental resources of the general site.

The National Arboretum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Department coordinated the project's review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office and completed the Section 106 approval on February 9, 2004. 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 reviewed the proposal on February 11, 2004, with all participating agencies agreeing to coordinate this proposal.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director