

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM
TEMPORARY SIGN
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

November 29, 2007

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans to construct a temporary sign at the U.S. National Arboretum, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 43.20(40.00)-42423, for a period not to exceed two years.

* * *

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests preliminary and final approval of a temporary sign for the U.S. National Arboretum's 446-acre campus in Washington, D.C. The National Arboretum (Arboretum) proposes to erect a flat twenty-foot long by nine-foot high temporary project information sign at the location of a future entrance along Bladensburg Road, NE. The sign will announce the future new entrance road, which was approved by the Commission in January 2004.

The temporary sign is proposed to be situated approximately 15 feet east of the Bladensburg Road curb line on the hillside within the Arboretum property facing Bladensburg Road. The sign's text board area would measure 8 feet high by 20 feet in length, and would display a graphic depiction of a column capital in a two-tone background of light green and blue. The Arboretum logo and name will be printed along the bottom of the sign, in black, extending across the full width of the text board area. The vertical height of the full sign structure, including supporting legs, will measure nine feet. No lighting of any nature is proposed with the temporary sign.

The site consists of moderately steep sloping hills that reach their lowest point at the edge of Bladensburg Road. The area of Bladensburg Road in the vicinity of the Arboretum was reconstructed about three years ago with additional vehicle lanes and a deceleration/turn lane in

anticipation of the new Arboretum entrance. The sign will be removed when the construction of the new entrance road begins, as the sign's location is directly within the construction area of the entrance road.

The finish of the sign face will be designed to resist fading. No trees or shrubs will be cut or removed from the location of the sign for its construction. No advertising will be placed on the sign.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its November 14, 2007 meeting and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all agencies represented. The participating agencies were NCPC, the District of Columbia Office of Planning, the District Department of Transportation, the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, the National Park Service and the General Services Administration.

The National Arboretum sign was reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) as a Consent Item at its November 15, 2007 meeting. CFA found the project acceptable and expressed no objections to installing the sign at the site of the future new vehicular entrance to the U.S. National Arboretum for a period of three years or until the new vehicular entrance is constructed.

The Arboretum concluded that a Categorical Exclusion applies to the action in accordance with its procedures at § 520.5 (b)(2) for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. NCPC staff has determined that the project adheres to the NCPC Categorical Exclusion requirements under §8(C)(2) of the agency's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures.

Review for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, was undertaken by Department of Agriculture staff in October 2007. The staff completed consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and on October 24, 2007, the SHPO indicated there would be no adverse effect from the sign being located and constructed at the Arboretum as a temporary feature.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director