



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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**PROJECT**

**Broadcasters' Child Development Center  
Playground Improvements**

3400 International Drive, NW  
Washington, DC

**NCPC FILE NUMBER**

7774

**NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER**

72.10(38.00)44328

**SUBMITTED BY**

United States Department of State

**ACTION TAKEN**

Approve as requested

**REVIEW AUTHORITY**

Approval

Pursuant to International Center Act of  
1968, Public Law 90-553, as amended by  
Public Law 97-186 at Section 3

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The United States Department of State has submitted an application for approval of preliminary and final site development plans for improvements to an existing outdoor playground located at 3400 International Drive, NW (within the 4000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, office complex). The playground serves the Broadcasters' Child Development Center (BCDC), which has been a tenant at the facility for 26 years.

The project's scope encompasses the complete renovation of the existing outdoor playground. The ground-level playground is located adjacent to the central portion of the building's east side, which is the side of the building facing Connecticut Avenue, NW. Significant to the project is the removal of all existing aging playground equipment. The site will then be improved with natural and environmentally-friendly landscaping and natural playground components. In addition, the footprint of the playground will be expanded slightly to the east and the north (adding approximately 1052 square feet of playground space), which will make for a playground of approximately 8,330 square feet. With the expansion, the BCDC will use the fence surrounding the Squirrel Park for the playground's easternmost boundary and relocate portions of its current fence to complete a fully fenced-in play area.

More specifically, the renovation of the outdoor playground includes: removing all of the existing play equipment and wood chip ground cover; manipulating the site's topography to establish positive drainage (and improve current poor drainage routes); adding seven new trees to the site's existing vegetation; and constructing an innovative, environmentally sensitive, equipment-free natural playground that includes garden beds, a gazebo, and a water play area among other activity areas. The existing large canopy structure located on the west side of the project site is the only major element of the existing playground that will remain. Potable water will be provided for a drinking fountain, a hose spigot near the garden, for a hand pump in the play area, and for spray heads in the water play area. Electricity may be installed in the gazebo, otherwise there is no electrical requirement for the improved playground.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of State determined that the project is consistent with the Development Controls and Master Plan for the International Chancery Center. Therefore, the Department of State determined that the original Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Master Plan satisfies their responsibility to comply with NEPA. NCPC has an independent responsibility to comply with NEPA and NCPC staff determined that the project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(c)(21) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA procedures.

Due to its approval authority over the project, NCPC has a responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During Section 106 consultation NCPC found that the site development plans for improvements to the playground would not cause adverse effects on historic properties and the DC SHPO concurred with that finding on April 27, 2016, noting that the DC SHPO should be notified if unanticipated archaeological discoveries are encountered during construction.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its April 13, 2016 meeting. The Committee forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer; the General Services Administration; the National Park Service; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per the International Center Act of 1968, Public Law 90-553, as amended by Public Law 97-186 at Section 3, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for improvements to the Broadcasters' Child Development Center Playground, at 3400 International Drive, NW, Washington, DC.

//Original Signed//

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Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director

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Date