



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Capital Crescent Trailhead and Staircase Restoration</b> 3600 Water Street, NW Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8232
	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 71.10(38.00)45233
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> District Department of Transportation	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approved preliminary and final site development plans
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

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The District Department of Transportation (DDOT), in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS), has submitted an application to the Commission for preliminary and final site development plans for the repair and improvement to the staircase and adjacent area of the Capital Crescent Trailhead. The Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) is managing the project for DDOT, the local project sponsor to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), working closely with NPS.

The project is located in the 3600 block of Water Street, NW in the Georgetown neighborhood in the District of Columbia. The site is bounded by the C&O Canal to the north, Water Street, NW to the south, the Whitehurst Freeway to the east, and the Alexandria Aqueduct to the west. The site is located entirely within the 36th Street, NW right-of-way and a portion of NPS Reservation 404. The current conditions at the project site include a crumbling concrete staircase that connects the C&O Canal to Water Street and an area of poorly drained hard packed soil serving as a trailhead meeting point. Flooding occurs at the south end of the site where it meets Water Street, which does not have a curb and gutter in this location.

The Water Street Trailhead Restoration Project will repair and improve an existing concrete stairway and casual trailhead meeting area at the base of the stairs. The stairs were constructed as part of the Whitehurst Freeway construction project to accommodate pedestrian movement from the Georgetown Waterfront to the C&O Canal towpath in the area impacted by inserting the Freeway. The stairs are part of a system of stairways and walkways that connect the Georgetown waterfront to Prospect Street and Georgetown University, via M Street, NW. The existing concrete stairs are crumbling and unsafe for passage, and the compacted soil trailhead meeting area is impervious to stormwater. High walls block views into the stairway from surrounding areas, further complicating public safety. The proposed project will correct these existing deficiencies.

The project will repair the stairs by capping them with bluestone risers and treads, reduce the height of the concrete outer stair wall, capping it with bluestone, and install an improved ornamental handrail for greater visibility into the stairs and pedestrian safety. A hardscaped and landscaped meeting point at the Water Street base of the stairs will improve drainage, and include benches, bike racks, a bike repair station, and an orientation sign. An existing fire hydrant will be incorporated into the design. Materials, design, and construction techniques have been developed in context with the site's surroundings, as well as with functionality, durability, and beauty in mind. The site layout is simple, with three layers: a semi-circular

meeting area in the center ringed with site furniture, and an outer ring of landscaping. Landscaping serves to collect stormwater from the stairs and to increase surface permeability on site.

DDOT, NPS and NCPC have independent responsibilities under NEPA and Section 106 for this project. NPS has submitted a Categorical Exclusion C.18 *Construction of minor structures including small, improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas*. NPS has also determined there is no adverse effect of the project as part of their Section 106 responsibility. The DC SHPO has concurred with the no adverse effect finding. NCPC also has an independent NEPA and Section 106 responsibility for this project. NCPC staff determined that this project does not have any extraordinary circumstances and meets the categorical exclusion in Section D 601.12 (a)(2) of the NCPC NEPA regulations which relate to “the approval of the installation or restoration of minor site elements, such as but not limited to identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, curbs, retaining walls, landscaping, and trail or stream improvements.” NCPC also concurs with NPS and the DC SHPO no adverse effect determination. NCPC has designated NPS lead federal agency for Section 106 purposes.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the design at its November 12, 2020 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final site development plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were: NCPC; DDOT; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the General Services Administration; the DC SHPO; the National Park Service and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

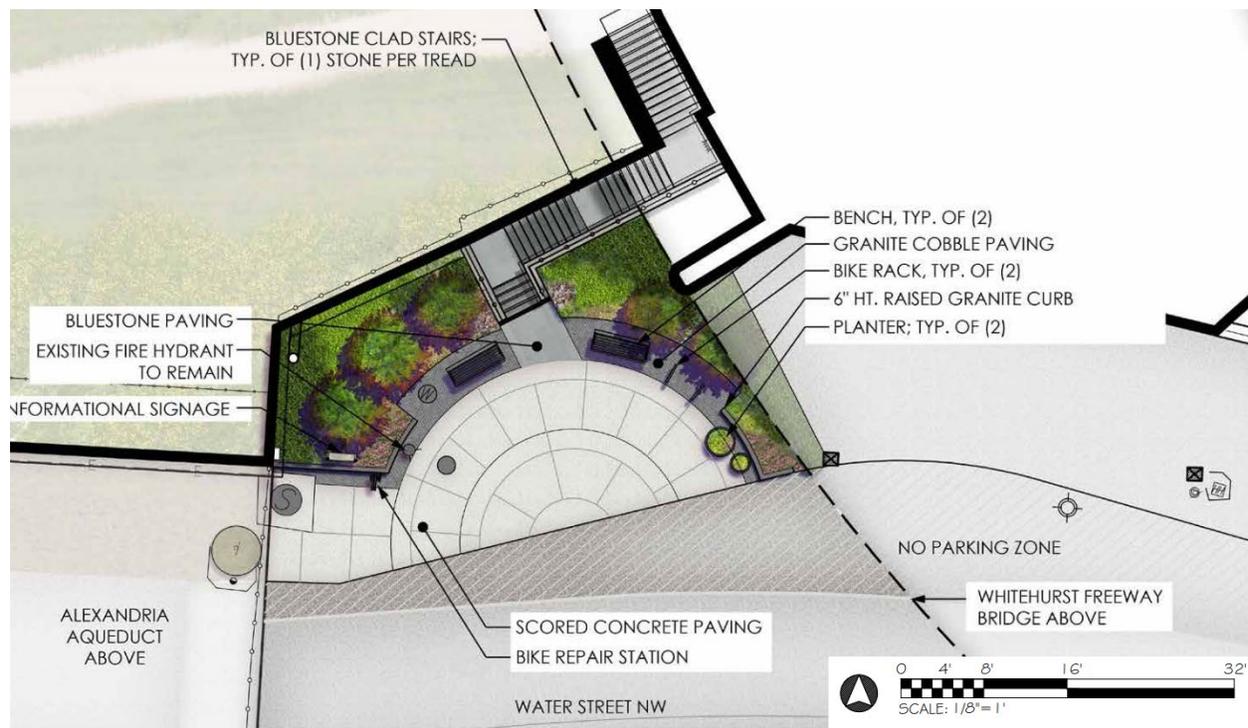


Figure 1 Illustrative Plan



Figure 2 Illustrative Elevation

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the Capital Crescent Trailhead and Staircase Restoration at 3600 Water Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director

11/25/2020

Date