



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Parks East
1900 Anacostia Dr SE
Washington, D.C. 20020

L30 (NPS-NACE RM)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), proposes an undertaking that includes watershed restoration activities in Fort Dupont Park. The proposed undertaking will restore critical components of the Anacostia River watershed by improving wetlands and streams within NPS parkland. DOEE and NPS are currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a separate Assessment of Effects to evaluate impacts to the project. Specific recommendations for project implementation have not yet been determined, and will be developed through the planning and compliance process.

We are seeking public comments on the proposed work. This 30-day public scoping effort is the first step in the EA process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1960 (NEPA). The purpose of the public scoping comment period is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed restoration activities.

Fort Dupont Park is a 376-acre, wooded park, managed by NPS and is the second largest urban park in the District of Columbia. It protects an important sub-watershed of the larger Anacostia River Watershed. Geographically, the park is delineated by Ely Place SE and Ridge Road SE to the north; Alabama Avenue SE to the east; Massachusetts Avenue SE to the south; and the Anacostia River to the west. It contains a diversity of culturally significant resources, recreational facilities, and uninterrupted natural forestland that forms an integral part of the District's overall tree canopy. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved The Anacostia River Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that includes the Fort Dupont sub-watershed for restoration activities.

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the Fort Dupont watershed by implementing wetland and stream restoration projects inside the Fort Dupont Park. The proposed project will also expand a project previously implemented in 2008 under which several bioretention cells were installed along Ridge Road SE, Burns Street SE and in two parking areas that service the park. The restoration projects are needed to preserve in the long-term the stability of the stream network within Fort Dupont Park and to improve water quality and habitat conditions in streams and wetlands within the park. Some portions of the Fort Dupont watershed are experiencing severe to moderate stream bank erosion, blockades due to debris and sediment accumulation, and stormwater runoff. Current bank erosions at several locations have led to trees falling along the stream and poor water quality conditions. Stream and wetland restoration work will stabilize streambanks thus reducing bank erosion and keeping excessive sediment out of the active stream channels. Stream and wetland restoration work will additionally recreate valuable habitat areas for aquatic and terrestrial species.

The watershed restoration project will have the following components:

- Community outreach and education activities focused on watershed restoration;
- Stream restoration work; and
- Wetland restoration work.

The EA and associated tasks will cover an assessment and analysis of the implementation of stream and wetland restoration work in the sub-watershed. The EA will provide the project background, the purpose and need for the proposed actions, a determination of environmental issues and potential impacts resulting from the alternatives considered (including the no action alternative), and includes public involvement and coordination.

The public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in preparation of the EA. Comments may be submitted online by following link at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/dupontstreams>

If you wish to comment, you may submit them electronically only. Please pay attention while providing your personal identification information in the comment. Your comment along with the personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time.

We look forward to your comments and responses to this request. If you have questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project, please contact Mr. Robert Mocko, Environmental Protection Specialist at Robert_Mocko@nps.gov.

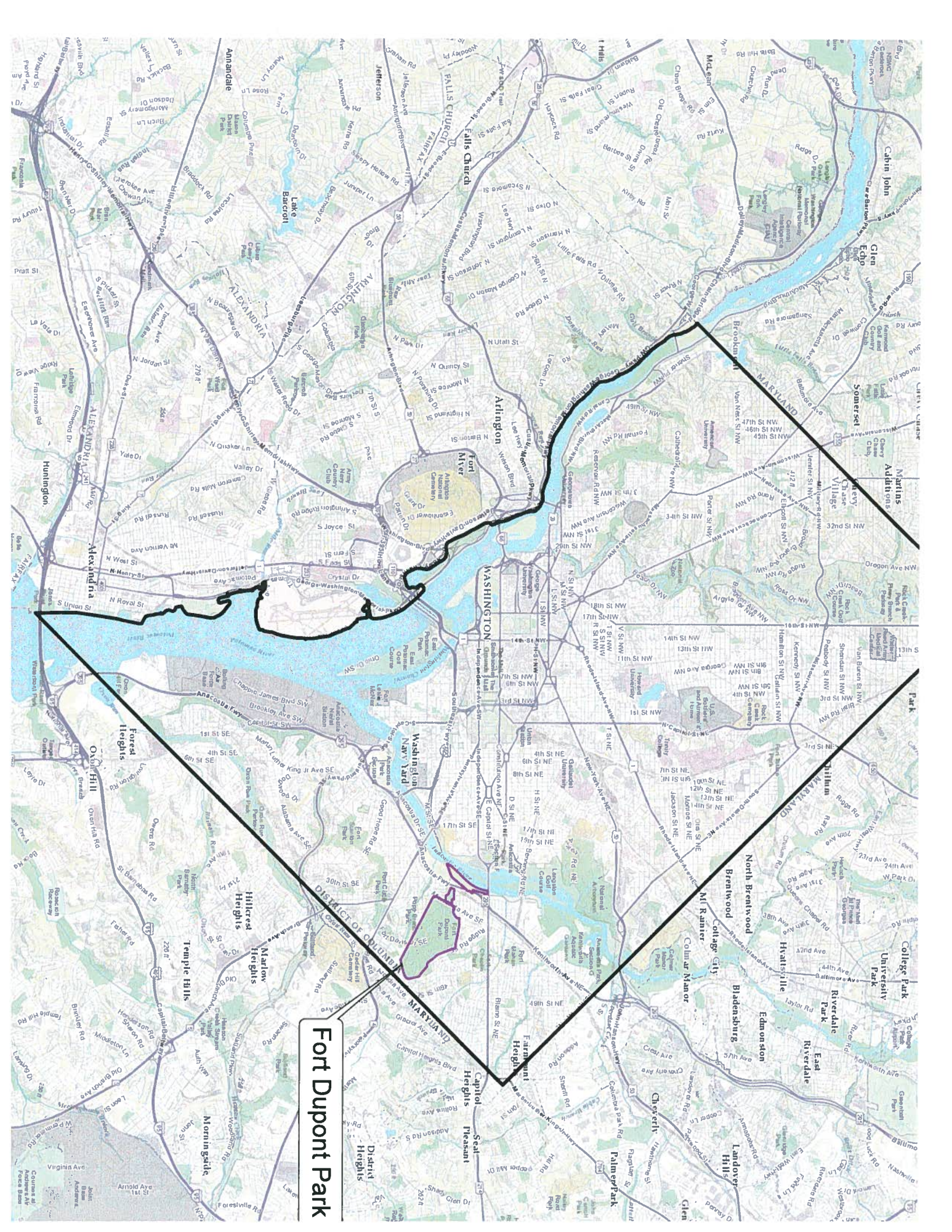
Thank you for your interest and participation in this process and we appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,

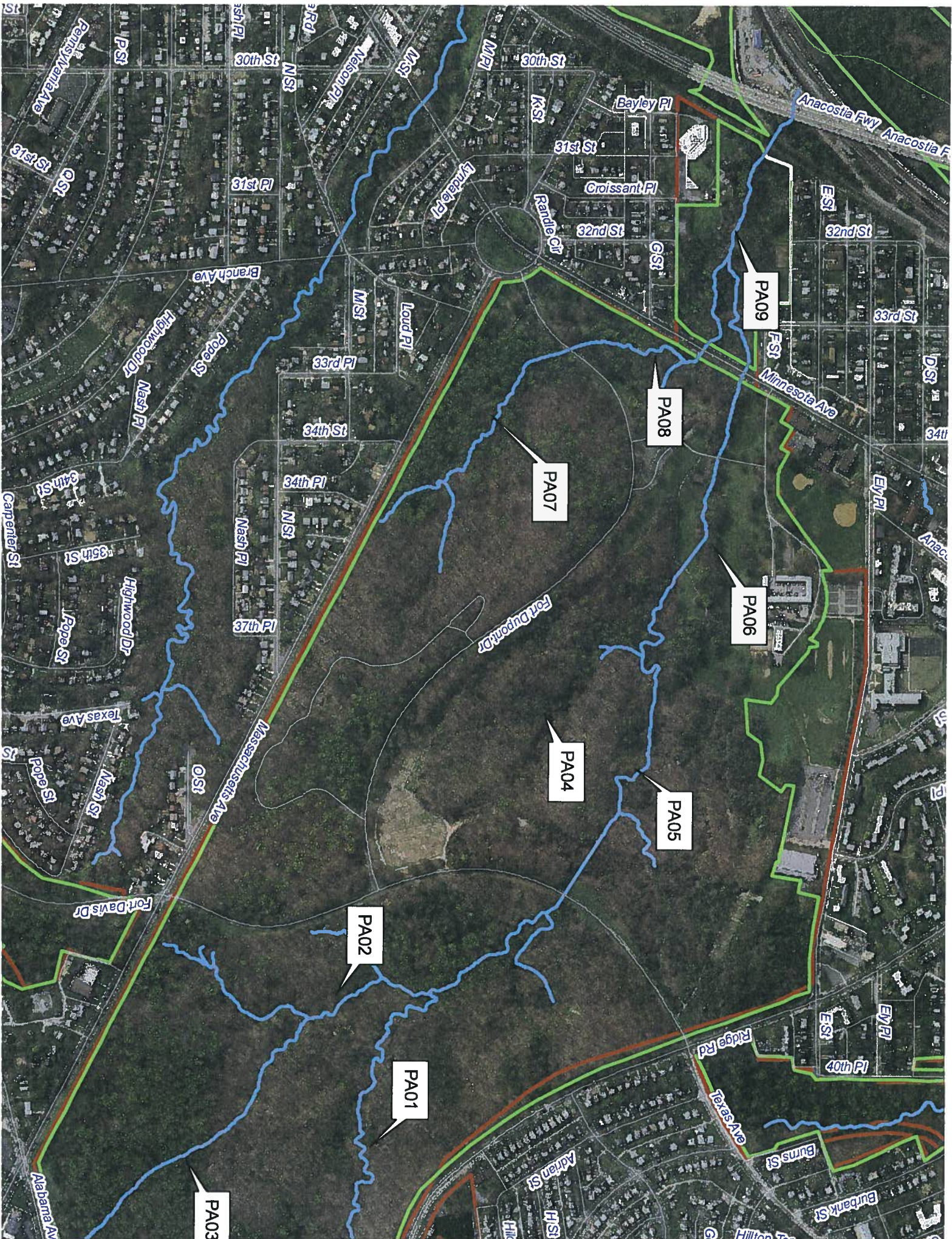
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tara D. Morrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tara D. Morrison
Superintendent

Enclosure



Fort Dupont Park



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