



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CLEVELAND PARK • MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS •  
WOODLAND-NORMANSTONE • WOODLEY PARK

*Single Member District Commissioners*  
01-Hayden Gise; 02-Adam Prinzo; 03-Janell Pagats  
04-Roric McCorristin; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Tammy Gordon  
07-Gawain Kripke; 08-Rick Nash

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*Submitted electronically: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=140039>*

November 18, 2024

Superintendent  
Rock Creek Park  
RE: Piney Branch Tunnel EA  
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**RE: ANC3C Support and Comments on the Piney Branch Tunnel Project Environmental Assessment**

Dear Superintendent Joyner:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on November 18, 2024, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C (ANC3C) voted 7-0-0 to submit the following comments on the [Piney Branch Tunnel Project Environmental Assessment](#). The assessment offers two alternatives: 1) a no-action alternative and 2) an alternative to construct a 2,200-foot-long tunnel to store a minimum of 4.2 million gallons of stormwater and sewage.

As an Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) representing a neighborhood directly adjacent to the project, we strongly endorse alternative 2, to go ahead with the Piney Branch Tunnel Project outlined in the Environmental Assessment (EA). We recognize the project's critical role in improving water quality, enhancing public health, and preserving Rock Creek Park's natural environment by addressing combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

**Support for Key Project Objectives**

Our ANC strongly supports the National Park Service (NPS) and DC Water's efforts to reduce untreated CSO discharges into Piney Branch and Rock Creek. By constructing a 2,200-foot-long underground tunnel with a capacity of 4.2 million gallons, this project will capture and store stormwater and sewage overflow, significantly reducing the 40 million gallons of untreated discharges currently impacting the area each year. This project will help clean Piney Branch, Rock Creek, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

## Community-Focused Recommendations

To enhance the project's benefits to our community, we offer the following recommendations:

### Minimizing Construction Impacts

Given the project's necessary ground disturbance and vegetation removal, we urge NPS and DC Water to maintain strong erosion and sediment controls to protect Piney Branch and adjacent wetlands. We appreciate the use of best management practices and request that erosion controls and site monitoring be maintained throughout construction to minimize sediment transport into water bodies.

### Preservation of Local Ecosystems

We support the project's plans to implement a comprehensive tree replacement strategy, graffiti removal, and native vegetation restoration upon project completion. Additionally, mitigating noise, vibration, and other impacts will be appreciated and help maintain support for the project among residents.

### Safety and Access Considerations

Warning lights and signage for clear communication with park users will be important during construction. We also request that NPS coordinate closely with DDOT to maintain safe, accessible detours for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

### Commitment to Collaboration

ANC3C is committed to engaging with the NPS and DC Water throughout this project's implementation to advocate for the best outcomes for our community. We thank the NPS and DC Water for prioritizing infrastructure improvements that will serve both environmental and community health goals in this sensitive and valuable parkland.

Thank you for considering these community-based recommendations, which reflect our support for the project and commitment to its successful and sustainable completion. Please do not hesitate to reach out if further discussion or additional consultation is needed. Please note additionally, that our views are informed by a presentation by DC Water and discussion within our Environmental Justice Committee [earlier this year](#).

The Commission authorizes the Chair and the Commissioners for 3C04 and 3C07 and/or their designee(s) to represent the Commission on this matter.

Sincerely,



Janell Pagats  
Chair ANC 3C  
Single Member District 3C03

*This letter was approved by voice vote (6-0-0) on November 18, 2024, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 8 commissioners) was present.*