



**United States Department of the Interior**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Minute Man National Historical Park  
174 Liberty Street  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742



1A2 (MIMA)

May 2, 2024

Ann Clifford  
Senior Planner, Concord Planning Division  
Town of Concord  
141 Keyes Road  
Concord, MA 01742

Re: Great American Outdoors Act Projects, Programmatic Review Package for North Bridge Trail Finding, Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord, MA (PEPC 111384)

Dear Ms. Clifford,

We are pleased to provide you with the design package for the North Bridge Trail rehabilitation, which is part of the overall Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) projects currently underway at Minute Man National Historical Park. This is the last trail package for review and is detailed below.

UNDERTAKING

The North Bridge Trail work will address long standing issues of erosion and ponding on both sides of the Concord River. The trail will be repaired and resurfaced. Water will be directed off the trail with short rises in the trail surface to channel water into shallow (6”) grass swales. Cobblestone edging will be placed to define the edges of the formal landscape where they are currently missing, and the trail will be narrowed to a consistent width. Additionally, gravel that has washed into nearby grassy areas will be removed. Shallow bioretention areas will collect water on the west side of the trail.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)

The APE includes the entire length of the North Bridge Trail. The location of the project within the park is shown on the cover page of the attached plan set, and the APE is shown on Sheet C3.1.

## HISTORIC PROPERTIES

North Bridge Trail extends from Liberty Street to Monument Street. Two segments contribute to the Minute Man National Park Historic National Register District (District) under Criteria A, Military for their significance to the events of April 19, 1775. These include:

- ‘Battle Road/North Bridge Site,’ which extends west from the bridge past the David Brown house site and connects to lower Liberty Street.
- ‘Avenue leading to the North Bridge’ which extends from Monument Street to the eastern side of North Bridge.

The Avenue leading to North Bridge is also significant under Criteria A, Commemoration/Conservation for the commemoration of the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

## ARCHEOLOGY—NORTH BRIDGE TRAIL

The NPS conducted an archeological survey consisting of 172 test pits and a metal-detection survey within the North Bridge project area. Testing occurred on both sides of the Concord River. Results indicate that a portion of the APE was heavily disturbed from the construction of the commemorative landscape. Although historical artifacts were recovered in this portion, they do not represent potentially significant sites due to their lack of integrity. In other areas of the APE potentially significant archeological resources were discovered. PAL recommended monitoring during ground disturbing activities in these areas. NPS agrees with this recommendation.

The archeological management summary for the survey goes into greater detail about the survey results. It has been reviewed against the criteria contained in 16 U.S.C. § 470hh(a) and 43 CFR § 7.18(a)(1) (“ARPA public disclosure criteria”) and upon recommendation of the Park Archeological Advisor has been classified as “Not Available”. If you would like to see the summary, please contact Margie Coffin Brown who can help advise you on the process to request access to this information.

## FINDINGS/NEXT STEPS

NPS landscape architects from the park and from the Olmsted Center worked closely with the design team to develop a plan for this undertaking that would improve the trail and fix known problems with the minimal changes to the integrity of the original trail. After repeated design tweaks, NPS has determined that the undertaking as designed will have no adverse effect on the District or the archeological resources that contribute to the District. NPS will monitor the construction where new ground disturbance is planned in archeologically sensitive areas.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Margie\\_Coffin\\_Brown@nps.gov](mailto:Margie_Coffin_Brown@nps.gov) or 617-620-2942. We value your comments and your continued partnership on these GAOA projects.

Sincerely,

*Simone Monteleone*

Simone Monteleone  
Superintendent

**Enclosures:**

Construction Design plans

Assessment of Effect

Cc: Margo Brooks, NPS-NERO

Margie Coffin Brown, NPS-MIMA

Nicole Walsh, NPS-MIMA