

**Objectives:**

- Give students and residents a safe and efficient path to East West Highway & Bethesda
- Design a path that connects the Lee Dennison garden path and the Zimmerman path
- Offer a functional commute but also an attractive, pleasant walk in the park

**Route:**

- Follow existing student trail with stairs to East-West Highway at gap in guardrails, going a bit further east to put space between path and uphill residence where possible.
- Explore possibility of an alternative route with a more gradual slope (no stairs).
- Modify the existing rain garden, possibly changing its shape and position (depending in part on perc rates) to make it function more like a typical rain garden and to have sustainable plantings.

**Preliminary Criteria, Characteristics & Features for Discussion:**

- Wide enough for 3 people (two people walking abreast while another person passes in the opposite direction) About 5 feet wide
- Compliment the garden path design
- Intended for pedestrians (bike walkers OK, not bike riders or skateboarders)
- Hand rail for stairs or steep sections
- Stair surface that does not get slippery when wet
- “Possibly a slide rail” for bikes on stairs
- Wider “clump zone” for students to gather (but not loiter?)
- ADA accommodations not necessary due to nearby sideways option, but make path as ADA-compatible as feasible
- Use permeable, durable, natural materials, (e.g., gravel in grid, pavers, epi wood boardwalk, etc.) for the path
- Route should be efficient and direct, but not a perfectly straight line
- Path surface should be fairly dry in wet conditions (no puddles)
- Path surface should be fairly flat and “senior friendly”
- Path surface should be snow “shovel able”
- Avoid taking much of the open green space
- Path should hug the west side of the park
- Install a bench or two along the way that compliment benches in garden?
- Install reliable low-level lighting, motion sensitive (not solar) on west side of path
- Choose path route that is not too close to neighbors
- For safety, path should be as open as possible, clear view to and from the east
- Path route should be cognizant of water issues/culvert/modified rain garden
- Install dog depots along path
- Stairs on East-West Highway embankment must be located to meet SHA requirements (e.g., opening for stairs along sidewalk must that requires cutting the
- Choose route that does not require moving fire hydrant, if possible.
- SHA guardrail, must leave all guardrail sections at least 25 ft. in length)

- Consider durability, aesthetics, safety, functionality, cost when exploring materials for staircase. Use a 6" rise, possibly one landing. Stairs could be open grid powder coated steel. Would be functional and attractive, but noisy? Could use wood treads with anti-slip material attached to the surface to make it quieter, safe, more natural.

**High Level Process/ Schedule:**

- Evaluate route options
- Create sketch for LUC review
- Review drainage/rain garden situation
- Propose landscaping between path and the uphill house
- Aim for construction next summer so path can be used when school starts