

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6713



WASHINGTON CANAL PARK

Bounded by 2nd Place, 2nd, I and M Streets, SE
Washington, DC

Submitted by the District of Columbia Office of the Deputy Mayor for
Planning and Economic Development

October 1, 2009

Commission Action Requested

Approval of revised concept design pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1).

Commission Action

The Commission:

Comments favorably on the revised design concept for the Washington Canal park as shown on NCPC Map File No. 41.10(38.00)42871.

Commends the applicant on a revised concept that is both simple in its design, and high-performing in the range of amenities it will provide to the surrounding community. The revised concept incorporates simple park amenities such as an abundance of flexible open space, plentiful seating, and interactive water features to ensure that the park can be enjoyed by a variety of users. The relative simplicity of the concept design will also assist in long-term maintenance of the park.

Commends the applicant's use of the linear rain garden not only as an environmentally sustainable strategy to collect, treat, and reuse stormwater runoff from the park and future adjacent buildings, but also as a tool to educate the community on ecological and environmental issues, and the historical significance of the site.

Recommends that the applicant incorporate interpretive signage along the rain garden, or an exhibit within the south pavilion, to describe the historic significance of the park site as it relates to the Washington Canal.

Requests the following at the preliminary design stage:

- Additional information on the intended programming and monitoring for both levels of the south pavilion.
- Further developed designs for the three pavilions including materials and lighting scheme.
- Additional information on the Low Impact Development strategies and other sustainable features within the park.
- More fully developed streetscape designs at street edges and crosswalks.
- Lighting design that is complimentary to the surrounding neighborhood, and minimizes spillover and visual impacts to adjacent streets and development.
- Information on long-term plans to operate and maintain the park including the organizations and partnerships that will be involved.
- Information on how Washington Canal Park contributes to the interconnected system of parks and open spaces within the District of Columbia.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission