

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Pentagon (1)



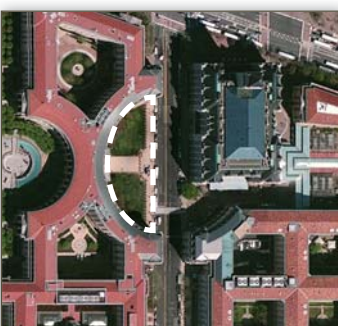
Sheridan Building (2)



Sheridan Plaza (3)



Main Pumping Station (4)



DELEGATED ACTIONS

During the past month, the Executive Director approved five projects under the Commission's delegated authority:

1. An extension for the temporary security checkpoints at the Pentagon Reservation: corridor 5 vehicle access control point, corridor 8 pedestrian access control point, A&E gate vehicle access control point, Metro entrance facility pedestrian access control point for visitors, mall gate vehicle access control point, and river gate vehicle access control point. (6659)
2. Revised final building plans for the elevator addition and window modifications to the Sheridan Building at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, NW, Washington, DC. (7283)
3. Preliminary and final site development plans for Sheridan Plaza on the Armed Forces Retirement Home campus, NW, Washington, DC. (7342)
4. Preliminary site and building plans for the tidal gate structure and shaft structure buildings proposed for the Main Pumping Station as part of the DC Clean Rivers Project, SE, Washington, DC. (7341)
5. Found that the proposed map amendment to rezone Lots 9-13 in Square 5268 from R-2 to R-5-A is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor will it adversely affect any other federal interests. (ZC 11-18)

PLANNING UPDATES

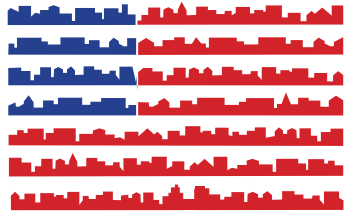
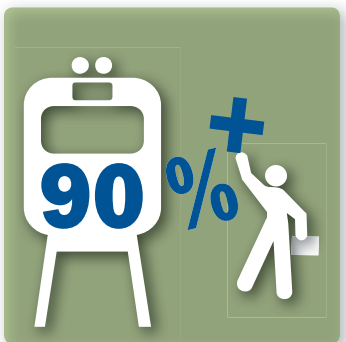
Beyond Granite - Temporary Commemoration

On January 30, NCPC and GSA announced a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to design a new temporary outdoor commemorative installation in Washington, DC. The design-competition goal is to enhance an underutilized public space in the city's monumental core while fostering a public dialogue regarding the nature of commemoration in the nation's capital.

The proposed site for this temporary installation is the Ariel Rios Hemicycle, a grassy semi-circle along the west side of 12th Street, NW between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues in Washington's Federal Triangle.

Artists and/or design professionals, working as individuals or teams, are invited to propose ideas for an innovative temporary commemorative work that embodies the commemorative theme selected for the competition – the precepts and positive impact of Earth Day, the world's largest civic observance.

A short list of artists/design professionals will be created from the RFQ process and they will be asked to submit more detailed proposals in late spring. The competition winner – to be selected in summer 2012 – may be contracted to design, fabricate, and install their proposed installation, resulting in a public display at the Hemicycle for a period of approximately one year. Concurrent with this competition, GSA will make permanent site enhancements including new seating and landscape improvements.

COMPREHENSIVE • PLAN**FEDERAL ELEMENTS****Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan****New Urban Design Element**

On January 24, NCPC held two outreach events to support the work to create a new Urban Design Element for the Comprehensive Plan. First, a workshop was held for invited public sector representatives from various federal and local agencies. More than 50 people attended and provided input on urban design issues in the National Capital Region. An evening event for the general public used a similar format. Approximately 40 attendees participated and voiced their ideas and opinions about how the federal government can better promote urban design. Staff will compile the two sessions' comments and begin to develop ideas for the new element. These ideas will be discussed with the Urban Design Task Force at its next meeting, targeted for late February.

NCPC posted a new Federal Urban Design Initiative website to collect public feedback on the design of federal spaces in the region. Visitors to www.ncpc.gov/urbandesign can vote and/or suggest design values they think should inform the design of federal buildings, campuses, and public spaces in the National Capital Region. In addition, members of the public can provide examples of federal buildings, campuses, or public spaces in the nation's capital that they like or dislike. The feedback collected on the site will help Commission staff and Urban Design Task Force members develop new policies to make these federal areas more livable, functional, and sustainable.

Federal Environment Element Update

NCPC staff completed its internal review that will lead to an update of the Environment Element. The next step is to seek stakeholder input from various federal agencies on the revisions to the Environment Element. The tentative schedule is to hold a federal agency representatives meeting in mid-to-late February and issue a preliminary draft for agency review and mark-up in March. Once various federal agency input is secured, NCPC staff will develop a draft Environment Element for Commission review and issue for public comment later this spring. A 60-day review and public comment period will then occur before NCPC staff begins to process and accommodate suggested revisions to develop an updated element.

Sustainability

On January 31, NCPC submitted its 2011 Fiscal Year Greenhouse Gas Inventory to the Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality. For FY 2011 NCPC reduced its greenhouse gas emissions 14.5 percent from the FY 2008 baseline and 13.5 percent from FY 2010. The reduction between this year and last year is due to two factors: 1) NCPC had a decrease in employees for FY 2011 so our Scope 3 emissions were less; and 2) there was an increase in the number of employees teleworking approximately one day a week. More than 90 percent of agency employees continue to walk or take public transit to work.



PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

Recent Events

The first NCPC Speaker Series of 2012, *(r)Evolutionary Parks: The Future of Public Space* boasted a capacity crowd of nearly 300. Moderated by Jason Schupbach of the National Endowment for the Arts, panelists included Tupper Thomas, former Administrator of Prospect Park, Theaster Gates, cultural planner and artist, and John Bela, principal at Rebar. Developed in partnership with the City Parks Alliance, the Trust for the National Mall, and the National Archives, the event occurred concurrently with the design competition currently underway by the Trust for three sites on the National Mall. Many of the design teams were in the audience. This lively discussion on the evolving nature of parks and public spaces is available as a video on NCPC's website.

On January 23, Executive Director Marcel Acosta and NCPC architect Kenneth Walton, presented at *Re-Imagining the Public Realm: The Design of the National Museum of African American History and Culture*. The multidisciplinary symposium was presented by the University of Virginia School of Architecture. The symposium explored the unique challenges and opportunities of representing African-American history and culture on the National Mall, and was followed by a keynote lecture, *Current Museum Projects*, by Philip Freelon, architect of record for the new museum.

On January 10, NCPC hosted a Coalition for Smart Growth event featuring nationally recognized planner Jeffrey Tumlin, principal at Nelson Nygard. Mr. Tumlin's engaging presentation, *Transportation and the Secret of Life*, explored sustainable transportation practices. The presentation is available as a video on NCPC's website.