



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Federal and Local Government Agencies Highlight Planning Initiatives for Central Washington, DC**

*“Planning Together for Central Washington” focuses on complementary plans and goals*

Washington, DC – Across the nation’s capital, plans are being developed to enhance and celebrate Washington, DC’s neighborhoods, the downtown corridor, the National Mall, and surrounding spaces. Many of these planning initiatives are the responsibility of government agencies, all sharing common objectives and priorities to advance a great capital city.

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC), the District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), today announced *“Planning Together for Central Washington,”* an overview of distinct, yet complementary planning efforts for Washington, DC.

The *“Planning Together for Central Washington”* brochure is a synopsis of four distinct vision planning initiatives: the Capitol Complex Master Plan, the Center City Action Agenda 2008, the National Capital Framework Plan, and the National Mall Plan. A color-coded map identifies the complementary priority places, corridors, and important connections in a broad plan for central Washington, DC.

The brochure highlights five common objectives for the city that define the priorities in the planning initiatives: welcoming atmosphere, well-connected public space, distinctive places, green and sustainable, and 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation. Combined, each plan ensures that central Washington continues to serve as a model for the nation and the world.

“We are delighted to continue working with federal agencies and the District on the four plans, which together promise the cohesion Pierre L’Enfant envisioned in his brilliant conception of a luminous capitol and a strong hometown,” said Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). “The ‘Planning Together for Central Washington’ brochure will be valuable not only to public understanding but also in our subcommittee’s upcoming hearings on the Capitol Complex Master Plan and our continuing work with the Commission and the Park Service on the National Capital Framework Plan.”

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One of the plans, the Center City Action Agenda 2008, seeks to redefine central Washington using a combination of investments, strategic initiatives, and various implementation partners. Using the National Mall as its centerpiece, the plan seeks to develop well-connected and distinct areas in the downtown corridor and refocuses the city's identity as a waterfront city.

"The residents and businesses of the District of Columbia, as well as our visitors, will be the real beneficiaries of the great improvements in streets and public places that come about as a result of coordinated federal and local planning for Center City DC," said Mayor Adrian Fenty.

A second plan is a joint initiative of the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. The National Capital Framework Plan aims to recognize all of Washington, DC as a national treasure while helping to preserve the National Mall. The Framework Plan focuses on identifying opportunities for new cultural destinations, restoring L'Enfant streets and vistas, and enhancing the beauty and use of the public realm. It seeks to reconnect the city to its waterfront and meet the needs of the government, while enriching the urban experience for all Americans.

"The combined planning efforts of government agencies in Washington, DC require balancing the city's dual role as the nation's capital and a thriving urban center," said NCPC Chairman John V. Cogbill, III. "As we move forward, our challenge is to leverage the national capital's treasured resources to retain our standing as a world class capital city."

The National Mall Plan, prepared by the National Park Service (NPS), will provide a future vision for the preservation and use of this historic space. These uses include First Amendment demonstrations, civic activities, recreation, events and a variety of educational programs. The plan's goals include improving the appearance of the National Mall and providing quality facilities and experiences for Americans and international visitors alike. The NPS' fundraising partner, the Trust for the National Mall, will help to implement this plan.

"The National Park Service is delighted to be coordinating with other local planning efforts now underway that, we believe, will benefit not only residents of this city, but all visitors to Washington," said Joe Lawler, Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service. "This brochure underscores the importance of our common objectives."

To provide a sustainable, safe, and high quality facility, the Architect of the Capitol developed the Capital Complex Master Plan. The Plan not only meets the needs of Congress, but also provides a welcoming atmosphere that encourages the public to visit and participate and instills national pride in the seat of government for the nation's capital.

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"As we are developing our Capitol Complex Master Plan initiative, we are working with a number of planning organizations on issues such as transportation and circulation, land use, and urban design," said Acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers. "This cooperation strengthens the planning of all agencies involved."

Released to the public today, the "Planning Together for Central Washington" brochure is available from each partnering agency. To receive a copy, contact the Public Affairs departments at the partnering agencies.

*The Architect of the Capitol is responsible to the United State Congress for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of the United States Capitol Complex, which includes the Capitol, the congressional office buildings, the Library of Congress buildings, the Supreme Court building, the U.S. Botanic Garden, the Capitol Power Plant, and other facilities.*

*The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts advises the federal and District of Columbia governments on matters of art and architecture that affect the appearance of the nation's capital. The Commission's primary role is to advise on proposed public building projects and to review private buildings adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance. CFA also advises on the design of coins and medals and on the design of war memorials.*

*The DC Office of Planning is responsible for guiding long-term (20-year) planning and policy decisions for the nation's capital city. The agency undertakes the preservation and revitalization of its distinctive neighborhoods and advances strategic goals, while involving the broadest range of stakeholders. Services include development review, historic preservation, neighborhood planning, revitalization planning, geographic information systems, data services and citywide comprehensive planning.*

*The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.*

*The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations. The National park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world.*

*The Trust for the National Mall is the authorized fund-raising partner of the National Park Service to help restore and preserve the National Mall.*

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