

10th Street, SW Corridor And Banneker Park



View of 10th Street, SW from the Mall

(top image) - Existing Conditions Study Model (2012)

(lower image) - Recommended Revitalization Scenario Study Model (2012)

REVITALIZATION OBJECTIVE

Establish the 10th Street, SW corridor and Banneker Park as a cultural destination, and environmental showcase to extend the civic qualities of the National Mall and Smithsonian museums and gardens to the waterfront and infuse the vitality of the city into the Monumental Core. Because of its prominent location, the corridor provides opportunities to showcase the best of American innovation and culture and commemorate our nation's values, ideals, and aspirations. The primary objectives for this area are:

- › Design 10th Street as a walkable, vibrant mixed-use cultural corridor.
- › Create a setting along the corridor and at Banneker Park befitting a national cultural destination, to serve as an extension of the National Mall and its adjacent museums.
- › Program the corridor for active daily street life and for special exhibitions and events.
- › Design the corridor to serve as the energy and water management spine of the Ecodistrict.
- › Use the lower level of 10th Street to accommodate energy, water, and parking infrastructure.
- › Exemplify state-of-the-art urban design and environmental practices to increase public awareness.

TODAY

10th Street, also known as L'Enfant Plaza, is a large unfriendly pedestrian street that links the National Mall and Smithsonian museums to Banneker Park. The elevated park overlooks the waterfront and sits on axis with the Smithsonian Castle. Although thousands of people work along the 10th Street corridor, the area is perceived as a desolate part of the city with very little public amenity or street life.

North of the CSX Railroad, the Study Area is visually and psychologically cut off from the National Mall and Smithsonian Museums by the Forrester Complex that spans it. South of the tracks, 10th Street is lined with the U.S. Postal Service headquarters and the privately-owned L'Enfant Plaza office and hotel complex. These single-use superblock-sized buildings with excessive setbacks have no relationship to the expansive 225-foot wide right-of-way that is under