
Parks & Open Space Element

(Draft Release)

Summary of Modifications to Policies

Notes on the Summary of Modifications to Policies document:

- This document compares the proposed policies in the Draft 2018 Parks & Open Space Element update with the 2004 policies.
- The document lists policies by the 2004 element's format and sections.
- In the *Proposed modification* column
 - o *Consolidate* indicates when more than one of the existing policies are combined.
 - o *Modify* indicates that an existing policy was revised.
 - o *Remove* indicates when there is a similar policy in another federal element, resulting in the removal of the policy from the Parks & Open Space Element.
 - o *Add* indicates when the 2018 update proposes a new policy.
- The *Proposed Guiding Principle: Draft 2018 Element* column
 - o Indicates the location of the proposed policy in the draft update.
- All draft policies in this document are subject to modification based upon review of comments received by NCPC staff and review of the final document by the Commission.

	Policy: 2004 Element	Proposed modification	Proposed Guiding Principle: Draft 2018 Element	Proposed Policy: Draft 2018 Element
	Expansion and Enhancement (page 103)			
1	Plan for new parks as part of the park system of the region.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	See POS.F.2 Develop partnerships and build alliances with local agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, foundations, and other stakeholders to create, manage, and connect a cohesive open space system.
2	Acquire parks and open space as necessary to augment the open space system.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	See POS.F.1 Use easements, donations, purchases, exchanges, or other means to create, expand, and enhance a cohesive park and open space system.
3	Use easements, donations, purchases, exchanges, or other means to acquire land or to enhance parks and open space. Examples of areas or park systems where further acquisition is desirable include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Capitol Street • Anacostia River waterfront and tributaries • Georgetown Waterfront Park • Areas immediately south of Meridian Hill Park where significant view corridors are blocked • Sites at or near the topographic bowl ridge line, as seen from the monumental core • Fort Circle Park system • Sites at the periphery of Manassas National Battlefield Park • An outer greenbelt ring of major open space at the periphery of the region 	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	See POS.F.1 Use easements, donations, purchases, exchanges, or other means to create, expand, and enhance a cohesive park and open space system.

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4	Coordinate planning and development of federal parkland with local parkland in order to optimize recreation, open space preservation, and resource protection.	Modify		See POS.F.3 Coordinate planning, development and management of federal and local parkland to identify opportunities for shared recreation, open space preservation, and resource protection.
Preservation and Maintenance (page 104)				
1	Enhance parks and preserve open green space for future generations.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	See POS.F.1 Use easements, donations, purchases, exchanges, or other means to create, expand, and enhance a cohesive park and open space system.
2	Maintain and conserve federal open space as a means of shaping and enhancing urban areas.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	See POS.F.3 Coordinate planning, development and management of federal and local parkland to identify opportunities for shared recreation, open space preservation, and resource protection.
3	Preserve open space that is crucial to the long-term quality of life of a neighborhood or the region.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	See POS.F.3 Coordinate planning, development and management of federal and local parkland to identify opportunities for shared recreation, open space preservation, and resource protection.
4	Conserve and maintain the essential open space character of areas in the region with significant park, open space, cultural, or natural qualities that contribute to the setting of the National Capital Region. Such areas include the National Arboretum, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and McMillan and Dalecarlia Reservoirs.	Modify	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	See POS.A.6 Protect the character of parks and open space with significant cultural or natural resources and that contribute to the setting of the National Capital Region.
5	Conserve portions of military reservations that add significantly to the inventory of park, open space, and natural areas and should, to the extent practicable, be used by the public for recreation. Examples include Andrews Air Force Base, Fort Belvoir, U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Fort Meade,	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.18 Conserve portions of federal campuses and installations that add significantly to the open space system. To the extent practicable, provide public access to and through these open spaces.

	Policy: 2004 Element	Proposed modification	Proposed Guiding Principle: Draft 2018 Element	Proposed Policy: Draft 2018 Element
	and Marine Corps Base Quantico.			
6	Maintain wildlife refuge areas in the region as critical natural open space and protect these areas from potential adverse impacts from surrounding developments, including major highway or other transportation projects.	Remove	(See Federal Environment Element)	<i>(Existing Federal Environment Element policy)</i> FE.H.2 <i>Discourage development or significant alteration of areas used by wildlife, including migratory wildlife.</i> FE.H.3 <i>Consider the impacts, including cumulative impacts, of environmental changes on wildlife habitats and the biodiversity of an ecosystem. Consideration should extend to non-protected areas, as well as areas protected by designations such as parks and wetlands.</i>
7	Maintain and conserve trees and other vegetation in the landscaped buffer areas on federal installations in a natural condition. Perimeter roads and cleared areas on these sites should be kept to a minimum, carefully landscaped, and managed in a manner that addresses security, aesthetics, and natural character.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.14 Preserve and maintain natural areas and open space on federal campuses that support wildlife habitat, improve scenic quality, and enhance aesthetic character. Preservation of these spaces should be compatible with the campus mission and programmatic needs.
8	Enter joint ventures to acquire and manage parks and open space.	Modify	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.5 Encourage the use of a variety of management and maintenance strategies including partnerships, cooperative management agreements, or when appropriate within the District of Columbia, transfer of administrative jurisdiction to the District government to improve parks and create a unified open space network.
Connectivity and Access (page 105)				
1	Promote public access along the region's waterfronts, including waterfronts on military and other properties when security considerations will permit.	Modify	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.6 Promote public access along the region's shorelines, including on federal properties when security considerations will permit.

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2	Plan, complete, and maintain connection between public parks and openspace.	Modify	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.1 Plan and maintain connections between parks and open space through streets, sidewalks, plazas, and trails to create a unified and accessible park system for the national capital region.
Parks and Landscapes: Monumental and designed Landscape Parks (page 109)				
1	Restore, protect, and enhance historic designed landscape parks (squares, circles, and triangles) associated with the L'Enfant City.	Modify	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.1 Rehabilitate, protect, and where feasible, enhance historic designed landscapes and civic streets, including squares, circles, and triangles associated with the historic Plan of the City of Washington.
2	Maintain small urban parks primarily as historic parks and designed landscapes with fountains, monuments, memorials, tree cover, and other features of civic art.	Modify	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.4 Within neighborhood parks, acknowledge that the site may currently serve multiple functions for residents. Scale and place memorial elements in a manner that balances existing functions along with the commemorative experience.
3	Provide facilities and areas for events such as concerts, fairs, and displays throughout the National Capital Region, at appropriate locations where such activities will not damage significant existing resources, disturb commemorative settings, or adversely impact adjacent neighborhoods.	Modify	Balance Multiple Uses within Parks	POS.D.1 Plan and design parks and open space to accommodate and balance multiple uses while protecting natural and cultural resources and mission needs.
4	Enhance the great cross-axes of the Mall, and protect them from inappropriate development.	Modify	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.3 Protect and maintain the cross-axis of the National Mall and its historic landscape as a complete work of civic art.
5	Use monumental parks and landscapes to provide settings for public buildings, monuments, and memorials, and to create special environments for limited activities.	Modify	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.10 Support innovative programming and events within commemorative settings while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources or the visitor experience.
6	Site memorials in monumental and designed landscape parks in compliance with the Memorials and Museums Master	Remove	(See Visitors & Commemoration Element)	<i>(Existing Visitors & Commemoration Element policy)</i> VC.D.2 <i>Locate new commemorative works in accordance</i>

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	Plan.			<i>with the Commemorative Works Act, in consideration of sites identified in the Memorials and Museums Master Plan.</i>
7	Create new open space, memorials, or museums at prominent and strategically located sites in the monumental core when the useful life of the existing buildings on the site has ended.	Modify	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.7 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
8	Maintain East and West Potomac Park as an extension of the Mall, as a valuable recreational open space, and as a space that can be used for outdoor cultural events, gatherings, and celebrations.	Modify	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.5 Protect the resources and open space qualities of the National Mall and other heavily used parks by encouraging outdoor cultural events, gatherings, and celebrations to take place in East and West Potomac Parks, Pennsylvania Avenue, 10 th Street, SW, and other public spaces throughout the National Capital Region.
Parks and Landscapes: Natural Parks (page 110)				
1	Ensure that Rock Creek Park and its tributary parks in the District and Montgomery County continue to serve as important natural resource recreational and cultural areas.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.4 Protect and preserve small forests and stream valley parks as natural resource areas, so they continue to serve as valuable scenic, ecological, cultural, and recreational resources.
2	Preserve and protect stream valley parks and small urban forest areas in their natural conditions.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.4 Protect and preserve small forests and stream valley parks as natural resource areas, so they continue to serve as valuable scenic, ecological, cultural, and recreational resources.
3	Protect the unique near-wilderness qualities of Prince William Forest Park, including the watershed of Quantico Creek.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.4 Protect and preserve small forests and stream valley parks as natural resource areas, so they continue to serve as valuable scenic, ecological, cultural, and recreational resources.

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Parks and Landscapes: Waterfront Parks (page 111)				
1	Link open space along the waterfront to provide a continuous public open space system.	Modify	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.4 Link open space along the Potomac and Anacostia shorelines to provide a continuous public open space system.
2	Develop the banks of the Anacostia River as a high-quality urban park with a mix of active and passive recreational opportunities.	Modify	Balance Multiple Uses within Parks	POS.D.6 Maintain and improve the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail in coordination with the local government as a regional resource that provides multiple recreational opportunities.
3	Ensure that Anacostia Park functions as a regional recreational resource, emphasizing the park's special riverside, ecological, and scenic qualities and character.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.9 Encourage land use and actions that protect and improve the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, including natural shorelines to enhance their ecological quality and scenic character.
4	Complete the waterfront parks in Georgetown and Alexandria.	Consolidate	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.5 Promote access to waterfront parks by encouraging improved pedestrian and other multimodal connections, and wayfinding signage from adjacent communities.
Parks and Landscapes: Historic Parks (page 112)				
1	Establish and preserve historic parks as important legacies of national, historic, architectural, and landscape significance.	Modify	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.4 Protect historic parks as important architectural and landscape legacies of national and regional significance.
2	Preserve the important scenic, historic, and natural elements of the Fort Circle Parks.	Consolidate	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.2 Preserve and protect historic designed landscapes including their natural and manmade elements.
3	Preserve Manassas National Battlefield Park as a significant historical Civil War landmark and cultural landscape resource.	Consolidate	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.2 Preserve and protect historic designed landscapes including their natural and manmade elements.
4	Preserve the C&O Canal National Historical Park as a legacy of inland waterway development and as a significant wildlife corridor.	Consolidate	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.2 Preserve and protect historic designed landscapes including their natural and manmade elements.

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5	Preserve and protect the environs of Mount Vernon National Historic Site as a national legacy.	Consolidate	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.2 Preserve and protect historic designed landscapes including their natural and manmade elements.
Terrain Features (page 115)				
1	<p>Protect and enhance the region’s unique terrain features. These features include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The region’s rivers and streams, their associated valleys and bluffs, and the shoreline park system. • The Blue Ridge, Bull Run, South Catocin, and Sugar Loaf Mountains in the western and northwestern part of the region. • The headwater, reservoir, and other scenic and ecologically significant terrain areas along the Patuxent River. • The areas of typical Coastal Plain and Piedmont Plateau character. • The forested ridgelines of the topographic bowl surrounding the central city of Washington. 	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.1 Protect the region’s terrain features including: The region’s rivers and streams, their associated valleys and bluffs, and the shoreline park system. The palisades and gorges of rivers and streams in their natural state. The headwater and reservoir areas along the rivers. The forested ridgelines of the topographic bowl surrounding the central city of Washington. Other scenic and ecologically significant terrain.
2	Ensure that development does not intrude through the ridge and tree lines of natural terrain areas unless it will not impact vistas to and from those areas.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.5 Encourage gradual transitions from the natural areas surrounding the terrain features to densely developed urban environments.
3	Protect terrain features throughout the region through careful design.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.7 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
4	Discourage the location of towers, antennas, or similar structures in or adjacent to the federal park system, to the	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.17 When planning and designing the location of towers, antennas, or similar structures in or adjacent to the

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	extent possible.			federal park system: a) Avoid locating antennas and tower structures within the viewsheds of natural and cultural landscapes and open spaces. b) Encourage innovative designs that reduce the visibility of antennas and towers.
5	In rare instances where antennas or towers must be located within a federal park or open space, ensure conformance with the Commission’s Guidelines for Antennas on Federal Property in the National Capital Region as well as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every effort should be made to avoid locating antennas and tower structures within the viewsheds of established natural and cultural landscapes and open spaces. • Innovative designs that reduce the visibility of antennas and towers in a natural setting should be encouraged. The use of compatible alternative tower structures that are similar in design or appearance to trees or other tall features may help to reduce the visual impact of these structures. 	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.17 When planning and designing the location of towers, antennas, or similar structures in or adjacent to the federal park system: a) Avoid locating antennas and tower structures within the viewsheds of natural and cultural landscapes and open spaces. b) Encourage innovative designs that reduce the visibility of antennas and towers.
6	Along with local agencies, identify appropriate locations for the siting of antennas and towers through their master plans and comprehensive plans, to the extent practical. This should help protect the functional integrity of, and the important view-sheds to and from, federal parks and open space areas.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.17 When planning and designing the location of towers, antennas, or similar structures in or adjacent to the federal park system: a) Avoid locating antennas and tower structures within the viewsheds of natural and cultural landscapes and open spaces. b) Encourage innovative designs that reduce the visibility of antennas and towers.

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Terrain Features: Topographic Bowl (page 116)				
1	<p>Maintain the prominence of the topographic bowl formed by lowland and rim features of the L’Enfant City and environs by controlling the urban and natural skylines in the Anacostia, Florida Avenue, and Arlington County portions of the bowl as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the green setting of the Anacostia hills and integrate building masses with, and subordinate to, the natural topography. • Maintain the Florida Avenue escarpment’s natural definition of the L’Enfant Plan boundaries by retaining developments that are fitted to the landforms and by promoting low-rise development that can be distinguished from the greater height of the L’Enfant City’s core areas. • Within the western portion of the bowl, retain a horizontal skyline by relating building heights to the natural slope and rim areas of Arlington Ridge as viewed from the Capitol, the Mall, and other riverside outlooks. • Control the urban skyline in the background areas of the Mall vista, as viewed from the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol, by ensuring consistency with the building 	Remove	(See Urban Design Element)	<p><i>(Existing Urban Design Element policy)</i></p> <p>UD.B.1.4</p> <p><i>Maintain the skyline formed by the region’s natural features, particularly the topographic bowl, and its symbolic character.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Visually reinforce the preeminence of the U.S. Capitol, White House, Washington Monument, and other major nationally significant resources by protecting the visual frame around them. Carefully examine the use of vertical elements within the setting of major national resources.</i> 2. <i>Protect the settings of major skyline elements from visual intrusions such as antennas, water towers, and rooftop equipment, or other constructed elements.</i>

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	height limits specified by Arlington County in an agreement with the Commission for the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. Exceptional or “bonus” heights should be avoided.			
Terrain Features: Palisades and Gorges (page 116)				
1	Maintain the rugged terrain characteristics of the stream valleys.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.4 Protect and preserve small forests and stream valley parks as natural resource areas, so they continue to serve as valuable scenic, ecological, cultural, and recreational resources.
2	Retain the palisades and gorges of rivers and streams in their natural state.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.4 Protect and preserve small forests and stream valley parks as natural resource areas, so they continue to serve as valuable scenic, ecological, cultural, and recreational resources.
3	Ensure that the transition from a natural to an urban character remains gradual in the area of palisades and gorges.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.6 Maintain and protect the Potomac Gorge, and the surrounding palisades and gorges and their resources, in its natural condition and keep its transition highlands, the rim areas, and surroundings free of intrusive constructed forms.
4	Maintain the “fall-line” gorge through Rock Creek Valley in its natural condition and keep its transition highlands and rim areas and surroundings free of intrusive constructed forms.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.6 Maintain and protect the Potomac Gorge, and the surrounding palisades and gorges and their resources, in its natural condition and keep its transition highlands, the rim areas, and surroundings free of intrusive constructed forms.
Greenways and Greenbelts (page 118)				
1	Protect and maintain existing greenways and enhance greenbelt areas.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.3 Protect and maintain greenways for their environmental benefits and as natural and cultural resources.
2	Support the establishment of new	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and	POS.F.7

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	greenways and extensions and connections of new greenways.		Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
3	Increase and conserve the tree canopy and landscape cover in urban areas of the region.	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.15 Increase and conserve urban tree canopy, understory plantings, and landscape cover through best design and installation practices to provide long-term aesthetics and environmental benefits.
4	Protect and enhance the green landscape and park-like character provided by trees, grass, and other native plant materials in the National Capital Region by removing invasive species and replanting with native species.	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.20 Preserve and protect the park-like character and setting of the region by planting native species to promote sustainable practices and minimize maintenance requirements.
5	Maintain large tree preserves and forests as part of future development in the region.	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.16 Protect and maintain large tree preserves, forests, and mature urban trees when planning and designing development projects in the region.
6	Conserve portions of federal installations that contribute to greenway and greenbelt areas.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.18 Conserve portions of federal campuses and installations that add significantly to the open space system. To the extent practicable, provide public access to and through these open spaces.
7	Retain natural wooded buffer areas in the vicinity of federal installations throughout the region.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.14 Preserve and maintain natural areas and open space on federal campuses that support wildlife habitat, improve scenic quality, and enhance aesthetic character. Preservation of these spaces should be compatible with the campus mission and programmatic needs.
8	Protect and maintain the narrow threads of natural areas throughout the District, such as Whitehaven Parkway, Kingle Valley Parkway, Glover-Archbold Park, Soapstone Valley Park, Piney Branch Parkway, and	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.3 Protect and maintain greenways for their environmental benefits and as natural and cultural resources.

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	Oxon Run Parkway.			
9	Incorporate street and shade trees as part of all public development, especially in the District, to help restore the historic green-city setting of the National Capital Region.	Remove	(See Urban Design Element)	<i>(Existing Urban Design Element policy)</i> UD.B.2.6 <i>Encourage the further development of the urban tree canopy to frame street views, reinforce the human scale on broad streets, and provide critical shade and beauty.</i>
Rivers and Waterways (page 121)				
1	Protect the scenic and ecological values of waterways and stream valleys.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.4 Protect and preserve small forests and stream valley parks as natural resource areas, so they continue to serve as valuable scenic, ecological, cultural, and recreational resources.
2	Restore forested buffers along waterways and stream valleys.	Remove	(See Federal Environment Element)	<i>(Existing Federal Environment Element policies)</i> FE.E.3 <i>Create vegetative and open space buffers around wetlands, waterways, or riparian areas when constructing near wetlands.</i> FE.E.5 <i>Design vegetated buffer strips around wetlands and waterbodies to capture and clean stormwater runoff. Encourage restoration of streams and stream banks that have are negatively impacted by runoff.</i>
3	Protect and, where necessary, restore the region’s unique river-related features in their natural state. Such features include the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and marsh, the coves and headlands south of Mount Vernon, Great Falls, and the gaps at Point of Rocks.	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.2 Protect features along natural shorelines, such as riparian landscapes, wetlands, steep slopes, mature/healthy trees and understory vegetation, floodplains, woodlands, and highly permeable soils.

	Policy: 2004 Element	Proposed modification	Proposed Guiding Principle: Draft 2018 Element	Proposed Policy: Draft 2018 Element
4	Protect, restore, and enhance the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers as great open space resources and as recreational amenities, including shorelines and waterfront areas along rivers.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.13 Encourage actions that improve the water quality of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers to contribute to the restoration of natural systems, improved water quality, and increased recreational use.
5	Improve the quality of water in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers to allow for both restored natural habitats and increased recreational use.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.13 Encourage actions that improve the water quality of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers to contribute to the restoration of natural systems, improved water quality, and increased recreational use.
6	Retain shoreline areas in their natural condition or appropriately landscape the water's edge.	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.10 Retain and restore natural shoreline areas to a more natural state, including daylighting streams to provide more sustainable and resilient conditions.
7	Manage all lands along the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers in a manner that encourages the enjoyment and recreational use of water resources, while protecting the scenic and ecological values of the waterways.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.13 Encourage actions that improve the water quality of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers to contribute to the restoration of natural systems, improved water quality, and increased recreational use.
8	Retain both privately and publicly owned land along waterways in a natural state, except in areas that are determined appropriate for development.	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.9 Encourage land use and actions that protect and improve the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, including natural shorelines to enhance their ecological quality and scenic character.
9	In urban waterfront areas that are determined appropriate for development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid construction in environmentally sensitive areas. • Restore, stabilize, and/or improve and landscape degraded areas of shorelines. • Limit development along or near the shoreline and integrate it with the generally low and continuous 	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.12 Treat urban shoreline areas to be resilient and adaptable to variations in water level.

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	line of river embankments.			
10	Avoid physical barriers to the waterfront, and long, unbroken stretches of buildings or walls along waterfronts.	Consolidate	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.5 Promote access to waterfront parks by encouraging improved pedestrian and other multimodal connections, and wayfinding signage from adjacent communities.
11	Determine building height along or near the shoreline based on the building's proximity to the shoreline.	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.19 The mass and scale of development along or adjacent to the shoreline should preserve view corridors and be compatible to the character and quality of open space.
12	Design and locate bridges so that they minimally affect local riverine habitat, waterways, shorelines, and valleys.	Remove	(See Urban Design Element)	<i>(Existing Urban Design Element policy)</i> UD.B.2.5.2 <i>Design and locate bridges to minimize effect on local riverine habitat, waterways, shorelines, and valleys, as described within the Federal Environment Element.</i>
13	Encourage swimming, boating, and fishing facilities, as well as water-oriented tourist activities, on the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers.	Consolidate	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.13 Encourage actions that improve the water quality of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers to contribute to the restoration of natural systems, improved water quality, and increased recreational use.
14	Ensure that the shorelines and waterfronts of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers remain mostly publicly owned and that privately owned parks provide shoreline continuity through parks and promenades.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.2 Develop partnerships and build alliances with local agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, foundations, and other stakeholders to create, manage, and connect a cohesive open space system.
15	Discourage large paved parking areas and other non-water-related development along the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. Where large paved areas are required, preference should be given to using pervious surfaces. Existing large parking areas, such as the Pentagon's north parking lot along Boundary Channel, should be removed as soon as feasible and restored	Modify	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.11 Discourage paved parking areas along the shoreline of rivers, streams and at waterfront parks. Remove existing parking when feasible and restore these areas to a landscaped condition, which could include recreational uses.

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	to a landscaped condition with active or passive recreational uses.			
Trails (page 124)				
1	Develop new trails and complete partial trails that connect to parks, schools, businesses, and other community amenities to provide a system of contiguous regional trails for extensive recreational and transportation use. Examples of trails to be completed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anacostia Riverwalk Trail • Metropolitan Branch Trail • Potomac Heritage Trail 	Consolidate	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.7 Develop, improve, and maintain a regional trail system that serves recreational and commuter needs by closing gaps and connecting parks and open space, natural areas, and destinations. Ensure that regional trails connect with the national trail network.
2	Connect local trails to regional and national trail networks.	Consolidate	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.7 Develop, improve, and maintain a regional trail system that serves recreational and commuter needs by closing gaps and connecting parks and open space, natural areas, and destinations. Ensure that regional trails connect with the national trail network.
3	Use federal infrastructure to develop and connect trail systems.	Modify	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.8 Consider opportunities to develop trails or connect trail systems when planning and designing projects throughout the region. Ensure that new development do not preclude future improvements to trail connections.
4	Maintain and improve trail quality for a variety of users, as appropriate.	Consolidate	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.10 Provide public access to open space on or adjacent to federal properties as mission and security considerations permit, while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources. Where security is an issue, encourage limited access through coordinated programs and events.
5	Protect trails from adjacent incompatible development.	Consolidate	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.10 Provide public access to open space on or adjacent to federal properties as mission and security considerations permit, while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources. Where security is an issue, encourage limited

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				access through coordinated programs and events.
6	Protect environmentally significant land adjacent to trails.	Consolidate	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.10 Provide public access to open space on or adjacent to federal properties as mission and security considerations permit, while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources. Where security is an issue, encourage limited access through coordinated programs and events.
7	Develop a “blue trail” on Washington’s waterways.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.2 Develop partnerships and build alliances with local agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, foundations, and other stakeholders to create, manage, and connect a cohesive open space system.
8	Complete the Fort Circle Park trail system as a continuous trail, linking the historic Civil War Fort sites within the District. Existing street rights-of-way should be used when necessary to connect the various sections of the Fort Circle Parks. The existing hiking trail through Glover-Archbold Park should link the Fort Circle Parks trail system with the C&O Canal trail.	Modify	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.9 Improve access to the Civil War Defenses of Washington historic fort sites by linking them to surrounding communities using the existing street rights-of-way, sidewalks, and trails where possible.
Gateways (page 125)				
1	Work with local jurisdictions to ensure the protection and enhancement of gateway routes.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.7 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
2	Regulate the scale and use of nearby development.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.7 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
3	Improve and visually enhance gateways	Remove	(See Urban Design Element)	<i>(Existing Urban Design Element policies)</i>

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	with street trees and attractive street amenities.			<p>UD.B.1.2 <i>Create a sense of arrival to the nation’s capital through prominent gateways, such as bridges, and the design and programming of federal reservations and special streets as described within this element.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Enhance gateway routes. Distinct and memorable landscaping, public art, building sculpting and/or architectural treatments can reinforce the experience of arrival.</i> <i>2. Create gateways for important settings within the monumental core that provide a sense of entry with visual cues and transition points from one place to another.</i> <p>UD.B.5.6 <i>Reinforce the U.S. Capitol as the spatial center of the city and restore the prominent role of the radiating streets and important intersections through decisions about public realm and streetscape programming, street-level uses, building mass, and viewshed protections as described within this element. These include: North Capitol Street, South Capitol Street, East Capitol Street, New Jersey Avenue, Maryland Avenue and Delaware Avenue. Destinations along these streets should reflect their role as prominent gateways into the monumental core.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Visually reinforce the preeminence of the U.S. Capitol within street-level linear views along intersecting streets. Utilize building setbacks and sculpting to protect the visual frame around the U.S. Capitol dome and reinforce sweeping and open views to it. Continue to scale and orient building heights along streets that intersect with the U.S. Capitol with a general landscape vista, where the</i>

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				<i>width of the street is greater than the height of buildings that flank the street.</i>
4	Improve South Capitol Street between the Suitland Parkway and the U.S. Capitol with open space amenities consistent with the Legacy Plan.	Remove	(See Urban Design Element)	<p><i>(Existing Urban Design Element policies)</i></p> <p>UD.B.1.2 <i>Create a sense of arrival to the nation’s capital through prominent gateways, such as bridges, and the design and programming of federal reservations and special streets as described within this element.</i></p> <p><i>1. Enhance gateway routes. Distinct and memorable landscaping, public art, building sculpting and/or architectural treatments can reinforce the experience of arrival.</i></p> <p><i>2. Create gateways for important settings within the monumental core that provide a sense of entry with visual cues and transition points from one place to another.</i></p> <p>UD.B.5.6 <i>Reinforce the U.S. Capitol as the spatial center of the city and restore the prominent role of the radiating streets and important intersections through decisions about public realm and streetscape programming, street-level uses, building mass, and viewshed protections as described within this element. These include: North Capitol Street, South Capitol Street, East Capitol Street, New Jersey Avenue, Maryland Avenue and Delaware Avenue. Destinations along these streets should reflect their role as prominent gateways into the monumental core.</i></p> <p><i>1. Visually reinforce the preeminence of the U.S. Capitol within street-level linear views along intersecting streets. Utilize building setbacks and sculpting to protect the visual frame around the U.S. Capitol dome and reinforce sweeping and open</i></p>

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				<i>views to it. Continue to scale and orient building heights along streets that intersect with the U.S. Capitol with a general landscape vista, where the width of the street is greater than the height of buildings that flank the street.</i>
5	Improve New York Avenue as an extension of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.7 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
Parkways (page 127)				
1	Maintain parkways as scenic landscape corridors, and protect their historic aspects.	Modify	Balance Multiple Uses within Parks	POS.D.5 Minimize impacts from development adjacent to parks and open space, including trails and parkways, to protect their natural and historic features.
2	Encourage local jurisdictions to plan for and zone development in such a way that it is not visible from parkways.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.7 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
3	Encourage local jurisdictions to minimize—through planning, regulation, and careful design—the impact of development that is visible from parkways.	Consolidate	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.7 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions to minimize physical and visual impacts of development projects on the regional park and open space system, including natural features and viewsheds.
4	Where transportation system impacts are unavoidable, require action to minimize and mitigate these impacts to maintain parkway characteristics.	Remove	(See Urban Design Element)	<i>(Existing Urban Design Element policies)</i> UD.B.2.4 <i>Maintain and enhance the characteristics and natural settings of the National Park Service parks and parkways. In particular:</i> <i>1. Maintain parkways as scenic landscape corridors and protect their historic character.</i> <i>2. Encourage local jurisdictions to minimize—through planning, regulation, and thoughtful design—the impact of development visible from</i>

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				<p><i>parkways.</i></p> <p><i>3. Require actions to minimize and mitigate negative impacts to maintain parkway characteristics where transportation system impacts are unavoidable.</i></p>
New Policies				
1		Add	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.7 Protect or restore viewsheds that contribute to the aesthetic quality, historic significance, and visitor experience of the parks and open space system.
2		Add	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.8 Recognize the value of more recent landscapes with special design, and/or cultural significance. Maintain a sense of historic continuity and evolution by preserving parks and landscapes that are exceptional representations of different eras and styles.
3		Add	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.9 Reinforce Washington’s design evolution, grounded in the L’Enfant and McMillan Plans, and the distinguishing characteristics of designed landscapes when making adaptations to address contemporary needs and/or change in use, access, and maintenance.
4		Add	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.10 Balance significant and sometimes competing planning principles and design features and elements from different eras when adapting designed landscapes to meet contemporary programmatic goals and user needs.
5		Add	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.11 Maintain and improve a strong physical and/or visual connectivity with the surrounding neighborhood context when making adaptations or improvements to designed landscapes.
6		Add	Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy	POS.A.12 Recognize the original design intent may remain relevant for some landscapes due to their planning, design, cultural,

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				and/or historic significance. Ensure the original design intent is considered when making adaptations or improvements to designed landscapes.
7		Add	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.7 Protect the character and setting of all parks acquired as Capper-Cramton lands as critical elements of the region's park and open space system.
8		Add	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.8 Improve Capper-Cramton lands to be compatible with their existing park use. Projects that provide public benefits such as improving the water quality of streams, promoting park access, and protecting park resources are encouraged.
9		Add	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.21 Consider opportunities to educate and engage communities in the cleanup, planting, removal of invasive species, and maintenance of the region's rivers, trails, parks, and open space.
10		Add	Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources	POS.B.22 Promote interpretive signage and educational programming, and support the use of mobile technology, to educate and raise awareness about cultural resources and ecological functions of parks and open space.
11		Add	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.2 Improve public access to parks and open space, including removing barriers that limit physical or visual connectivity.
12		Add	Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space	POS.C.3 Create access points to the region's park system from adjacent communities where impacts on natural and cultural resources will be minimal.
13		Add	Balance Multiple Uses	POS.D.2

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			within Parks	Encourage programming that supports recreation, education, commemoration, and special events while protecting natural and cultural resources.
14		Add	Balance Multiple Uses within Parks	POS.D.3 Accommodate programming and uses that enrich the visitor experience while ensuring resources are protected and impacts minimized.
15		Add	Balance Multiple Uses within Parks	POS.D.4 Ensure that proposed improvements and maintenance projects along trails and parkways minimize impacts to viewsheds and are sensitive to their natural and historic qualities that make them significant.
16		Add	Balance Multiple Uses within Parks	POS.D.7 Develop waterfront parks that accommodate multiple uses and programming opportunities while enhancing the resilience and natural features of the waterfront.
17		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.1 Balance the need for public space uses with the memorial program and sacred space required by memorials based on size, surrounding context, and function of site.
18		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.2 Preserve and protect park features that contribute to its unique character and function while balancing the addition of new commemorative uses.
19		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.3 Provide areas for diverse park uses and functions by balancing landscape and built elements, and reserving space for the commemorative experience.
20		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.5 Maintain and protect the urban design framework of <i>The Plan of the City of Washington</i> (L'Enfant and McMillan Plans) including original rights-of-way, streets, and vistas. Protect the squares, circles, and triangles of the L'Enfant Plan intended to house memorials and civic art. Avoid the

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				introduction of visual incursions into the rights-of-way or placement of physical elements that would detract from the views of national memorials, civic institutions, or landmarks.
21		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.6 Locate memorial elements in a compatible manner to adjacent buildings, structures, and historic properties by considering existing building lines, massing, and scale. Memorial elements should complement and not compete with the scale of the surrounding landscape and built environment.
22		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.7 Relate memorial landscape elements with the surrounding streetscape elements to create a visual connection that is responsive to the surrounding context.
23		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.8 Improve and enhance the visual connections between park space, commemorative elements, and the surrounding environment.
24		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.9 Plan circulation routes that connect to the surrounding transportation network, accommodate visitors or passers-by, and meet ADA requirements to the memorial and park space.
25		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.10 Support innovative programming and events within commemorative settings while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources or the visitor experience.
26		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.11 Support the installation of temporary memorials or artwork while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.
27		Add	Balance Commemorative Works within Parks	POS.E.12 Support memorials beyond physical representations and encourage the exploration of alternative forms of

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				commemoration.
28		Add	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.4 Balance the national significance of parks with federal and local interests and the need to accommodate a range of uses and events.
29		Add	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.6 Develop federal and local collaborative relationships to maximize the functionality of small parks as local neighborhood amenities.
30		Add	Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions	POS.F.8 Coordinate with responsible agencies and local jurisdictions during redevelopment projects to encourage new areas of park and open space preservation.