

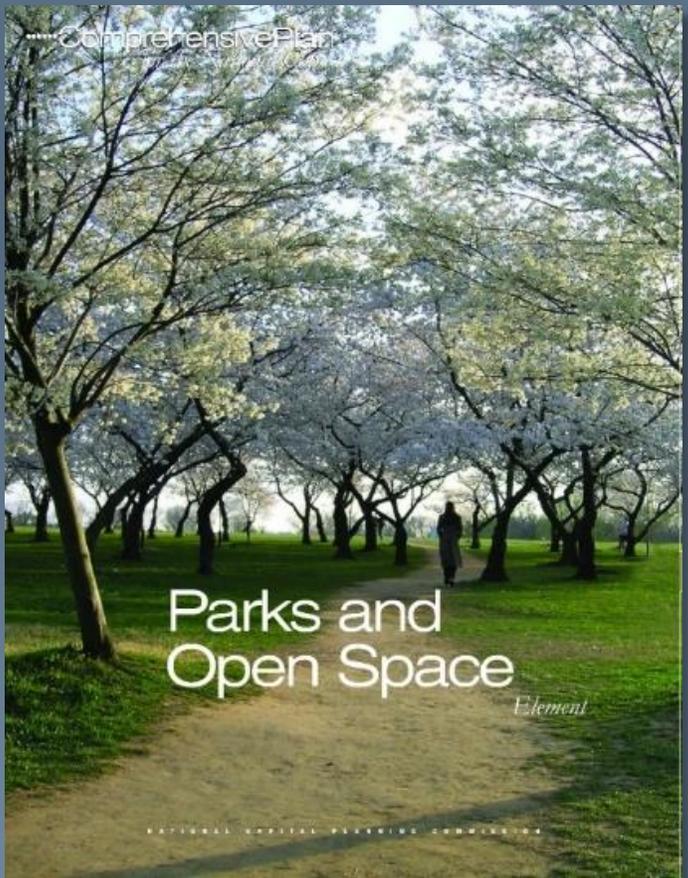
Parks & Open Space Element Update

National Capital Region

Staff of the National Capital Planning Commission

Authorization of 60-day public comment period

March 1, 2018



Parks and Open Space Element (2004)



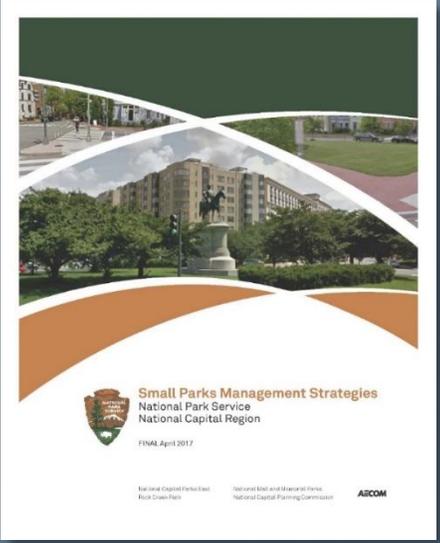
Parks & Open Space Element Update (2018)



➤ Goal Statement

The federal government's goal is to protect and enhance the National Capital Region's parks and open space system while providing recreational, ecological, social, and educational benefits for visitors, residents, workers, and future generations.

- **Incorporate new planning studies and initiatives**
- **Introduce new topics that reflect current issues and investigations**
- **Reframe around six new 'Guiding Principles' as the organizational framework**



Parks & Open Space

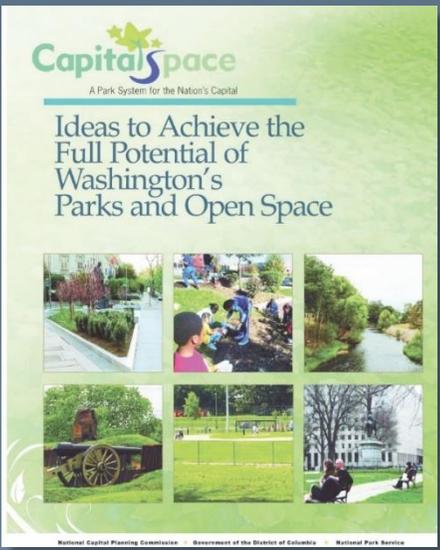
2018

The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Federal Elements



NPS Paved Trail Study



Anacostia Waterfront Initiative
(10 years of progress report)

Parks & Open Space

The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital
Federal Elements

2018



Adapting Designed Landscapes



Commemorative Works within Parks



Capper-Cramton Parks

1. Protect the Parks and Open Space Design Legacy

2. Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources

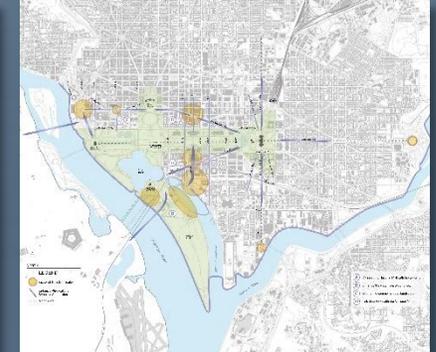
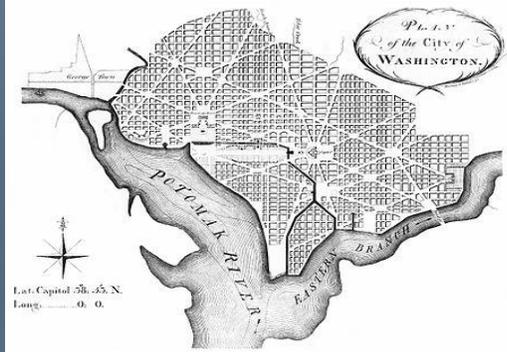
3. Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space

4. Balance Multiple Uses within Parks

5. Balance Commemorative Works within Parks

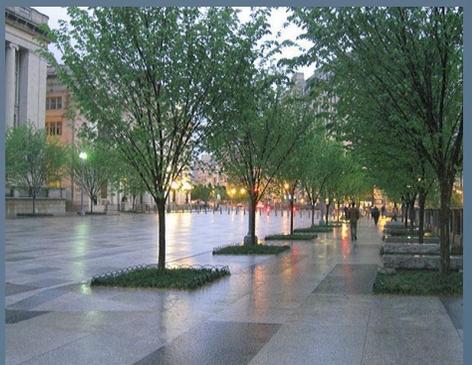
6. Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions

➤ The Design Legacy of Parks and Open Space



- 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.
- POS.A.2 Preserve and protect historic designed landscapes including their natural and manmade elements.
- POS.A.3 Protect and maintain the cross-axis of the National Mall and its historic landscape as a complete work of civic art.
- 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.
- 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.

➤ Adapting Designed Landscapes



➤ Adapting Designed Landscapes

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- POS.A.12 Recognize the original design intent may remain relevant for some landscapes due to their planning, design, cultural, and/or historic significance. Ensure the original design intent is considered when making adaptations or improvements to designed landscapes.

➤ Natural Resources



findyourchesapeake.com



findyourchesapeake.com



NPS

➤ Cultural Resources



NPS

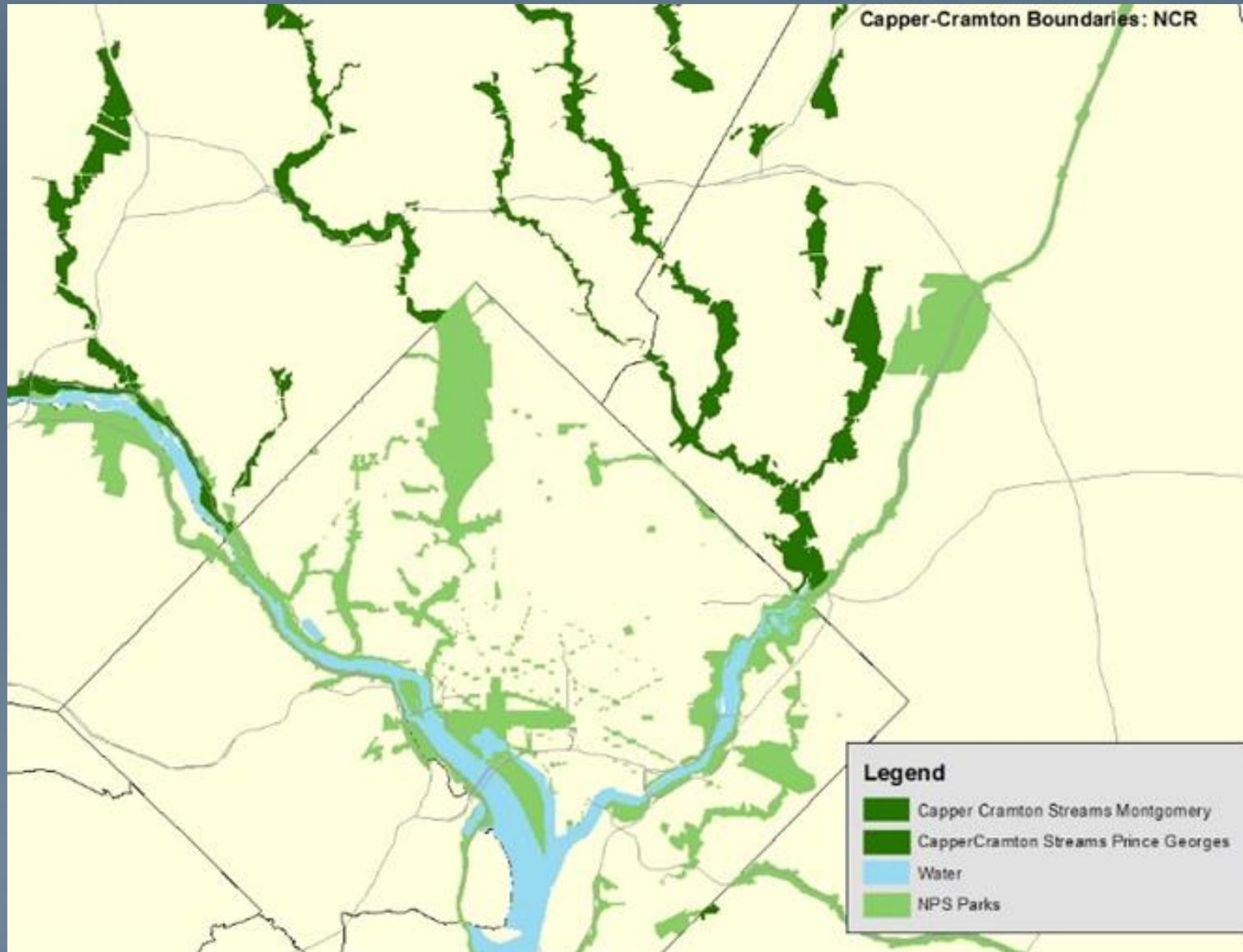


NPS



NPS

➤ Capper-Cramton Park Development Projects



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.

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.

➤ Stewardship Opportunities



Photo: Corianne Setzer



Photo: Ron Hirshon

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.

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.

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.

➤ Responsible Practices to Protect Natural and Cultural Resources



Potomac Conservancy

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.

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.

3. Provide Access to and Connections between Parks and Open Space

- Reduce Physical and Visual Barriers
- Connections to and along the Waterfront
- Enhance the Trail Network
- Encourage Public Access to Federal Properties



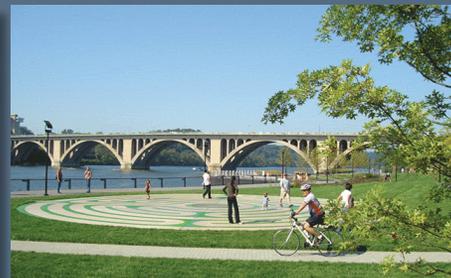
Photo by 4kclips



CityGreen.com



photo: © Adria Goula



Georgetown Waterfront Park, NPS



Photo ishd.org



Photo @jtlubben



Photo panoramio.com



Western Ridge Trail



Photo: spottedbylocals.com

- Balance Competing Uses with Park Resources
- Protect Parkways as Scenic Routes



Photo GoldenTriangelDC



Kingman Island



Photo ishdc.org



Photo Wikimedia commons



NPS

➤ Siting and Designing Commemorative Works



NPS



WashingtonWalks.com



Courtesy of Flickr CC License / peru lili eta marije



Rferl.org

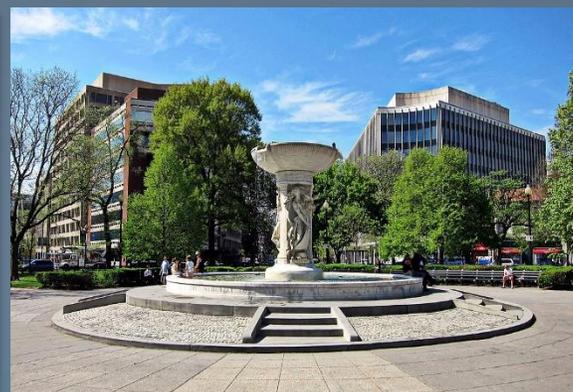


Photo Pamla J. Eisenberg



NPS

➤ Siting and Designing Commemorative Works

- 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.
- POS.E.3 Provide areas for diverse park uses and functions by balancing landscape and built elements, and reserving space for the commemorative experience.
- 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.
- 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.
- POS.E.8 Improve and enhance the visual connections between park space, commemorative elements, and the surrounding environment.
- 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.

➤ Programming and Innovative Memorials



Cherry Blossom Festival



POS.E.10 Support innovative programming and events within commemorative settings while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources or the visitor experience.

POS.E.11 Support the installation of temporary memorials or artwork while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

POS.E.12 Support memorials beyond physical representations and encourage the exploration of alternative forms of commemoration.

6. Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions

- Unified Regional Open Space Network
- Balancing Management of Federal Parkland with Local Community Needs
- Coordinating Federal and Local Development Review Processes



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.



POS.F.6 Develop federal and local collaborative relationships to maximize the functionality of small parks as local neighborhood amenities.

Parks & Open Space



Read the Proposed Element

Click above to view the proposed element, or [click here](#) to view the Federal Register notice:



Provide Comments

Click above to submit comments online or mail them to: NCPC, 401 9th street, NW, Washington, DC 20004



Attend an Open House

Click above to see more details about each of these open house events, or see the timeline below.

- The Parks & Open Space Element will be available online: <https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/openspace/>
- **60-Day** public comment period
- Open Houses on **March 21st** and **April 12th**, 2018
- Following the public comment period, staff will revise the Parks & Open Space Element and bring to the Commission for final adoption.