



Elevated Canopy Trail (1.)



U.S. Department of Agriculture (2.)

# Report of the Executive Director

During the past month, the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission's delegation authority. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Final site and building plans for the U.S. National Arboretum Elevated Canopy Trail, 3501 New York Avenue, NE. (8538)
2. Preliminary and final building plans for the United States Department of Agriculture South Building Extenet-Verizon Antenna Array Modification, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. (8580)

During the past month, NCPC staff determined that the following projects are exempt from Commission review, based on certain criteria. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Preliminary and final building plans for the Pentagon Window and Door Upgrades, Pentagon Access Road, Arlington, Virginia (8584)
2. Comments to the Mayor of the District of Columbia for the Closing of an Alley in Square 2828 - S.O. 24-04012, 3648 13th Street, NW. (8583)
3. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the Map Amendment at Square 3657, 700 Monroe Street, NE. (ZC 24-05)

## Planning Updates

### Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

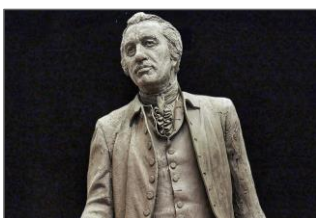
Two annual events — More Than Pink Walk and Fiesta DC Festival — returned to the Avenue in September to cap off a busy summer. HR&A is wrapping up the discovery phase of implementation work that focuses on the preliminary program of requirements that the design team will use as a basis to kick off their concept studies. NCPC is expected to announce the design team for the new Pennsylvania Avenue Plan in early October and will provide a project update soon thereafter.

### Monumental Core Streetscape Guide

NCPC, in collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration and the Interagency Working Group, continues to update the Construction Manual to incorporate best practices and emerging technologies. The manual contains construction details and specifications for a range of elements. Examples of hardscape elements include sidewalks, permeable paving, curbs and gutters, and accessible curb ramps. Examples of softscape elements include tree plantings, soil profiles, structural soils, and bioretention plantings. These details and specifications provide designers, engineers, and maintenance staff with guidance that can be adapted to the specific context of their site and project when applicable.

### National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

On September 4, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission heard presentations on the Thomas Paine Memorial site selection and the Fallen Journalists Memorial concept design. The Commission approved the Thomas Paine Memorial to pursue Area I authorization and further assess several potential sites. The Fallen Journalists Memorial concept design was well received, with constructive questions surrounding storytelling, hardscape and landscapes, as well as materiality.





### Potomac River Flood Initiative

NCPC has initiated a flood risk initiative primarily for the Potomac River's north side. Through NCPC's review work, we are aware that several federal and public facilities along the north side of the Potomac River area are pursuing significant flood risk management strategies. While these proposals are still in development, NCPC wants to foster coordination across these neighboring public properties, and examine whether they are using similar data, models, and assumptions to develop their strategies. The effort intends to build communication across neighboring facilities and look at potential impacts. In the future, additional efforts could evaluate whether a larger shared flood risk strategy would be beneficial. The consulting firm Moffat Nichol is providing technical assistance for this work.



### Commemorative Landscape Study

NCPC initiated the Commemorative Landscape Study that will assess the Washington, DC landscape and develop a thematic map to help guide locations for future memorials and museums and identify priority themes/topics. The consulting firm Olin is providing technical assistance for this work. NCPC is in the process of updating the 2001 *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* (2M Plan). The Commemorative Landscape Study will inform the 2M Plan update to better address the original plan's goals and provide concrete recommendations.



### Critical Planning Toolkit

NCPC initiated the Critical Planning Toolkit project. The consulting firm, The Urban Institute, is providing technical assistance for this work. NCPC recently updated the Introduction Chapter of the Federal Elements to address critical planning challenges and current agency initiatives, including social, health, and racial equity, climate resiliency, public space and security, commemoration and diversity, and transportation and mobility challenges. NCPC will modify its existing policies, plans, procedures, and guidelines, to better incorporate these critical planning challenges and address impacts on racial equity environmental justice, health, and climate resiliency. As a result, additional research and development is needed to establish tools and metrics that support operationalizing and evaluating equity and sustainability outcomes both for internal guidance and applicant agencies. The resulting deliverables will consider how to measure the impacts of federal development on regional equity.



### ISC Membership Meeting

On September 17, NCPC staff participated in the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Quarterly Membership Meeting, which focused on risk management. NCPC will provide staff comments on the ISC Design-Basis Threat Report, 2024 Edition, Appendix A of the Risk Management Process Standard.



### Beyond Granite Wins Awards

*Beyond Granite* and the Trust for the National Mall were selected to receive a 2024 Committee of 100 Vision Award in recognition of the innovative and thought provoking *Beyond Granite: Pulling Together* exhibition on the National Mall in the summer of 2023. These awards are presented bi-annually by the Committee of 100 on the Federal City in recognition of high achievement in responsible planning, land use, design, historic preservation, and enhancement of the quality of life in the nation's capital. The award reception will take place on Thursday, October 17 at 6:30 pm at the First Congregational United Church of Christ (945 G Street, NW) and is open to the public. More information is available online: <https://committeeof100.net/event/2024-vision-awards-ceremony/>



## Urban Land Institute-Washington

The Executive Director will serve on the organizing committee of the Urban Land Institute-Washington's Third Annual Futures Forum planned for February 5, 2025. They will touch on topics that range from office space revitalization, housing and infrastructure development to the evolution of the National Capital Region, this annual program aims to engage regional leaders and engage participants to address the future of the Metropolitan Washington Region.



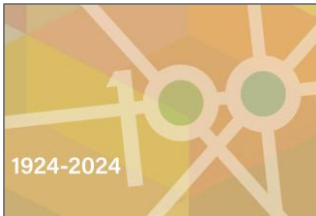
## Public Outreach

### Stadiums and Cities

On September 11, the Executive Director participated in an interview with a writer from the American Planning Association's Planning Magazine about how municipalities work with professional sports that propose building new stadiums, arenas or ballparks in urban areas.

### Centennial Activities

The Centennial exhibit, *Planning Washington: Capital & Community*, was on display at the West End Public Library through September 30. In conjunction with the exhibit, the library hosted a panel and salon style discussion, *Who Is the City For?*, on September 26. Panelists included **Laura Richards**, Committee of 100; **Alex Baca**, Greater Greater Washington; **Alexis Robinson**, Justice and Sustainability Associates; with **Julia Koster**, NCPC, moderating. The exhibit will be at the Kennedy Center in the Hall of Nations during the month of October.



Upcoming Centennial events include a keynote panel presentation at the American Planning Association National Capital Area Chapter annual conference on October 11 that will explore the evolving federal and local relationship in the region. The Executive Director will moderate the discussion with regional planning directors, including **Anthony Fusarelli**, Arlington County; **Anita Cozart**, District of Columbia; **Lakisha Hull**, Prince George's County; **Jason Sartori**, Montgomery County; and Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's **Clark Mercer**. On October 18, an American Planning Association webinar will explore the legacy of **Harland Bartholomew** nationally and in several cities, including Washington, DC; Louisville, Kentucky; and St. Louis, Missouri. The panel, moderated by Urban Planner **Melissa Lindsjo**, includes the Executive Director discussing Bartholomew's impact as a consultant to and chair of the Commission.