A. Protect the Parks & Open Space Design Legacy

POLICY GUIDANCE:

Protect important elements of the parks and open space design legacy

Washington Circle

DDIS

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.

The Plan of the City of Washington (L'Enfant and McMillan Plans) influenced the parks and open space network and are important components of the parks and open space design legacy.

The geometric form of the plans resulted in green space, including circle, square, and triangle parks found at intersections and along diagonal avenues.

Adapting designed landscapes

Banneker Park

ZGF Architects

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.

Banneker Park, originally designed as the terminus of 10th Street, SW is redesigned as an important connection between the Southwest Waterfront and the National Mall.

National Capital Planning Commission

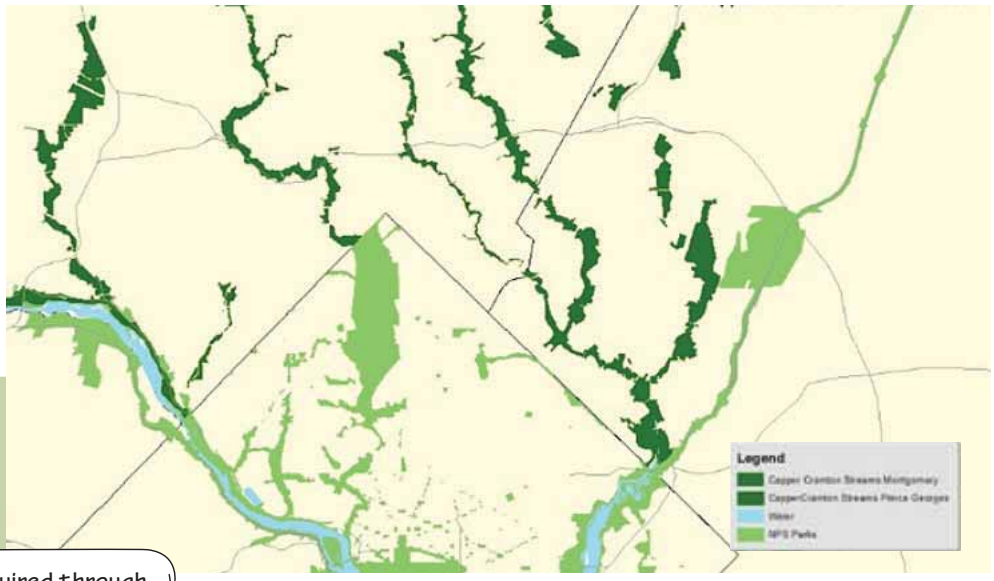
B. Provide Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources

POLICY GUIDANCE:

Protect Capper-Cramton Parks

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.

Capper-Cramton Parks



Lands in Maryland acquired through the federal Capper-Cramton Act (dark green) protect stream valley parks and extend a regional park and parkway system.

Protect Natural and Cultural Resources

POS.B.3 Protect and maintain greenways for their environmental benefits and as natural and cultural resources.

Greenways

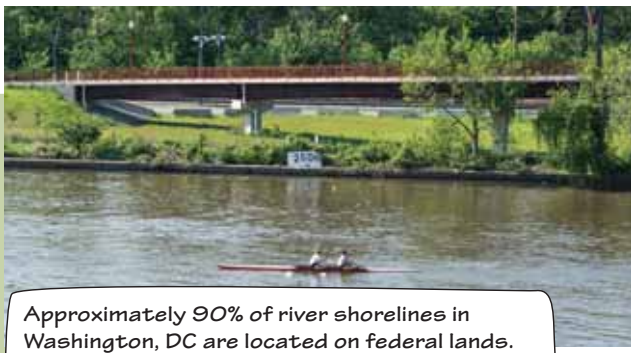
Road Scholar

Greenways contribute to the green setting of our region. They provide buffers that improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and migration corridors.

Encourage Responsible Practices & Stewardship Opportunities

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.

Encourage Stewardship Opportunities



Tim Evanson

Approximately 90% of river shorelines in Washington, DC are located on federal lands. This presents opportunities for the federal government to help improve water quality for the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

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

POLICY GUIDANCE:

Reduce Physical and Visual Barriers

POS.C.2 Improve public access to parks and open space, including removing barriers that limit physical or visual connectivity.

Kennedy Center Connection

Steven Holl Architects

This new connection will provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to and from the Kennedy Center, the National Mall and Memorial Parks, the Rock Creek multi-use trail, and the Potomac River waterfront.

Enhance the Existing Trail Network

Encourage Public Access to Federal Open Space

POS.C.4 Link open space along the Potomac and Anacostia shorelines to provide a continuous public open space system.

Anacostia Riverwalk Trail

DC Bike Blogger

The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail enhances the existing trail network by connecting neighborhoods, communities, and commercial and recreational destinations. This pedestrian and bicycle trail connects the many federal parks and open spaces along the Anacostia River in Washington, DC and Maryland.

Connect to and along the Waterfront

POS.C.5 Promote access to waterfront parks by encouraging improved pedestrian and other multimodal connections, and wayfinding signage from adjacent communities.

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Restoration Project

NPS

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal restoration project in Georgetown would improve access along the canal and will address infrastructure needs in the national historical park, including the safety and accessibility of the popular towpath.

D. Balance Multiple Uses within Parks

POLICY GUIDANCE:

Balance Competing Uses with Park Resources

Farragut Square

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.

Many federal parks provide areas for multiple types of activities including recreation, environmental protection, commemoration, celebration, demonstration, and transportation.

Golden Triangle BID

Protect Parkways as Scenic Routes

George Washington Memorial Parkway

POS.D.5 Minimize impacts from development adjacent to parks and open space, including trails and parkways, to protect their natural and historic features.

Parkways, designed as scenic roadways or pleasure drives, have evolved over time and serve as both transportation corridors and recreational amenities for residents and visitors.

NPS

E. Balance Commemorative Works within Parks

The U.S. Navy Memorial

U.S. Navy Memorial Heritage Center

POLICY GUIDANCE:

Balance Commemorative Space with Park Uses

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.

The United States Navy Memorial successfully integrates commemorative space and its urban context, creating flexible space for formal ceremonies and creative programming, informal social engagement, and relaxation.

Memorials for the Future

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

The Memorials for the Future ideas competition reimagined how we think about, feel, and experience future memorials. Many of the ideas included temporary, ephemeral, or mobile memorials.

Encourage Programs, Events, and Innovative Memorials

The AIDS Memorial Quilt

NPS

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

This temporary memorial was first displayed on the National Mall in 1987 and returned to Washington in 2012 for its 25th anniversary. This living memorial evolves over time and includes programming, events, and digital curation.

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F. Build Partnerships and Coordination among Multiple Landowners and Jurisdictions

Franklin Park

NPS

POLICY GUIDANCE:

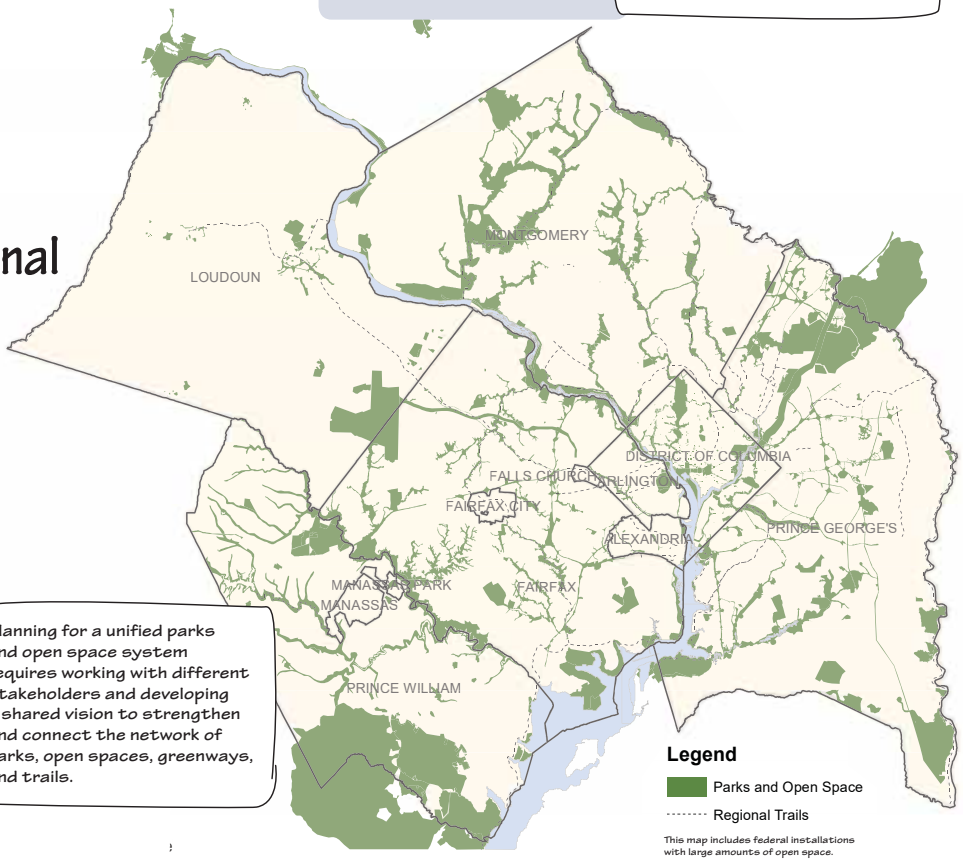
Balance Management of Federal Parkland with Local Community Needs

Coordinate the Federal and Local Development Review Processes

Plan for a Unified Regional Open Space Network

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

Through a federal-local partnership, Franklin Park will be transformed into an active, flexible, and sustainable historic park to better serve current users.



POS.F.2 Develop partnerships and build coalitions among local agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, foundations, and other stakeholders to create, manage, maintain, and connect a cohesive open space system.

Planning for a unified parks and open space system requires working with different stakeholders and developing a shared vision to strengthen and connect the network of parks, open spaces, greenways, and trails.

National Capital Planning Commission

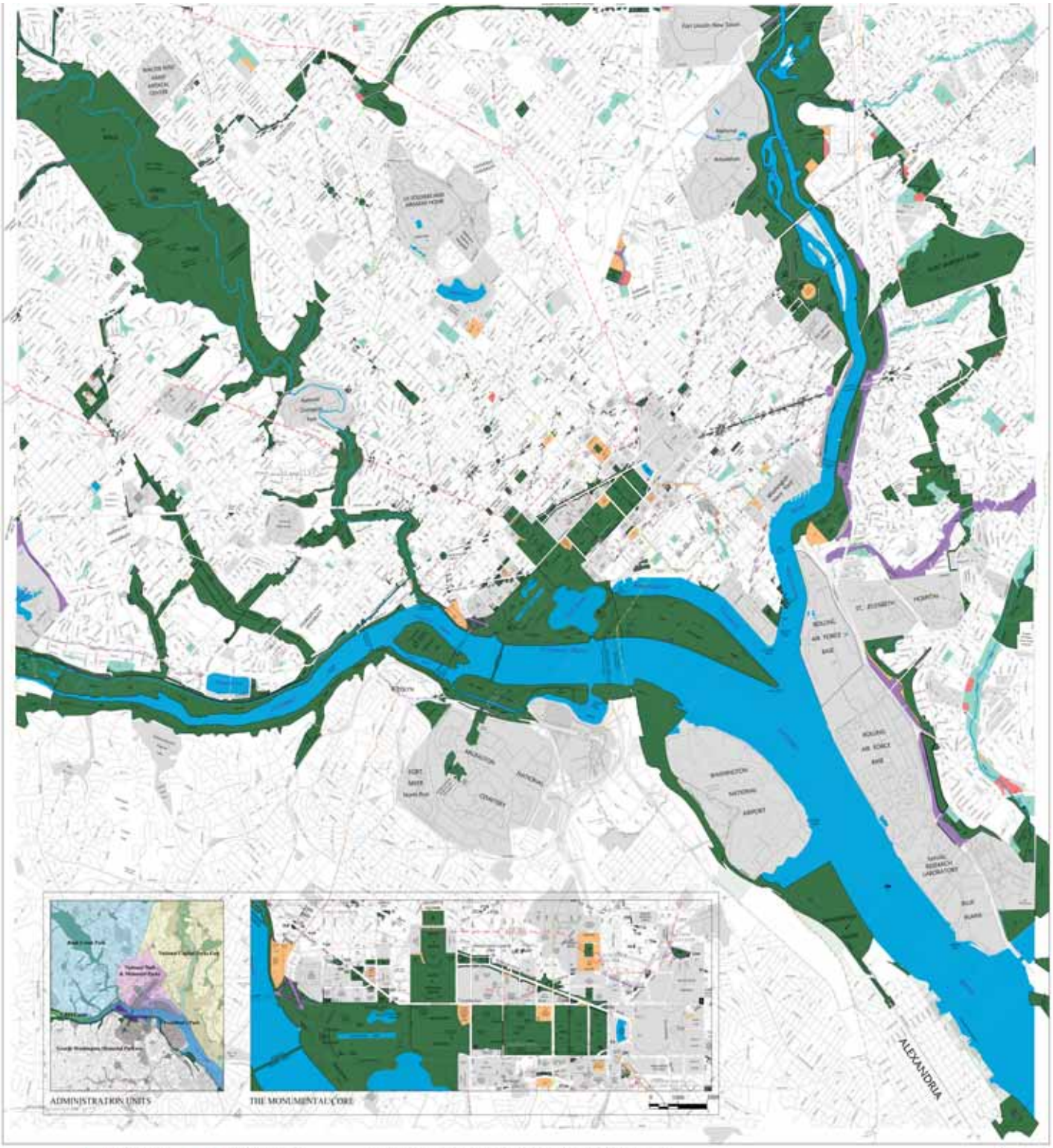
National Capital Region
Parks & Open Space

The Parks & Open Space Element is available online:
https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/openspace/

60-day public comment period through Monday, May 7, 2018

National Capital Planning Commission

Washington, DC
Federal Parks & Open Space



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE JURISDICTION
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AIR RIGHTS
OTHER GOVERNMENT LANDS
RESERVATION DISPOSED
NPS RESERVATION NUMBER
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TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT FOR TRANSPORTATION
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TRANSFERRED RESERVATION

LAND MANAGEMENT STATUS

PARK SYSTEM OF THE NATIONS CAPITAL

UNDER JURISDICTION OF

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

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