Project Goals

- Enhance safety and comfort for visitors, residents, and daily users
- Create a visually compelling sense of arrival into the heart of Washington DC
- Enhance public space experience as active, healthy and vibrant
- Foster a strong sense of community
- Enlist place-making and/or public art
From Edge to Center
Located on the historic edge of the L'Enfant City Plan
Macro Context
DC circles and squares as neighborhood anchors
What does NoMa LACK?

- No publicly accessible park space other than a walking/biking trail
- On average, the District had 12.4 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents (2016)
- NoMa had less than 5 acres of open space (as a plaza) in 2013

NoMa TODAY:
- 50,000 residents in the Market Area
- 12,000 residents in the BID
- 68,000 employees working in the BID
- 105,000 pedestrians on an average weekday
- Over 4,000 residential units delivering over next three years
- 4.1 million square feet currently under construction
Existing Land Use + Planned Developments
A changing neighborhood with growing population
Micro Context Analysis
A diverse crossroads with a vibrant mix of current and future users
Existing Site
Existing Views

1. View across New York intersection toward Wendy's Building
2. People's Building Parking Garage on O St.
3. View South of AF and Clock Tower
4. Sirius XM Building
5. Commuter walking East by Washington Gateway toward metro
Existing Views

View south from bridge on NY Ave.

View South at intersection on NY Ave.

Key Plan
PED MOVEMENT

Undesirable, uncomfortable, and harmful levels of noise in the study area

SEASONAL SUN AND SHADE

At full build out, future public spaces will be in the sun most of the year, except early and late on winter days.

Many survey respondents described wanting more shade/large shade trees/shade structures

UNCOMFORTABLE NOISE

Source: Florida Ave/New York Ave Public Life Study
Smithgroup + Nspiregreen
April 15th 2020
DDOT Intersection Design + Site Constraints
Utilities and stormwater

Utilities:
- Natural gas
- Sanitary
- Storm drain
- Fiber optic cables
- Telephone
- Electric
- Stormwater

Stormwater Management:
- 2669 SF total shown or 2669 CF (@1’ deep)
- O St NE and First St NE view corridor Boundary
- Property Line
- Existing Tree
- Open Space Area: .84 Acres
- Bike Lane
- Storm Drain and Manholes

10’ INTERCEPTOR (DC SEWER) – (DAYS)

15’ INTERCEPTOR (DC SEWER) – (DAYS)
Environmental Analysis

New park parameters

Florida Ave. NE
First St. NE
Eckington Pl NE
O St. NE
P St. NE
Peoples Building
Parking Garage

.43 Acres
.33 Acres
.51 Acres

Winter Sun
Summer Sun
Flow Direction
6/21
8pm
6pm
3pm
9am
12am
3am
12/21
6am
Circulation Analysis
New park parameters

- Florida Ave. NE
- New York Ave. NE
- First St. NE
- Eckington Pl NE
- O St. NE
- P St. NE
- Parking Garage
- Peoples Building
- Sirius XM Radio
- ATF Building
- FedEx
- Washington Gateway
- Site Entry
- Walkway
- Pedestrian
- 2-Way Bike
- 1-Way Bike
- Traffic: Most, Mid, Least

Parking Garage
Pedestrian
Site Entry
Walkway
Pedestrian
2-Way Bike
1-Way Bike
Traffic: Most, Mid, Least
Process + Program Influences

- Safety
- Sound Protection
- Shade
- Inclusive Design
- Public Art (#1 on Survey)
- Seating (#2 on Survey)
- Events/ Kiosks (Parcel 1)
- Visual Anchor Day + Night (Parcel 2)
- Passive Sitting Area (Parcel 3)
- Play Area (Parcel 3)
- Water (Parcel 3)

Transforming the Virtual Circle to Reconnect Neighborhoods

ULI Report
June 2019

Gateway Impact
Welcoming
Neighborhood Placemaking

NoMa Public Realm Design
2012

OP Public Life Study
2020

Process Summary Diagram
Design Framework
Program and circulation

Walkways
Park Parcels
Motorist Arrival View
Initial Concept Strategy Sketches

Groves Frame Parcel 2

Paving and follies unify spaces into “place”

Trees and paving unify parcels into “place”

Circles of screens create “personal spaces” and unify parcels into “place”
Refined Concept A

Description:

Sculptural screens create personal rooms
Protective plantings around perimeter
Adult Play in Parcel 3
Iconic Sculpture in Parcel 2

Organizer of vehicular traffic
Traditional DC Traffic Circle for traffic control

Frame for personal rooms
Deconstructed Circles for urban pedestrian life
Refined Concept B

Description:
- Porous and protective
- Sculptural islands of Plantings
- Seating on all edges
- Multi-purpose architectural follies throughout

Where the Hills Meet the Plains
DC's Natural Topography

Personal Spaces Framed by Hillocks
Buffering + Placemaking

SWA/Balsley
Refined Concepts A + B presented to Community May 18th 2020
Community + NoMa Feedback

Concept A

Comments in favor of:
- Pedestrian Flow
- Protection from Traffic
- Greenery
- Circles as Nod to DC
- Adult Exercise

Concept B

Comments in favor of:
- Mound Shapes
- Organic Feel
- Statement Art
- Seating around Planters

Summary of Design Direction

maximize usable green space
activate features
integrate of parcel 1 and 2
Summary of CFA and NCPC Staff Comments

- More Tree Canopy for shade and a sense of respite + shaping space overhead
- Simplify and unify the design + improve legibility to avoid confusion
- Connecting to + showing context
Major Design Moves + Responsive Revisions

Limited Planted Buffer to NY Ave and Florida where most needed for protection

Simplified primary program area per parcel

Limited screens to protect program areas

Provided additional Tree canopy for shade on all parcels

Re-examined circulation, access, and views to surrounding context
Illustrative Concept Plan
Prototypical Section

Street Tree
Street
Sidewalk
Sloping Groundcover + Seatwall
Flowering Trees + Plaza
Garden Planting

Sculptural Screen
Planter + Seatwall Precedents

Granite Seatwall

Precast / Cast Stone

Wood Seat Combination
Paving Precedents

Granite Cobbles

Precast Pavers

Cast in Place Concrete

DDOT Granite Cobbles

DDOT Precast Pavers

DDOT Cast in Place Concrete
Site Furniture Precedents

- Lawn Chairs
- Swivel Chairs
- Wall Mounted Seating
- Sculptural Seating
- Fixed Tables and Chairs
- Movable Cafe Tables
Adult/All Age Play Precedents

- **Playful Furniture**
- **Sculptural Fitness**
- **Interactive Mounds**
- **Playful Topography**
- **Sculptural Play Features**
Planting

Groundcover

Flowering Tree

Shade Tree

Street Tree

Garden Planting
Lighting Precedents

- Multi-Head Pole Lights (4-6)
- In-Grade Paver Lights
- Tree Up-lights
- Seatwall Halo Lights
- Screen Up-lights
- Art/ Sculpture Up-lights
- DC Streetlights
Iconic Sculpture Precedents

- Memorable
- Highly Visible
- Interactive/Kinetic
Stormwater Management Precedents

- Sivla Cells (Cistern)
- Permeable Pavers
- Lawn (Pervious Surface)
- Planted Area (Pervious Surface)
- Trees in paving at Siva Cells
- Bio-retention (Character Image)
Parcel 1 View - Before
Parcel 2 View- Before
SE View from New York Ave. - Before
Additional View - Parcel 1
Additional View- Parcel 2
Arrival Sequence
Driving South on NY Ave

1. [Image 1]
2. [Image 2]
3. [Image 3]
4. [Image 4]
THANK YOU!
Virtual Circle | Washington DC