



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 3, 2023

Stephen Staudigl
stephen@ncpc.gov

Julia Koster
julia@ncpc.gov

NCPC Accepts Monumental Core Streetscape Design Guidelines: Vertical and Surface Elements

Commission Postpones Action on Bureau of Engraving and Printing Currency Production Facility

Washington, DC—At its [March 2, 2023 meeting](#) the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) accepted the final **Monumental Core Streetscape Design Guidelines: Vertical and Surface Elements**. The guidelines are part of a comprehensive update of the Streetscape Manual (1992) that contains details and specifications which federal and District agencies use to achieve consistency in streetscapes on the National Mall and vicinity. The guidelines apply to public space from the property line to the curb and for major site redevelopment or capital improvement projects. They do not apply to routine maintenance and repair.

The guidelines consist of two components: Vertical Elements that address streetlights and trees and Surface Elements that address landscapes and plantings; stormwater management; pavements; and pedestrian circulation. At the April 6 meeting staff will ask the Commission to release the third Streetscape Design Guidelines components—Small-Scale Elements (furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles and civic infrastructure such as fire hydrants and bike racks)—for a 60-day public comment period. All three guidelines will ultimately become a new manual. NCPC and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts will use the manual during project review to ensure consistent use of elements and materials in submitted projects.

Prior to that the Commission postponed acting on preliminary site and building plans for a new **Bureau of Engraving and Printing Currency Production Facility** in Beltsville, Maryland until its April 6 meeting. The proposal was submitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with the Department of the Treasury and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Following the staff presentation, Commissioners requested additional information about the project.

The Commission heard two information presentations (no action is requested or taken on information presentations). In the first, representatives from the **Armed Forces Retirement Home** (AFRH), located at 140 Rock Creek Church Road, NW, provided an update on their community outreach efforts and discussions since NCPC approved AFRH's master plan in 2022. Commissioners encouraged AFRH to continue engaging in discussions with the community as it balances the security of its campus and residents with interest in greater public access. Commissioners recommended the possible use of a third party to facilitate these conversations.

NCPC staff discussed an update of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements' Introduction Chapter* to address equity and sustainability. The Federal Elements, prepared and managed by NCPC, serve as the blueprint for the long-term development of the national capital and are the decision-making framework for Commission review of plans, proposals, and policies for federal land and building development.

—MORE—

In response to Executive Order 13985, which charges the federal government to pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, NCPC created an *Equity Action Plan* to advance equity through its core work programs and identified incorporating equity considerations into the Comprehensive Plan updates as an important component. The Introduction Chapter outlines the Federal Elements' planning framework. An updated chapter will establish a comprehensive framework to address equity and sustainability; provide guidance for engaging with community organizations and stakeholders in a new way; and develop a historical context of NCPC equity impact on local communities. The draft updated chapter is slated to be released for public comment this summer. Staff seeks to have an updated chapter draft for Commission review this fall.

[Commission actions and related materials are available online.](#)

The Executive Director approved three items under authority delegated by the Commission.

1. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the Reagan National Airport Antenna Array Replacement, 20 MacDill Boulevard, SE. (8435)
2. Preliminary and final building plans for the Hubert H. Humphrey Building Antenna Facility Modification, 200 Independence Avenue, SW. (8436)
3. Final site and building plans for the National Zoological Park Flamingo Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Mitigation Netting, 3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW. (7846)

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in Washington, DC and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.