



A Progress Report

JANUARY 2012



The CapitalSpace Partnership

Several District and federal agencies oversee the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of Washington’s parks and open space.

The District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation, District of Columbia Office of Planning, National Park Service, and National Capital Planning Commission formed CapitalSpace in 2006 to coordinate existing management plans, maximize limited resources, and create a stronger park system for the city. Since the initial creation of the partnership, several other agencies have participated, including the District of Columbia’s Department of Transportation, Department of the Environment, and Public Schools, as well as the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

The District’s primary recreation provider is the Department of Parks and Recreation. Its mission is to maintain the city’s parks and open spaces and provide diverse recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. Other District agencies, including the Office of Planning, Department of Transportation, and Department of the Environment, play key roles in planning, building, and maintaining parks and open space through broader community development strategies. The CapitalSpace partners work closely with the public school system, which provides 30 percent of the city’s playgrounds and fields.

The National Park Service’s mission is to preserve the nation’s natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all generations, and is responsible for managing nearly 90 percent of the city’s parkland—including major park areas such as Rock Creek Park, the National Mall, Anacostia Park, and the Fort Circle Parks. The National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts plan for and review proposed development that may impact federal interests within Washington’s parks and open spaces.

CAPITALSPACE PARTNERS

District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP)
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
National Park Service (NPS)

IN COLLABORATION WITH

District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
District Department of the Environment (DDOE)

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The partners are excited to present this CapitalSpace progress report. After the adoption of *CapitalSpace-Ideas to Achieve the Full Potential of Washington's Parks and Open Spaces* (CapitalSpace) in April 2010 by NCPC, the partners shifted focus to implementing projects that support the plan's priority actions, which are organized around Six Big Ideas.

1. Link the Fort Circle Parks/Civil War Defenses of Washington via a greenway, creating destinations.
2. Improve public school yards to help relieve pressure on nearby parks and better connect children with the environment.
3. Enhance urban natural areas to better connect residents to encourage stewardship for natural resources.
4. Improve playfields to meet the needs of residents, workers, and visitors.
5. Make center city parks more inviting and active.
6. Transform small parks into successful public spaces.

The CapitalSpace partners completed 19 priority action projects since 2010. Projects range from creating five gardens for the Coolidge High School Legacy Project to improving the process for the partner agencies to share and update park information.

In addition to the priority action projects, NCPC, DCOP, NPS, and DPR completed other capital projects and launched new programs as part of their respective agencies' mission and work program.

This report organizes park projects into two sections. Section One features capital improvement and program projects according to the priorities of the Six Big Ideas, while Section Two describes projects that improve coordination in park management and resource sharing among the CapitalSpace partners. The projects featured in this progress report reflect several park development trends in the city, including:

- Focusing public investments on co-located facilities, primarily schools and recreation centers located adjacent to each other in neighborhoods, to provide the most value for communities.
- Incorporating sustainability practices and features in parks, schools, and recreation centers, including bioretention cells or rain gardens for on-site stormwater management, geothermal energy systems to power facilities, solar-powered lighting, and artificial turf for athletic fields.
- Repurposing under-utilized open spaces, such as alleys, small green spaces in public rights-of-way and schoolyards into playgrounds, edible gardens, stormwater bioretention cells, tree plantings, public art and local commemoration.
- Working with dedicated grassroots organizations to assist in the planning, development and future long-term maintenance of new parks.

The CapitalSpace Plan and this progress report can be downloaded from the NCPC website at: www.ncpc.gov/capitalspace.



TrailVoice

Section 1: Implementing Priority Actions - Six Big Ideas

Big Idea #1

Link the Fort Circle Parks/Civil War Defences of Washington (CWDW) via a greenway, creating destinations.

CapitalSpace noted that the Fort Circle Parks offer some of the best cultural and historic opportunities, as well as open space amenities, in the region.

However, they are not well-promoted, and often lack adequate signage and multiple access points for surrounding neighborhoods to fully appreciate them. NPS embarked on multiple initiatives that enhanced access in the parks through uniform interpretive and wayfinding signs, improved trail amenities and public awareness of the hiker-biker trail. NPS sought the help and support of its CapitalSpace partners to implement these initiatives in various ways.

*After CapitalSpace was adopted, the NPS officially replaced the term "Fort Circle Parks" with the new name, "Civil War Defenses of Washington." In order to maintain consistency with the CapitalSpace Plan, this progress report will use the two names interchangeably or together.



PROJECTS

New Park Identification, Interpretative and Trail Guide Signage for Fort Circle Parks /CWDW

New Trail Ambassador Volunteer Program and Recreation Fitness Equipment at the Fort Mahan Trailhead of the Hiker-Biker Trail in Southeast DC

Fort Circle Parks/ CWDW Hiking and Biking Trail Guide

New Park Identification, Interpretative and Trail Guide Signage for Fort Circle Parks/CWDW

The Fort Circle Parks/CWDW are a network of earthen fortifications situated on the outskirts of Washington, DC. They were constructed during the Civil War to protect the nation's capital against Confederate attack. More than 20 forts and batteries remain today, located in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. The parks are maintained by city and county governments and the NPS. The sites managed by the NPS are located in three park units: Rock Creek Park (ROCR), National Capital Parks – East (NACE), and George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP).

Within NACE, a seven mile hiker-biker trail connects five of the fort parks, but this trail is bisected by more than 10 road crossings which are very poorly marked. At each of the sites and along the trail, new signage has been acquired to improve the interpretive landscape, give uniform identity to the full network of parks and improve safety and wayfinding along the trail. This sign program includes three types of signs: park identification signs, interpretive wayside signs, and trail guide signs.

Additionally, the fort parks within Rock Creek Park and George Washington Memorial Parkway are also receiving new and updated park identification signs and interpretive wayside signs. These signs will provide uniform identity between all of the forts managed by the NPS throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia.

Completion: fall 2011

Cost and source of funding: \$500,000 in NPS funds

Who owns and maintains the park? NPS

Location: Fort Circle Parks/CWDW, multiple locations



Advancing the Big Idea:

By providing attractive and informative signage along the Fort Circle Parks/CWDW trails, community residents will have an increased awareness of these great park resources in their neighborhood, and park visitors will better appreciate their historic significance. The uniform signage is also a positive direction towards linking the fort parks thematically, which was one of the recommendations of CapitalSpace.

Sources/links for additional information:

www.nps.gov/cwdw/index.htm

www.nps.gov/cwdw/planyourvisit/brochures.htm



New Trail Ambassador Volunteer Program and Recreation Fitness Equipment at Fort Mahan Trailhead of the Hiker-Biker Trail

The ambassador program will employ volunteers to help promote programs and to maintain the park trails. NPS National Capital Parks - East will soon be offering new fitness equipment at the Fort Mahan trailhead of the hiker-biker trail to promote active use of the park.

Completion: winter 2011

Cost and source of funding: Part of a \$50,000 Recreational Grant from the National Park Foundation and Coca-Cola.

Who owns and maintains the park? NPS

Who will run the program in the future? NPS



Location and size:
Between Grant and 42nd
Streets, SE at Fort Mahan
and East Capitol Street

Advancing the Big Idea:

The recreation fitness equipment along the hiker-biker trail will hopefully increase trail use and local appreciation of Fort Mahan. Increasing park user resources near trailheads in the Fort Circle Parks/CWDW is one of the recommendations of CapitalSpace. The trail ambassador program is an example of how park managers can use civic involvement and local partnerships to leverage its resources to better the Fort Circle Park/CWDW. CapitalSpace identified the concept of building partnerships as one of the key strategies for improving Washington's park system.

Sources/links for additional information:
www.nps.gov/cwdw



Trail ambassadors planting trees at Fort Mahan park.

The Fort Circle Parks/CWDW Hiking And Biking Trail Guide

The Fort Circle Parks/CWDW are part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. In fall 2010, the NPS produced a new brochure highlighting more than 50 miles of self-guided hiking and bicycling routes to connect the historic Civil War forts in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia. The Student Conservation Association joined the effort as a partner by providing summer interns who prepared a new DCPS 8th grade CWDW curriculum, and assisted with trail brochure design and a new Civil War 150th Anniversary Junior Ranger booklet.

Completion: fall 2010

Cost and source of funding: \$5,000 from NPS Connect Trails to Parks program.

Who owns and maintains the park? NPS

Who will update the brochure as needed? NPS

Location and size: Fort Circle Parks/CWDW



Advancing the Big Idea:

The new brochure and curriculum both enhance the public's awareness of the parks as places of natural beauty, historic treasures, and neighborhood recreation. The brochure is a quick and convenient way for the NPS to show the entire system of interrelated Civil War forts throughout the region, and an interim measure to physically connect the parks through the network of existing trails and sidewalks.

Sources/links for additional information:

www.nps.gov/cwdw

www.nps.gov/cwdw/fortteachers/index.htm

www.nps.gov/cwdw/planyourvisit/brochures.htm



Section 1: Implementing Priority Actions - Six Big Ideas

Big Idea #2

Improve public school yards to help relieve pressure on nearby parks and better connect children with the environment.

CapitalSpace recognizes the valuable and often underused resource of schoolyards in providing communities with much needed open space, and in some cases, playgrounds and recreational facilities. ☞ The CapitalSpace partners completed a schoolyard greening project at Calvin Coolidge High School. ☞ Coordinated improvements at two co-located schools and recreation centers highlight how to expand recreational opportunities for students and the surrounding community. ☞ In all projects, students and community members are involved in maintaining these new facilities. ☞



PROJECTS

Coolidge High School Schoolyard Greening Project

Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center

Watkins Playground, Courts and Athletic Field



Coolidge High School Schoolyard Greening Project

Each year, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), in partnership with the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Mentoring Program (ACE), sponsors a noteworthy community service Legacy Project in the host city of its annual conference. In 2010, the ASLA chose Calvin Coolidge High School in the Takoma Park neighborhood. NCPC staff chaired the Legacy Project, with major participation by the ASLA Potomac Chapter and community volunteers. With support from the Coolidge High School Alumni Association (Alumni Association), DDOE, and the DC Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), the school principal, faculty, and students built several types of gardens around an existing greenhouse.

The purpose of this schoolyard greening project was to leverage donations of goods and services from the ASLA National Conference vendors to construct a landscape project that would enhance the school's environmental education curriculum with an outdoor classroom and to improve connections between the campus and the surrounding neighborhood. The Coolidge High School Legacy Project developed:

- a conceptual outdoor master plan for campus beautification projects and an environmental education program.
- a program and plan for a Greenhouse Garden that will:
 - showcase the greenhouse.
 - celebrate the school's history and heritage of its place in the community.
 - accommodate an organic vegetable and native plant garden.
 - design a sustainable landscape.
 - provide a collaborative outdoor teaching area.

In preparation for a design charette, the students attended five mentoring sessions that integrated the school's math and science curriculum into lessons on the landscape architecture profession, the design process, and environmental stewardship. In November 2010, the students and community volunteers helped create a butterfly garden, a meadow, raised planter beds, a memorial garden and a rain garden.

The ASLA Potomac Chapter developed a Garden Guide to incorporate learning activities into the garden, as well as a maintenance manual for the students and community to care for the gardens.

Completion: The gardens were constructed and most were planted in fall 2010. The edible garden and meadow were planted in spring 2011.

Cost and source of funding: The following summarizes the estimated costs and sources of funding:

Landscape materials, including irrigation systems, soil and plants, site furnishings, lighting and paving materials valued at approximately \$150,000 were donated by 37 local and national vendors through the ASLA National Convention and Expo.

Site preparation requiring the use of heavy equipment valued at \$250,000 was provided by the OPEFM and volunteers.

Professional services were donated by ASLA Potomac Chapter volunteers valued at approximately \$125,000.

Labor to help construct and plant the gardens was provided by Coolidge High School students and alumni, and community volunteers.

The Alumni Association has committed to work with the school to implement additional improvements identified in the master plan as funding becomes available.

Who owns and maintains the schoolyard and gardens? DCPS owns the school; Coolidge High School students, the Alumni Association, and community members will maintain the gardens.

Location: Calvin Coolidge High School, 6315 5th Street, NW. Schoolyard garden project area is one acre.



Advancing the Big Idea:

The Coolidge High School Legacy Project promotes CapitalSpace ideas for improving schoolyards to address the open space needs of the surrounding neighborhood, as well as the school. It also provided opportunities for community involvement in the planning process to modernize and redevelop schools and their yards. This grassroots initiative benefited from the pro bono work of a cadre of professionals in the landscape architecture and construction fields, as well as the commitment of local elected officials and resourcefulness of the Alumni Association members. While the direct beneficiary of the project is the student population of Coolidge High School, neighborhood access to the gardens is ensured by the continued involvement of the Alumni Association in maintaining the garden. This project is also a good example of leveraging non-monetary resources, not only to improve a schoolyard, but also to identify educational programs that integrate civics, leadership, math, science, and career development.

Sources/links for additional information:

www.ncpc.gov/capitalspace

Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center

The OPEFM, in coordination with DPR and DCPS, completed a full renovation and expansion of the Stoddert Elementary School and Recreation Center during the 2009 – 2010 school year. The new, modernized, Stoddert Elementary School boasts LEED Gold certification, a new gymnasium, new athletic field and playground, new media center and cafeteria, 42-space parking lot, a drop-off area in the front of the school, community areas and additional administrative space for both DCPS and DPR. One of the most interesting features of the project is underneath the athletic field – a geothermal energy system that provides the building with ground source heating and cooling. The system can be monitored in the lobby through an interactive kiosk that provides information on sustainable energy sources.

Completion: Indoor facilities - August 2010 / Athletic field – July 2011

Cost and source of funding: \$34.3 million, with \$5.9 million from DPR and \$28.4 million from OPEFM.

Who owns and maintains the park? DPR currently operates the recreational facilities on-site, while DCPS operates the elementary school. Following a recent reorganization, OPEFM capital building and maintenance responsibilities are now conducted by the DC Department of General Services, which maintains both the recreation facility and the school.

Involved non-profit partners: The local community has created a gardening group to build a 4,000 square feet teaching garden for the school. The project is sponsored by DC Greens, a local non-profit organization.



Photo Credit: Laura Kezman



Location and size:
3911 Calvert Street,
NW, eight acres

Advancing the Big Idea:

This project accomplishes several recommendations of CapitalSpace for increasing athletic field capacity to meet the growing demand for active recreational facilities in communities. It is a great example of how co-located facilities can work together to provide enhanced community benefits through a collaborative planning and programming process. By leveraging their resources through coordinated planning, DPR and DCPS are providing access to a wide variety of academic, cultural and athletic events for multi-generational members of the community. The new athletic field increases capacity and provides a safer surface to play on for both students and community members. Stoddert is able to expand its reach in the community while at the same time providing enhanced educational programming for its students by involving the community in developing a teaching garden.

Sources/links for additional information:

stoddertgarden.wordpress.com

dcgreens.org

Watkins Playground, Courts and Athletic Field

Watkins Elementary School and Watkins Recreation Center are co-located and work together to provide the facilities and open space to serve school children as well as the Capitol Hill community. DPR, in conjunction with OPEFM, worked with the community to design and build several new, transformative features for Watkins Recreation Center. The new elements include a multi-purpose athletic field with a synthetic surface, basketball courts, a street hockey rink, a playground and a tot lot. The playground has a natural play theme, and the design preserved existing trees and incorporated new plantings. Low Impact Development (LID) elements were used to help manage stormwater on site.

Completion: summer 2011

Cost and source of funding: \$2.3 million, using \$1.6 million from DPR capital projects and the rest from OPEFM capital projects.

Who owns and maintains the recreation center? DPR is responsible for programming the space, while the DC Department of General Services will maintain the site.

Involved non-profit partners: DPR is working with the elementary school and a potential “friends” group to help maintain the new playground, tot lot, multi-purpose field and playgrounds.



Location and size:
13th and E Streets SE,
2.5 acres

Advancing the Big Idea:

The upgrades at Watkins Recreation Center are a great example of improvements to schoolyards that directly benefit the students, as well as the surrounding community. Spaces that previously weren't utilized after school are now transformed into community gathering spaces and amenities. This project highlights the power of parks and school agencies working together and with the community. The District has a number of co-located public facilities, and DPR and OPEFM have partnered on a similar effort at Hearst Elementary School and Recreational Center.

Sources/links for additional information:

[dpr.dc.gov/DC/DPR/
Property+Improvements/Capital+Projects/
Capital+Improvement+Projects/
Watkins+Field+Renovations](http://dpr.dc.gov/DC/DPR/Property+Improvements/Capital+Projects/Capital+Improvement+Projects/Watkins+Field+Renovations)



DC Mayor Vincent C. Gray and DPR Director Jesús Aguirre, at the ribbon-cutting for Watkins.



Section 1: Implementing Priority Actions - Six Big Ideas

Big Idea #3

Enhance urban natural areas and better connect residents to encourage urban stewardship for natural resources.

CapitalSpace recognized that Washington, DC is blessed with diverse and ecologically-rich parks, many of which are on NPS land. ☞ These parks are experiencing pressure from increased urban development, not only in terms of encroachment, but also demand for increased active uses, since they are the few remaining open, undeveloped areas in the District. ☞ The good news is, the Government of the District of Columbia and NPS have partnered to create new parks and park amenities that enhance water resources and habitats while providing recreational benefits to residents. ☞



PROJECTS

Anacostia Park Trail

Georgetown Waterfront Park - Phase 2

Anacostia Park Trail

The Anacostia Park Trail is part of the 16-mile Anacostia Riverwalk trail system that runs along both sides of the Anacostia River, linking neighborhoods in southeast DC from its northern terminus, to cultural, retail and residential destinations in southwest DC. This segment of the Anacostia Riverwalk provides improved pedestrian and bicycle access to the amenities of Anacostia Park and the waterfront.

The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail system will provide a continuous multi-use trail linking open spaces and public gathering spaces with Anacostia Park, including new developments such as the Yards Park (see page 21), Diamond Teague Park, Nationals Park baseball stadium, a planned mixed use development in the southwest waterfront, Poplar Point, Buzzard Point, and the National Mall via the Tidal Basin. This trail system will provide residents and visitors with a new recreation amenity and transportation option, enhance waterfront access, and improve the water quality of the rivers.

Completion: The Anacostia Park Trail segment was completed in fall 2011. Twelve miles of the Riverwalk Trail are complete, while the rest are in the planning, design or construction phase. The entire trail system is anticipated to be completed in 2014.

Cost and source of funding: Estimated \$50 million for the entire Riverwalk Trail system. The two primary funding sources are from direct federal appropriations and the US Department of Transportation's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds.

Who owns and maintains the park? NPS owns Anacostia Park. DDOT is installing the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail and will maintain the trail.

Who will maintain the trail in the future? DDOT

Location and size: The Anacostia Park trail is located at the east bank of the Anacostia River, extending from the Frederick Douglas Bridge to the northern boundary of Anacostia Park, north of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. The trail is approximately 2 miles long and 10 – 12 feet wide.



Advancing the Big Idea:

The project will simultaneously enhance and connect the natural resources of the Anacostia River to residents and visitors. The trail network is a key component of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative's goals to enhance adjacent parkland, improve water quality, and increase waterfront access. The trail also requires the NPS and DDOT to work together in planning the trail alignment through federal and District land and leveraging their agency resources to provide a public amenity for the communities along the Anacostia River.

Sources/links for additional information:

www.capitolriverfront.org/go/riverwalk-trail

ddot.dc.gov/DC/DDOT/Projects+and+Planning/DDOT+Projects/Anacostia+Waterfront+Initiative/Anacostia+Riverwalk+Trails



Georgetown Waterfront Park - Phase 2

Phase 2 of the Georgetown Waterfront Park is the final phase of a multi-year project to create new parkland along the shoreline of the Potomac River. Phase 1 was completed in fall 2008. Phase 2 is located at the eastern end of the park adjacent to Washington Harbor, an existing mixed-use development with retail, restaurants and a ferry terminal that connects Georgetown to Old Town Alexandria in Virginia and National Harbor in Maryland. Phase 2 opened to the public on September 13, 2011 and is already heavily used by residents and visitors. Its amenities include:

- A primary plaza at the southern terminus of Wisconsin Avenue, NW that serves as the major gathering space of the park. The plaza is configured along the river's edge providing visitors with a view overlooking the water.
- An interactive fountain.
- A shelter/pavilion for shade, sitting, and viewing.
- A promenade at the river's edge that links previously completed portions of the park with the plaza, Washington Harbor and points further east along the waterfront.
- A multi-use trail that extends the existing regional Capital Crescent Bike Trail.
- Open lawn areas for passive recreation.
- A bioengineered embankment that helps protect the river from runoff.
- River stairs and plantings at the bulkhead edge that provide seating and pedestrian access to the water's edge.

Completion: September 13, 2011

Cost and source of funding: Approximately \$11 million for Phase 2. Funding was provided from a NPS Centennial Initiative matching grant, the Government of the District of Columbia, and private fund raising.

Who owns and maintains the park? NPS

Location and size: Between Wisconsin and 31st Streets, NW just south of K Street, NW. Phase 2 is approximately 2.3 acres. Total project size is 10 acres (includes all phases).



Advancing the Big Idea:

A key idea of CapitalSpace is to increase the quality and availability of parks to meet the growing and diverse recreation needs of Washington. While CapitalSpace chose not to focus on waterfronts, it identified opportunities to improve under-used public open space, including tracts along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. The Georgetown Waterfront Park - Phase 2 project is a great example of increasing park capacity through land acquisition and redevelopment into public open space. Complementing the earlier Phase 1 improvements along the waterfront, Phase 2 expands the park's boundaries and adds amenities, programming, and more green space. This project addresses federal and local interests by extending and connecting trail systems and offering activities popular with District residents. This project is also an excellent example of a public-private partnership where the District government and private developers contributed to the funding.

Sources/links for additional information:

www.gwfp.dreamhosters.com/

www.nps.gov/olst/planyourvisit/gtwaterfront.htm





Section 1: Implementing Priority Actions - *Six Big Ideas*

Big Idea #4

Improve playfields to meet the needs of residents, workers, and visitors.

CapitalSpace found that improving the quality and accessibility of playfields throughout Washington also increases the capacity of the park system. ☞ The CapitalSpace partners, spearheaded by DPR, have made significant improvements on many ball fields, including Chevy Chase, Shepherd Field, and Edgewood. ☞ The CapitalSpace partners are committed to providing safe, accessible fields for children and adults. ☞



PROJECTS

Chevy Chase Athletic Field

Edgewood Recreation Center and Athletic Field

Shepherd Athletic Field and Playground

Chevy Chase Recreation Center Athletic Field

DPR has upgraded the baseball field located at Chevy Chase Recreation Center as part of a renovation to the entire park. The project scope includes:

- New under-field drainage system.
- New Kentucky Bluegrass sod for entire field and new clay materials for "skinned" areas.
- New warm-up pitching mounds.
- New batting cage.
- New irrigation system.
- New solar-powered electronic scoreboard.
- New metal bleachers.
- New removable, four feet high vinyl-coated chain link fence to define playing field with home run, foul marker poles.
- Replacement of the two metal field maintenance boxes with prefabricated walk-in shed.
- A waterproof electrical outlet at the batting cage.
- New athletic field lighting.

Other improvements include renovation and expansion to the recreation center, new playground and tot lot, enclosed dog park, splash park, and site furniture.

Completion: June 2011

Cost and source of funding: \$4.2 million DPR capital projects

Who owns and maintains the park? DPR will operate the site and the DC Department of General Services is responsible for maintenance.



Location and size:
4101 Livingston
Street, NW, two acres

Advancing the Big Idea:

Recognizing that finding space to create new ball fields can be challenging in urban areas, increasing the capacity of existing fields was a key recommendation of CapitalSpace. This can be accomplished in several ways, including use of more durable surface materials and adding lighting where appropriate, allowing night-time use. As part of the major renovations at the Chevy Chase Recreation Center, the improved ball field at Chevy Chase provides local baseball leagues with a state of the art facility.



Edgewood Recreation Center and Athletic Field

DPR completed renovations for the entire Edgewood Recreation Center facility and athletic field. The project included new athletic field lighting, new play equipment and site furniture, and renovations to the existing recreation center.

In addition to these renovations to the Edgewood Recreation Center, DPR partnered with the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation, the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), and Beacon House, a local nonprofit that helps provide programming at Edgewood, to renovate the football field. Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the NFL's Grassroots Program, the field renovations include a newly resurfaced sod field, installation of bleachers, lighting and an electronic scoreboard. The field will be added to the Redskins' Fields for Tomorrow maintenance program, which has renovated 25 football fields in the Washington metropolitan area. The improvements at Edgewood made a huge difference in the morale of the Beacon House Falcons, Edgewood's local Pop Warner football team – they went on to win the 2010 Division I Junior Pee Wee National Championships, and were the 2011 National Junior Pee Wee National Runner-up Champions.

Completion: May 2010

Cost and source of funding: \$844,000 in DPR capital projects, and a donation of professional services from the NFL Grassroots Program valued at \$100,000.

Who owns and maintains the park? DPR owns the athletic field and recreation center, and the DC Department of General Services will maintain the facilities.

Involved non-profit partners: Beacon House, the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation, and the LISC.



Location and size:
3rd and Evarts
Streets, NE, 4.5 acres

Advancing the Big Idea:

The improvements to Edgewood's athletic field are a great example of the value of partnerships among public agencies, non-profits and the community. In this case, several partnerships brought additional, and different, resources that expanded capital improvements, programming and ongoing maintenance and attention to this field, expanding recreational opportunities for the community.

Sources/links for additional information: www.theedgewoodcivicassociationdc.org/recreation.php



Beacon House

Shepherd Athletic Field and Playground

Shepherd Field underwent renovations that transformed the old athletic field into a year-round, state-of-the-art athletic field and new track. The project also included the installation of a new playground, tot lot, and exercise equipment.

Improvements include:

- artificial turf field.
- new track.
- new site furniture, including a shade pavilion.
- new fencing, landscaping and enhanced ADA accessibility.
- adult exercise equipment.

Completion: September 2011

Cost and source of funding: \$1.7 million from DPR capital projects

Who owns and maintains the park? DPR will operate the site and the DC Department of General Services is responsible for maintenance.

Involved non-profit partners: A new group, the Friends of Shepherd Field, is being formed to help maintain the park.

Location and size: 13th and Jonquil Streets, NW



Advancing the Big Idea:

CapitalSpace recommended using synthetic surfaces, where appropriate, as a way to increase field capacity, provide easier field maintenance, and enhance user safety. By converting Shepherd Field from natural turf to a synthetic surface, the field can accommodate a variety of sports events, including soccer and football, and be permitted on a year-round basis, significantly increasing field capacity. These improvements expand opportunities for organized sports activities while maintaining community access to the field and offering more features for visitors to enjoy.



Elected officials join with young District residents to celebrate the Shepherd Field grand opening.

Section 1: Implementing Priority Actions - *Six Big Ideas*

Big Idea #5

Make center city parks more inviting and active.

The center city parks are located in the densest parts of Washington and experience more pressure from the surrounding neighborhoods to meet local recreational needs. ☞ They are also an integral part of the original 1791 Plan for Washington and often contain commemorative elements. ☞ CapitalSpace balances preservation of the historic and cultural resources within the center city parks with the need to provide additional programming to meet local needs for parks and open space. ☞ To address increased park use demand in the center city, CapitalSpace encourages programming open space in rights-of-way for park use and the creation of new parkland as part of new mixed use developments. ☞ Two center city park projects demonstrate contrasting approaches in rehabilitating a historic square and creating a completely new park using creative financing. ☞



PROJECTS

The Yards Park

McPherson Square



The Yards Park

The Yards Park is part of a mixed-use development in the former Southeast Federal Center, called The Yards, which will include new retail, residential and office buildings, parks and rebuilt public streets, as well as the adaptive reuse of historical industrial buildings. The master plan for this mixed use development envisions The Yards Park as a world-class waterfront park along the Anacostia River that will connect the Nationals Park baseball stadium to the Navy Pier. The park provides a variety of outdoor spaces that include open grassy areas, a waterfall and fountains, a terraced lawn performance venue, biking/jogging trails, a canal basin/wading pool, and riverside gardens in which to eat and shop.

Completion: September 2011

Cost and source of funding: \$42 million from Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) funding, which the Government of the District of Columbia generated by selling a bond against the future taxes that will be generated by surrounding development. The U.S. General Services Administration transferred the land to the District at no cost to the Government of the District of Columbia.

Who owns and maintains the park? The Government of the District of Columbia retains ownership, while the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District (BID), maintains and programs the park with funding provided by Forest City Washington, the private developer of the mixed-use buildings near The Yards Park.

Involved non-profit partners: Capitol Riverfront BID is the primary partner.

Location and size: 10 Water Street, on the Anacostia river in Southeast DC. 5.5 acres, with 1,100 linear feet of river frontage



Advancing the Big Idea:

The Yards Park is an example of a successful, innovative public-private partnership among the Government of the District of Columbia, the U.S. General Services Administration, the Capitol Riverfront BID and Forest City Washington to create and sustain public space as a critical component of a major redevelopment initiative. The maintenance and programming agreement between the Government of the District of Columbia and the Capitol Riverfront BID is a type of partnership encouraged by CapitalSpace, using not-for-profit entities to supplement public resources to ensure the long-term quality and viability of the park.

This signature park complements nearby retail and residential development, and anchors the southeast waterfront of the Anacostia River. The Yards Park creates much-needed open space and recreational venues and provides a focal point for civic, cultural and recreational activities in this growing Southeast neighborhood.

Sources/links for additional information:

www.capitolriverfront.org/go/the-yards-park

www.yardspark.org/



The Yards

McPherson Square

McPherson Square is heavily used by local residents, office workers, and tourists. Thousands of commuters pass through daily, many heading to and from the McPherson Square Metro stop located just south of the square. The park is also a popular lunch destination. Indigent people frequent the park and participate in an evening food service program supported by a local charity, which provides services from a van parked on the west side of the park.

The NPS had prepared a Cultural Resource Inventory to identify the important features of McPherson Square, including the historic landscape elements, the commemorative elements, and the park's overall contribution to the historic Plan of Washington, also known as the L'Enfant Plan. Recognizing that McPherson Square is one of the most prominent historic parks in the downtown, and one that many local stakeholders believe can benefit from improvements, NPS dedicated some of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds into its complete rehabilitation.

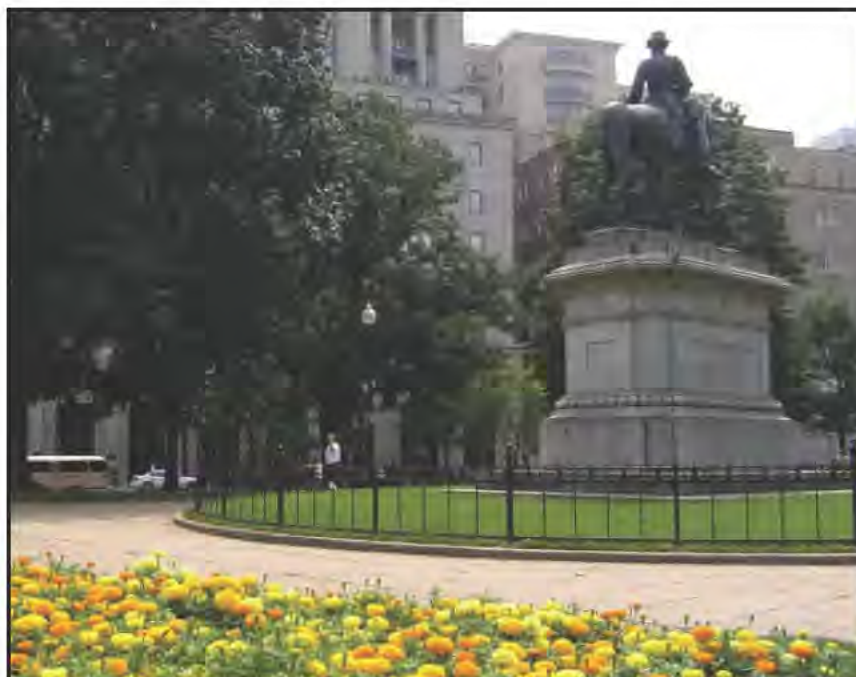
McPherson Square is named after Civil War hero Union Brigadier General James B. McPherson. The circulation system, built in 1930-31, is comprised of a pair of parallel walks along the Vermont Avenue axis, a single walk on the opposite axis, and two narrow curving walks on the east and west sides. The parallel walks divide the park into two triangular areas with a central oval. All walks lead to the center, where a small, circular, paved area surrounds a statue of the general.

The project entailed in-kind replacement of all the major landscape features of McPherson Square including walkways, post and chain fencing, trash receptacles, light poles, benches and drinking fountains. Some modernization and upgrades were implemented, including new irrigation and electrical systems. The historic iron fencing surrounding the statue has been repaired and rehabilitated; however, preservation work on the statue was not in the scope of this project.

Completion: August 2011

Cost and source of funding: Approximately \$425,000, funded by ARRA

Who owns and maintains the park? NPS



Location and size: Two blocks northeast of the White House between K, I, and 15th Streets, N.W. and along the Vermont Avenue corridor, 1.66 acres



Advancing the Big Idea:

This McPherson Square project is a great example of two strategies identified in CapitalSpace to enhance center city parks.

- Identify and target capital improvements to repair and replace infrastructure and amenities, including quality landscaping that will allow increased park usage.
- Research, identify and reinforce historical design elements as defining characteristics of center city parks.

This project shows the benefits of planning and preparing the groundwork for park capital improvements even when funding has not yet been identified. Having prepared the Cultural Resource Inventory prior to ARRA, NPS was then able to identify "shovel-ready" projects at McPherson Square when funding became available.

The project included repair or replacement of degraded or non-functional features, and improved accessibility and sustainability. By addressing many of the condition issues outlined in the Inventory, conditions in McPherson Square improved from fair to good.

Sources/links for additional information:

parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=27110

The McPherson Square Cultural Landscape Inventory can be found here:

parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=427&projectID=27110&documentID=31106

Section 1: Implementing Priority Actions - *Six Big Ideas*

Big Idea #6

Transform small parks into successful public spaces.

A common theme of the small parks projects is their location in the densest and fastest growing areas of Washington. Accessible art, local commemoration and re-purposing unused public space are the results of collaboration.



PROJECTS

New York Avenue Sculpture Project

10th Street Park

New York Avenue Sculpture Project

Conceived by the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) as a way to provide a distinctive identity to this stretch of New York Avenue NW in the center city and to extend the museum’s exhibit space into the public space, the New York Avenue Sculpture Project is a multi-year outdoor art exhibition featuring various artists. The exhibitions change every one to two years until 2015.

The project is intended to highlight the work of female artists while at the same time extend the range of Washington’s traditional public sculpture through the installation of more contemporary works of art. The museum transformed this section of downtown Washington into a new public art space to promote cultural tourism, highlight the contributions of women in the arts, and provide free access to the arts for the community. DCOP and DDOT were instrumental in assisting the museum in planning and implementing this outdoor sculpture program.

The project consists of up to 12 contemporary sculptures set on concrete pads at regularly spaced intervals within the raised median of New York Avenue, NW. Each sculpture is illuminated by ground-level, LED spotlights. The project also renovated the median landscaping and provides signage describing the project and interpreting the artwork. Phase 1 stretches from 12th to 13th Street, NW and features four sculptures by French artist Niki de Sainte Phalle.

Completion: Phase 1 was installed in April 2010. This is a multi-year project that will end in 2015.

Cost and source of funding: Approximately \$200,000 for Phase 1. The project is funded through support from NMWA National Advisory Board member Medda Gudelsky, the Downtown DC Business Improvement District (BID), Wilhelm and Wallace Holladay, the Philip L. Graham Fund, the Homer and Martha Gudelsky Family Foundation; Fed Ex; Sheila C. Johnson, CEO, Salamander Hospitality LLC; NMWA members and others. DDOT also provided funding through its Transportation Enhancement Program.

Who owns and maintains the park? DDOT owns the median where the sculptures are located. The Downtown DC BID maintains the median, while the museum is responsible for the maintenance of the public art.

Involved non-profit partners: The NMWA and the BID are the primary local partners.

Location and size: New York Avenue, between 9th and 13th Streets, NW, in front of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. For Phase 1, the sculptures will be located within a 320 feet long by 16 feet wide median.



Advancing the Big Idea:

This is an example of finding opportunities to activate small parks in public spaces to create an identity for a community. It is also an example of leveraging the resources of an established non-profit, NMWA, to program public green spaces with the support of the CapitalSpace partners. In this case, the local partners, the NMWA and the BID, already had a compelling idea and funding for a project to activate the green spaces along New York Avenue, NW. During the concept design phase, the CapitalSpace partners worked together facilitating the local partners’ idea from concept to realization, which entailed securing additional funding, coordinating with local and federal agencies and final plan approvals from the NCPC and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

Sources/links for additional information:

www.nmwa.org/sculptureproject/



10th Street Park

DPR was approached by the Mount Vernon Square/Logan Circle community in 2009 to help develop an under-utilized parcel of land into a small urban pocket park. When local community activist Connie Maffin passed away after a brief illness, the programming of the park was adapted to include a memorial honoring her work as part of the Logan Circle Community Association.

The park features include:

- A hardscaped plaza.
- An open lawn.
- Play area with rubber surface and creative play structures.
- Landscaping featuring native plants.
- Bioretention areas to control stormwater.
- A decorative water feature.
- Low-level lighting.
- Furnishings such as benches, tables, chairs and trash cans.
- Elements memorializing local activist Connie Maffin and recognizing community service in general.

Completion Date: April 2011

Cost and source of funding: \$1.55 million from DPR

Who owns and maintains the park? DPR will operate the site and the Department of General Services is responsible for maintenance.

Involved non-profit partners: The Constance Whittaker Maffin Community Service Memorial Fund has provided funding to cover the cost of the memorial inside the park. DPR will work with the Friends of 10th Street Park, as well as the Memorial Fund, on park upkeep and programming.



Location: 10th Street, NW, between L and M Streets, .2 acres

Advancing the Big Idea:

The park activates a space that would otherwise have been left vacant. In providing a pocket park for the neighborhood, DPR built a stronger relationship with the community and increased park system capacity. This park should be used as a case study for new park development within the center city.

Sources/links to additional information:

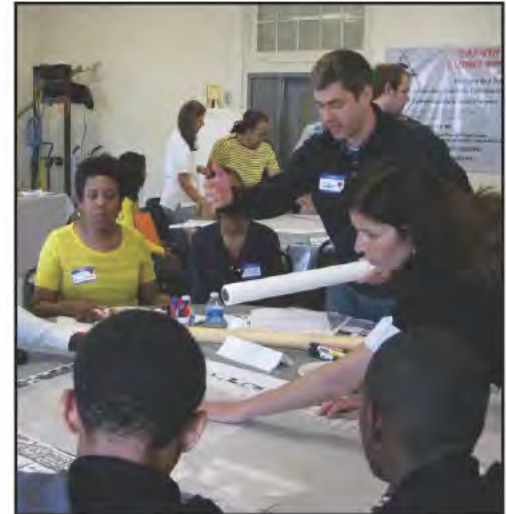
dpr.dc.gov/DC/DPR/Property+Improvements/Capital+Projects/Capital+Improvement+Projects/10th+Street+Park+-+Park+Development
www.10thstreetparkfriends.org/





Section 2: Other Partnership Accomplishments in 2010-2011

Projects featured in this section of the Progress Report involve collaborative efforts among the CapitalSpace Partners that advance the plan's overarching recommendations to maximize resources and coordinate on shared issues.



PROJECTS

DPR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Update

Fort Circle Parks/Civil War Defenses of Washington Long Range Interpretive Plan

Reservations 72, 73 and 74 Small Parks Design Study

DPR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update

In late 2009, the NPS issued a request for the District of Columbia to update its Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in order to remain eligible to receive Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants from NPS. The LWCF grant provides matching funds for projects that help protect watersheds and provide recreational opportunities for the Washington community. LWCF grants can also be used to help fund future planning endeavors, such as a complete rewrite of Washington's SCORP to better align the document with DC's comprehensive plan and CapitalSpace.

DPR worked with the CapitalSpace partners to update the SCORP and coordinate the goals with those of CapitalSpace. The SCORP was then submitted to the NPS Planning and Partnerships Team in the Philadelphia office and was reviewed and approved.

Completion: The updated SCORP was approved by NPS in August 2011.

Cost and source of funding: This project was completed using existing staff resources from DCOP, DPR, NPS and NCPC.

Fort Circle Parks/Civil War Defenses of Washington (CWDW) Long Range Interpretive Plan

The Long Range Interpretive Plan for the Civil War Defenses of Washington (CWDW) focuses on strategies for reinforcing the idea of the forts as a single interpretive unit through signage, web-based tours and information, and on-site visitor facilities. Since fall 2010, NPS has held workshops and focus group meetings with its primary stakeholders, including local civic groups such as Groundwork DC, Friends of Fort Dupont, and the Alliance to Preserve CWDW to solicit their ideas on interpretive themes, partnership strategies, and public outreach. The CapitalSpace partners are also primary stakeholders and have provided their input on the contents of the Long Range Interpretive Plan.

Completion: November 2011

Cost and source of funding: This plan was completed using existing staff resources.

Advancing Collaboration:

The CapitalSpace Initiative established strong working relationships between the partner agencies. The projects on this page provide two examples of how ongoing collaboration continues to enhance park projects and resources for Washington. Each partner agency provided staff expertise and assistance to complete these important projects.

The SCORP update incorporated recommendations from CapitalSpace, which provided a more comprehensive understanding of the outdoor recreational needs of the city beyond DPR's jurisdictional boundaries. Partner agency staff assisted DPR in reviewing the draft SCORP, ensuring DPR could complete the update in a reasonable time frame.

Completing the SCORP update also ensured that DPR had access to important federal funding resources from the LWCF, which could be used to improve local parks and advance all six of the CapitalSpace Big Ideas. With future LWCF grants available for additional SCORP updates, opportunities exist to expand beyond DPR sites to identify local recreation projects eligible for grants from other CapitalSpace partners.

The extensive work completed on the fort parks during the development of CapitalSpace provided a shared understanding of the issues, opportunities and long term goals among the partner agencies. This better enabled the partner agencies to be engaged, knowledgeable stakeholders in the Long Range Interpretive Plan process.

Reservations 72, 73 and 74 Small Parks Design Study

The CapitalSpace partners conducted a design study of a cluster of small parks at the intersection of 5th Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The largest of the three parks, Reservation 72, is commonly called Chinatown Park and was in the midst of being improved by the Downtown DC BID. The purpose of the study was to test the applicability of the CapitalSpace recommendations for activating center city parks by planning for a cluster of parks. The study objectives were to:

- Generate a range of potential programming in and around the park cluster to meet neighborhood recreation needs while complementing and enhancing historic and commemorative elements.
- Identify opportunities to expand park activities beyond the standard park boundaries.
- Address placemaking, sustainability, passive recreation, historic preservation and maintenance issues through innovative design approaches.

The CapitalSpace partners also considered how to use study concepts as fundraising tools and to promote community interest in park enhancements. The NPS requirements for cooperative agreements to fund improvements and maintenance beyond the basic “clean and safe” standards were explored. The District’s public space permitting review process was also examined.

Ultimately, the study arrived at conclusions about NPS parks in the center city:

- It’s difficult to plan and design for improvements over and above existing conditions without an authoritative cultural resources inventory to guide NPS staff in determining appropriate interventions.
- NPS maintenance agreements with park partners limit types of improvements and programming for center city parks. Through this design exercise, NPS committed to initiate the process for developing a Cultural Resource Inventory of center city parks with the CapitalSpace partners. The initial step will focus on developing the scope of work and identifying the resources needed to pursue a system-wide inventory with the participation and assistance of the other CapitalSpace partners.

Completion: December 2010

Cost and source of funding: The Small Parks Design Study used \$40,000 of remaining funds from the CapitalSpace initiative.

Who owns and maintains the parks? NPS owns and currently maintains the parks.

Location: Intersections of Massachusetts Avenue, NW and 5th Street, NW, consisting of three small parks each measuring a half acre or less, with a combined area of less than an acre.



Advancing Collaboration:

The partner agencies used the Small Parks Design Study to provide an on-the-ground test case and identify the steps necessary to implement plan recommendations. CapitalSpace calls out major policy considerations such as federal interests related to commemoration and park conservation, and local interests for recreation venues and community placemaking, all of which were explored in this study. This design exercise also brought to light the challenges and opportunities of determining the cultural and historic resources of the parks that need to be preserved. By exploring different design options together, the partner agencies had a better understanding of the many steps in moving from plan to implementation.

CapitalSpace

A Park System for the Nation's Capital

