

National Mall Levee System

Since 1936, a levee system on the National Mall has protected the city of Washington, DC from overbank flooding of the Potomac River—a system that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deemed inadequate in 2006. Without upgrades to the current system, much of Washington's monumental core will lie within a 100-year floodplain according to proposed flood maps released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The proposed maps will go into effect if upgrades to the system are not in place by November 2009. NCPC, which brought this issue to the attention of the public, is now working with its federal partners and the District of Columbia to approve a design that will ensure public safety and preserve the treasured landscape of the Mall.



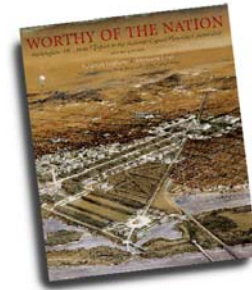
Sustainability Initiative

The National Capital Planning Commission has started work on a new sustainability initiative that affirms the agency's commitment to addressing the region's environmental issues. The purpose of this initiative is to work in coordination with federal and local efforts to incorporate sustainable development goals and objectives into the Commission's work, and in particular into the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. This work will guide the agency in the creation of long range plans and in its review of development projects and master plans, and will provide applicants with clear guidance on sustainability policies during the review process.



Greening NCPC

The agency's recently established Greening Committee has identified steps to meet green objectives agency wide. To date, 95 percent of NCPC employees walk, bicycle, or use public transportation to the office. NCPC offers two bicycles for staff use and provides receptacles for recycling paper, bottles, glass, and cans; printers that default to double-sided; a telework policy; and Energy Star computers. NCPC encourages electronic submission of documents; turning off office lights and computer screens at the end of the day; closing window shades; purchasing green products; and more. The Green Committee is currently working on identifying additional greening steps for future implementation.



Worthy of the Nation: Washington, DC, from L'Enfant to the National Capital Planning Commission

NCPC's text, *Worthy of the Nation* vividly details how a plot of land at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers in Maryland and Virginia became the capital of the United States of America and one of the world's most magnificent cities. Updated nearly 30 years after it was first published, the handsome 2006 edition tells the fascinating story of the nation's capital. It features more than 250 historic and contemporary photographs, maps, and illustrative site plans.

The book reveals the evolution of Washington as envisioned by Pierre L'Enfant, the McMillan Commission, and the National Capital Planning Commission. It chronicles Washington's beginnings, the growth of the city during the 19th Century, and the expansion of the National Capital Region in the post-war era. *Worthy* also details the advent of the region's rapid rail transit system, and the remarkable revitalization of the District of Columbia's central city. *Worthy of the Nation* serves as a definitive resource on the history of planning in the nation's capital.



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



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National Capital Planning Commission



As the federal government's central planning agency for the nation's capital and surrounding region, the National Capital Planning Commission protects and enhances Washington, DC's renowned architecture, inspiring memorials, and world-class cultural resources.

Established in 1924, the 12-member Commission is assisted by a professional staff that includes urban planners, architects, and landscape architects. The agency develops long-term plans for the capital, provides planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the National Capital Region, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.





Plan Review

From master plans to monumental buildings, from memorials to public works, NCPC plays an important role in the ongoing development of the nation's capital. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of Pierre L'Enfant when he laid out the city of Washington more than 200 years ago. As the federal government's central planning agency in the Washington region, NCPC touches every federal project in the region. Recently, the Commission granted final approval to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, celebrating the life and legacy of this important civil rights era leader whose message still reverberates through American discourse today. Also this year, NCPC advanced the public-private partnership that will bring modern housing and new public parkland to the Armed Forces Retirement Home, while protecting the Home's historic setting of President Abraham Lincoln's country cottage. And in the coming months, the Commission will consider a range of projects including the extension of an original L'Enfant street, a memorial to disabled veterans, and a master plan for the National Zoo.

Extending the Legacy: Planning America's Capital for the 21st Century

NCPC's *Extending the Legacy* is a seminal planning document that builds on Washington, DC's rich planning tradition. Just as the L'Enfant Plan of 1791 and the McMillan Plan of 1901 each charted a long-term course for Washington's monumental core, the 1997 Legacy plan offers a vision to meet the demands of a growing and vibrant capital.

Legacy redefines the city's monumental core. It recenters Washington on the U.S. Capitol; reclaims the city's waterfront; and outlines bold proposals for transportation, revitalization, and open space. The plan offers sweeping ideas for change and imagines Washington as a more efficient and beautiful capital, worthy of a great nation. Today, the agency continues to advance the ideas and priorities laid out in 1997, and NCPC is pleased that so many of the plan's major proposals are already taking shape.



Urban Design and Security

The National Capital Planning Commission continues to be actively involved in the public discussion about where and how to provide physical security for federal facilities in the nation's capital. The Commission has released several publications on this subject including *Designing for Security in the Nation's Capital* (October 2001), *The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan* (October 2002), and *Designing and Testing of Perimeter Security Elements* (May 2005). Due to the importance of our public spaces, and the concentration of federal facilities in the nation's capital, the Commission has once again convened its Interagency Security Task Force to identify solutions that improve security as well as access to public spaces and buildings.

Memorials and Museums Master Plan

To help preserve the treasured open space of the National Mall, NCPC spearheaded the development of a master plan to locate memorials and museums throughout Washington. Released in 2001, the *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* identifies 100 potential sites beyond the Mall for future memorials and museums. The plan also proposes a Reserve, a concept adopted by Congress in 2003 that precludes additional commemorative works on the Mall.



The plan already has successfully guided the location of several commemorative works, and has strengthened and enhanced other areas of the capital, by spreading cultural attractions to other parts of the city. NCPC produced the award-winning plan in collaboration with the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.

Circulator

First envisioned in NCPC's 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan and launched in 2005, the Circulator provides convenient transportation to Washington's landmarks, restaurants, and workplaces. The Circulator is improving mobility downtown and around Washington's monumental core, making city travel a more pleasant experience. The service is a result of an effective public-private partnership.



National Capital Framework Plan

The National Capital Framework Plan is a product of the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. The Framework Plan aims to advance the ideas proposed in *Extending the Legacy* by extending the special civic qualities of the National Mall and the vitality and vibrancy of the city into the federal office precincts located nearby. The plan creates public destinations worthy of memorials, museums, and cultural attractions that will serve future generations while protecting the historic open space of the National Mall. It offers exciting opportunities for mixed-use, private development and is designed to meet not only the needs of the federal government, but also those of the city's residents and visitors.



CapitalSpace

Washington has more public parkland per capita than almost any other densely populated U.S. city. There are 16 acres for every 1,000 residents, offering approximately 9,300 acres of natural areas, formal parks, and recreation amenities. Several local and federal agencies with distinct missions share responsibility for planning and managing them. Today the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park Service, and the District of Columbia have forged a unique federal/local partnership, CapitalSpace, to plan for the challenges and opportunities facing our open spaces. The CapitalSpace Plan will identify actions that can best be accomplished by these agencies working together.

