



Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

District of Columbia



MOVING *from* **Vision to Reality**

A Comprehensive Plan Progress Report



Office of Planning
Harriet Tregoning, Director

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

The District of Columbia is emerging as a globally competitive city. We are the nation's capital – an international center of knowledge and power – and the heart of one of America's largest and most prosperous metropolitan areas. We are a city of unique and diverse neighborhoods. We are a green city with more than 7,800 acres of parks. We are home to more than 70 museums and nearly 90 performing arts organizations. And we are an international city with 180 embassies and foreign missions. Our great streets and inspiring public spaces draw millions of visitors from around the world.

The District's Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint to help us continue on our path toward becoming a more inclusive city. The Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) is used to set policies and provide direction on how our city will grow and develop for decades to come. The District's Comp Plan underwent a major revision in 2004-2006. The updated Comp Plan now includes color graphics, maps, photos, charts and tables to make it more functional and user-friendly.

One of the major changes of the Comp Plan is the Implementation Element, which describes how the policies and actions should be carried out. To ensure that the Comp Plan is not a plan that collects dust, the Implementation Element also includes an "Action Planning" table where all 626 action items are detailed with the names of responsible agencies, time frames, and funding implications.

I am pleased to share this Progress Report with you. During the past three years, we have taken many steps throughout the District government and with our private sector partners in implementing the Comp Plan. Even in today's economic climate, despite a challenging budget, we have seen measurable improvements in many neighborhoods across the District where action items are well underway or completely implemented. In this Progress Report, you will read about real examples and genuine progress in our city, such as the Watts Branch stream valley, Kennedy Street, NW revitalization, new SmartBike stations, and new energy efficient building construction.

As we continue to build on our successes and act to further implement our plan, I look forward to continuing our partnerships with all of you. By working together, the District can continue to become the inclusive world-class city we aspire to be.

Sincerely,
Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor

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WHERE WE'VE COME FROM, WHERE WE ARE

Implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan affects everyone who lives or works in the District. It guides where development occurs; where green space, recreation facilities, and parks are improved; how transportation investments are made; and how neighborhoods are conserved and enhanced as desirable places to live.

From far-reaching policies on green building standards to localized small area plans, DC is taking action and making measurable progress on growing an "inclusive city." Growing inclusively means overcoming barriers that have divided the city by income, education, and employment. It means that all residents have choices about where they live, how and where they earn a living, and how they get around the city. Growing an inclusive city is at the heart of the Comprehensive Plan and why its implementation is important to all residents.

NATIONAL CHANGES, LOCAL RESILIENCE

While certainly affected by national and regional economic conditions, the District is faring better in the current downturn than many other cities and metropolitan regions. Continuing a trend begun in 2000, the District's population is increasing, reversing over half a century of population decline.

This growth and our current economic resilience are directly attributable to the District's unique assets and competitive strengths. A combination of factors – including a strong institutional and federal presence and walkable, transit-accessible neighborhoods – keeps the District an attractive place to live, work and visit.

Local Trends

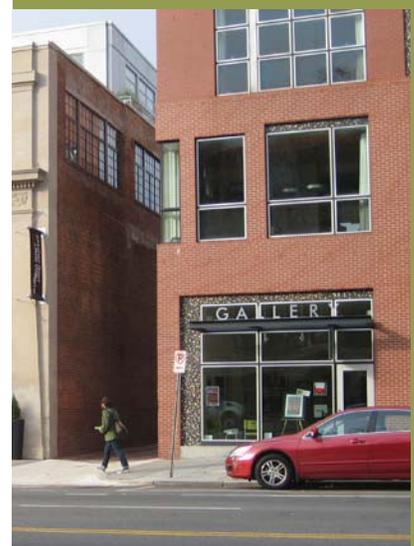
Over the past 10 years, the District of Columbia and the Washington Metropolitan region experienced a tremendous period of growth despite the effects of two national recessions. The federal government's stability during recessions has historically insulated the District from certain types of national downturns.

The District has attracted households with higher incomes to live in the District due to demographic shifts and a growing interest in urban living. Since 1999, the District has seen an increase, both in real and percentage terms, of higher-income home purchasers earning more than 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). Growth was greatest for households earning more than 120 percent of the AMI. (Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data, www.Dataplace.org, Office of Planning) Furthermore, despite a jump in unemployment (from 5.4 percent in March 2007 to 9.9 percent in April 2009), the District has lost fewer jobs on a percentage basis than the rest of the region.

While home values have decreased across the region since 2006, District homes have not depreciated as much as those in the rest of the region, as shown in Figure 1. Housing values in the District began to increase in 1998, peaking in June 2005. Annual appreciation slowed after 2005 as the supply of for-sale housing from new construction first met and then began to exceed total demand. Home values started to decline when the sub-prime mortgage collapse caused a drastic reduction in the number of buyers qualifying for mortgages and worsened as foreclosures began to increase. (Source: Freddie Mac, Office of Planning)

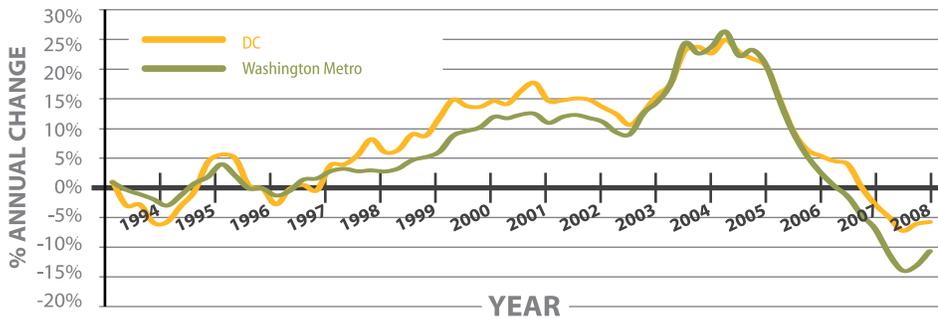


From 1998 to 2008, the District absorbed an average of approximately 20 million square feet of office space and added 1,400 residential units per year. As a result, the District added 91,300 jobs and grew by 26,600 residents. (Source: Office of Planning, BLS, US Census)



14th Street, NW has seen significant growth and development.

Figure 1: Annual Percent Change in DC Housing Values, 1994 through 1st Quarter 2009



Competitive Position Moving Forward

Long-range forecasts completed since 2006, such as those prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, continue to predict robust growth for the District. The continued growth is attributable to long term economic and demographic trends, including:

- The District is home to federal jobs totaling over 190,000 civilian jobs;
- Over 400,000 persons work but do not live in the District;
- Regional transportation problems will cause commute times to increase; and

- Peak oil production and increased competition from China and India will continue to cause rising gas prices.

Pedestrian-oriented, transit-accessible neighborhoods are better suited to respond to these conditions. A relatively stable job market, walkable and transit-accessible neighborhoods near employment centers, and the ability to live with little or no auto-dependence uniquely position the District for continued success. "How is the District Projected to Grow?" on page 16, shows how the 2006 Comprehensive Plan projected growth for the District population, jobs, and households.

MEASURING PROGRESS AND REPORTING ON ACTIONS

Since adoption, the 2006 Comprehensive Plan has provided the policy guidance and the road map to shape how the District grows and changes.

The Comprehensive Plan's policies and actions have served to keep District agencies, residents, public and private partners moving toward the vision of a more inclusive city. Progress made in plan implementation includes all of the accomplishments described in this report and scores more – too many to list. All of this progress is the result of collaboration, partner-

ships, hard work, and the commitment of all District residents to a shared vision.

OVERALL PROGRESS

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan includes a chapter on plan implementation. This addition is a major departure from past comprehensive plans for the District. It represents an important step forward in assuring accountability, covering various aspects of how to implement the plan and monitor progress. Within the Implementation Element, an Action Plan

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES

The recommended implementation timeframes in the Action Plan represent when an action should start – not how long it will take to complete. Many actions may start almost immediately, but take many years to complete, such as a comprehensive review and update of the zoning regulations. It may not be appropriate for others to start until sometime in the future, yet those actions may only take a few months to complete.

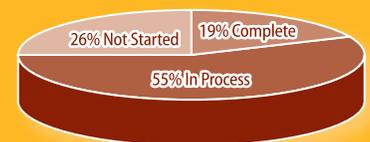
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ACTION ITEMS



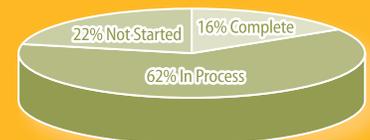
LEGEND:

- Ongoing: Continuous activities (38%)
- Immediate: Initiate by 2006-2007 (4%)
- Short-term: Initiate by 2008-2009 (27%)
- Mid-term: Initiate by 2010-2011 (22%)
- Long-term: Initiate after 2010 (9%)

IMMEDIATE SHORT-TERM ACTIONS



PRIORITY ACTION PLAN ITEMS



describes responsibility, timeframes for completion, and whether or not capital funds are needed for completion for all 626 Comprehensive Plan action items.

Of these 626 actions, 31 percent were slated to begin before 2010 (immediate and short-term actions). District agencies have begun 74 percent of those.

The Action Plan also identifies priority action items. Of the 130 priority actions in the Plan, 62 percent have begun and 16 percent are complete.

The status of each and every action is available in the Appendix to this report, the Action Items Report, which is available online at www.planning.dc.gov.

STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY OF PLANS

The Comprehensive Plan can be thought of as the centerpiece of a “Family of Plans” guiding public policy in the District – other plans in this family include transportation, historic preservation, housing, and environmental plans. The Comprehensive Plan establishes the priorities and key actions that other plans address in greater detail. The 2006 Comprehensive Plan update itself greatly strengthened this family – adding Implementation, Parks and Open Space, Infrastructure, Arts and Culture, and Education Facilities Elements where none existed.

Since adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the District’s family of plans has continued to grow stronger with the development of targeted small area and neighborhood plans. These geography-specific plans provide the detail to support and implement the Comprehensive Plan and other citywide plans.

NIF plans have been developed for all 12 identified target areas established in the enabling legislation, the Neighborhood Investment Act of 2004, as amended.



New Year celebrations in Chinatown.

Small Area Plans

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan recommended that small area plans (SAPs) be developed to provide guidance on growth and development at the neighborhood level. The plans are generated through a collaborative process among the community, the Office of Planning, and other District agencies and are adopted by the District Council. Since 2006, 10 SAPs have been approved and another three (Bellevue, Chinatown, and Mt. Pleasant) are nearing completion.

Neighborhood Investment Fund Plans

Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) Plans offer another means of implementing the Comprehensive and other citywide plans. These strategic plans set an investment agenda for using NIF resources over a five-year period, based on priorities identified by the community. Common themes in these plans include affordable housing production and preservation, physical improvements to assist commercial revitalization, small business assistance, job training and placement, and education and skill building.

Small Area Plans completed since 2006 reflected residents’ desire for walkable neighborhoods with a greater variety of housing, shops, services, open space, and recreation.

NEIGHBORHOOD SMALL AREA PLANS

Small Area Plans (SAPs) for the following neighborhoods have been approved since 2006: Benning Road; Brookland; NoMA; Deanwood; Florida Avenue Market; Kennedy Street; Pennsylvania Avenue; Riggs Rd/S. Dakota Ave; Saint Elizabeths East Campus; and Upper Georgia Avenue.



Rendering of Burnham Park from the NoMA Small Area Plan.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The planning processes for DC’s eight approved SAPs and 12 NIF plans included over 130 meetings and briefings with the participation of over 2,500 residents. NIF target areas include: Columbia Heights; Logan Circle; Shaw; Brightwood and Upper Georgia Avenue; Brookland and Edgewood; Bloomingdale and Eckington; H Street NE; Deanwood Heights; Anacostia; Congress Heights; Washington Highlands; and Bellevue.

Watts Branch: *Implementing Plans to Make a Measurable Difference*

The Office of Planning is leading a three-year pilot project called the Watts Branch Initiative. It is a coordinated investment strategy of 13 different District government agencies to demonstrate how environmental restoration of Marvin Gaye Park and the Watts Branch stream valley can result in improved health and economic well being in the community.

The goals of the Watts Branch Initiative include:

- Create a fishable stream within five years;
- Reduce sediment in the stream by 35 percent by restoring 1.9 miles of the Watts Branch Stream;
- Increase programs available for youths and seniors in the park by 20 percent each year; and
- Reduce illegal bulk trash dumping and abandoned autos by 50 percent in three years.

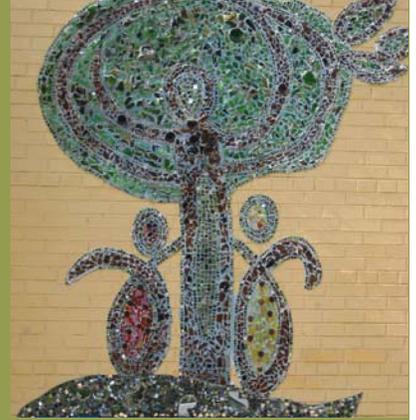
Stretching nearly two miles across Northeast Washington, Marvin Gaye Park is located within a stretch of green stream valley along Watts Branch—the largest tributary to the

Anacostia River within the District of Columbia. The park is named for the visionary soul singer who was born and raised in the Capitol Heights area of Northeast Washington.

Two major projects of the Watts Branch Initiative include Phase I improvements to Marvin Gaye Park, which began in August 2009, and the demolition and reconstruction of H.D. Woodson High School.

The park project is part of the District's goal of building a world-class network of urban parks throughout the Anacostia River Watershed and to improve water quality, increase public safety and stimulate economic development. In 2009, park improvements included investment at two of the park's four main sections: Heritage Green and Lady Bird Johnson Meadows including a community stage, playground, plaza, seating, public art, extensive landscaping, lighting, and the completion of a bicycle trail that runs throughout the park.

The new \$98 million state-of-the-art H.D. Woodson High School is anticipated to be complete by the start of school in 2011. The school is designed to meet the highest level (Platinum) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for green buildings. The new building will be complemented by a new curriculum focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

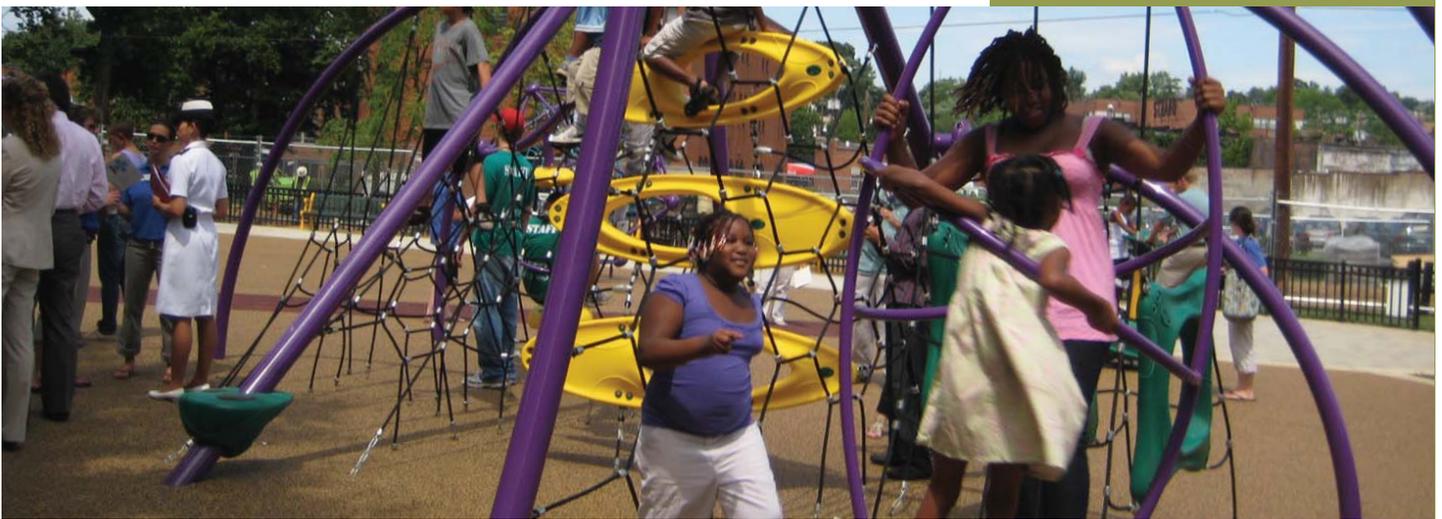


Riverside Center in Marvin Gaye Park.

THE BENEFITS OF INVESTMENT

Coordinated investment in the Watts Branch stream valley will:

- Enhance transportation access to the stream valley, with greater use of paths, trails, and other transportation alternatives;
- Increase public safety;
- Revitalize urban parks and recreation opportunities;
- Improve water quality;
- Restore ecological integrity of the stream valley; and
- Improve employment, housing and retail options.



New playground at Marvin Gaye Park, completed August 2009.





SPOTLIGHT

Kennedy Street: *Planning for Community Success*

The Office of Planning, through collaboration with various stakeholders, has completed a two-year planning process for the Kennedy Street NW corridor from Georgia Avenue NW to North Capitol Street NE. Directly called for in the Comprehensive Plan, this initiative is intended to improve the corridor's economic vitality and overall image as an attractive destination for all. The plan contains strategic recommendations supported by an overall vision that addresses community concerns raised during the planning process.

The Kennedy Street Plan is the product of an intensive and collaborative process, representing the energy and commitment of the corridor's diverse community. An Advisory Committee, made up of a cross-section of residents, merchants, property owners, and community leaders was critical in sharing "on-the-ground" knowledge of and experience with

the corridor. Non-profit, faith-based, and community organizations—such as Emory Beacon of Light and the National Association of Former Foster Care Children—helped form the community-based implementation actions recommended in the plan.

Now, almost a year later, the energy along Kennedy Street persists and the community and agency are working strategically to implement this plan. The Brightwood Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) boundary has been expanded and now includes the entire Kennedy Street corridor from Georgia Avenue to North Capitol Street. Non-profits and community based organizations can now gain access to NIF resources through a competitive process. A second implementation milestone is the creation of a new main street organization, Vinegar Hill South. The group supports business retention and commercial corridor revitalization for the areas on Kennedy Street from 4th Street to Georgia Avenue, and Georgia Avenue from Missouri Avenue to Kennedy Street. The formation of a community task force to assist with the implementation of this plan will be a third important milestone.

Rendering of the intersection of Missouri and Kansas, part of the Kennedy Street corridor.

VINEGAR HILL SOUTH MAIN STREET ORGANIZATION

The Kennedy Street corridor's Main Street organization, Vinegar Hill South, was established August 2008. The vision for Vinegar Hill South Main Street is one of a vibrant, community business district that celebrates its rich history. The gateways to the district will invite customers into a pedestrian-friendly commercial area that includes local, national, and international businesses. Specific areas will provide artistic expression, family entertainment, and community events. Musical and theatrical attractions will abound on the streets as local artisans sell their crafts in numerous stores and fairs. The commercial district will have a thriving daytime and nightlife scene. (Source: www.vinegarhillsouth.org)



Anacostia neighborhood community tree planting. Photo by David Garber.

MOVING FROM VISION TO REALITY

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan establishes 36 guiding principles that acknowledge that physical, social, and economic inequalities exist, and that these divisions and inequalities must be overcome to move from the District’s Vision for Growing an Inclusive City to reality.

The principles fall into the following five core themes:

- **Managing Growth and Change**
- **Creating Successful Neighborhoods**
- **Increasing Access to Education and Employment**
- **Connecting the Whole City**
- **Building Green and Healthy Communities**

These five core themes provide a useful lens through which to read the Comprehensive Plan and also understand the progress of the plan’s implementation. The numbers and statistics of what

actions have been taken when, and by whom, is helpful in understanding the basic quantity of action, or work that has been done. (See the Appendix, Action Items Report, for the status of all action items.) Highlighting the District’s Comprehensive Plan implementation by guiding theme, however, allows us to tell the story of how progress is being made and how this work fits into the District’s goal of becoming a more inclusive city.

Managing Growth and Change

Managing growth and change can help the city become more equitable and sustainable: encouraging diversity of household and housing types, supporting residential and non-residential growth, viewing large sites as valuable assets, and planning for and accommodating growth near transit.

While growth may have slowed since 2006, change has not. District agencies have begun several initiatives targeted at studying, directing, and using change to develop more inclusively.



Streamlined processes increase flexibility and improve design review. Photo courtesy of David Garber.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW STREAMLINING

The Office of Planning (OP) has initiated several development review streamlining efforts, including amendments to the Zoning Regulations and administrative rule-making with notice in the DC Register.

Major streamlining considerations include the following:

- Improvements to Large Tract Review
- BZA consent agenda
- Increased zoning administrative approvals
- More matter-of-right development through zoning regulations
- Design review with no setback
- Temporary use of dormant sites with expedited permits

Additionally, OP has made internal changes regarding coordination of cases with DDOE and DDOT and staffing the permit center at DCRA. Also, in January 2009, the Zoning Commission began holding two monthly meetings, which has created more flexibility and speed in moving cases forward.



Development plans for large sites along the Anacostia Waterfront – including Hill East, Southwest Waterfront, and the Yards – are moving forward as recommended in the Comprehensive Plan. These new neighborhoods will provide increased housing options, walkable neighborhoods, greater retail choice, employment opportunities, and active public spaces – all served by transit. Efforts on large sites elsewhere in the city, such as the redevelopment of Skyland Shopping Center into a mixed-use town center, support goals of more balanced growth: distributing much needed grocery stores, housing, and retail more equitably across the city including East of the River. Collaboration with federal agencies, on projects such as St Elizabeths East Campus, has provided even more opportunities for District agencies to encourage compact and community-serving development while preserving historic views and landscapes.

The District is also improving the tools used to guide what is built where. Paramount among these, and the focus of several Comprehensive Plan actions, is the initiation of the first comprehensive review of the District’s zoning regulations since 1958. Begun in 2008, the zoning review is a multi-year process led by the Office of Planning and relying on the work of the public, a community task force, 20 subject area working groups, and other District agencies. The resulting modernized zoning regulations will be easier to use and more effectively meet the needs of Washington, DC in the 21st century.

Creating Successful Neighborhoods

Growing a more inclusive city starts in our neighborhoods — the building blocks that make up DC. The vision of successful neighborhoods requires: strengthening neighborhood identity, creating housing choices, guiding growth, improving environmental and physical health, and targeting investment. Ensuring the health



A homeowner grant funds improvements on V St SE.

and success of neighborhoods has been a central focus of District agencies’ work.

In August 2009, inclusionary zoning regulations went into effect in the District of Columbia. A Comprehensive Plan action item, the program requires District residential developments of 10 units or more to set aside 8 to 10 percent of new housing as affordable to moderate and low income families. These regulations support neighborhoods in providing greater housing variety, both more affordable and more accessible. The Historic Homeowner grant program supports many of the same goals, offering home improvement grants to low and moderate-income residents in the city’s historic districts. As of fall 2009, 81 Historic Homeowner grants have been awarded.

Actions to preserve and improve neighborhoods extend into the public realm, creating public spaces and

PERMIT CENTER

In June 2008, the Office of Planning joined with DCRA to create and staff a “one stop shopping” building permit center. The center provides more clarity, certainty, and predictability to residents and developers and better supports the redevelopment needed to implement city plans.

*More than 45 percent of District residents are within one-half mile of a Metrorail station and 97 percent of residents are within one-quarter mile of a Metrobus stop.
(Source: US Census, Office of Planning)*



Columbia Heights plaza and fountain.

improving streetscapes. The Columbia Heights Public Realm project – a priority action item in the Comprehensive Plan – will provide a variety of benefits to residents and visitors, ranging from improved sidewalks and landscaping to the newly opened plaza and signature fountain at 14th and Park. The District has also implemented traffic calming measures throughout the city to improve the safety of pedestrians and to reduce fast-moving auto traffic in neighborhoods.

Traffic calming measures are associated with a 50 to 60 percent reduction in injuries to children. (Source: Public Health Law & Policy Institute)

Providing shopping and retail options is also central to creating successful neighborhoods. The Retail Action Strategy, specifically called for in the Comprehensive Plan, establishes approaches for citywide and neighborhood retail expansion, retention, and attraction, based on a comprehensive citywide assessment that includes review and analysis of 20 retail submarkets. The strategies focus on:

- Filling the gaps in neighborhood markets;
- Creating new business concentrations;
- Cultivating and strengthening locally owned small businesses; and
- Marketing the city's retail offering in innovative, effective ways.

While current national and local retail spending may have slowed, the District remains poised to rebound more quickly than other cities. On average, District residents spend less on transportation and commuting than comparable suburban residents, and therefore have greater disposable income. This income and other unique characteristics leave the District positioned to grow its retail sector, providing more purchasing options, increased job opportunities, and vibrant neighborhoods.



Retail in Chinatown.

Businesses like Ben's Chili Bowl (in operation for more than 50 years), The Guitar Shop (90 years), Mr. Henry's (40 years), W.T. Weaver & Sons (120 years), Politics and Prose (25 years), and Lee's Flower & Card Shop (more than 50 years) have become strong community anchors and points of pride.

NEIGHBORHOOD INDICATORS REPORT

The 2008 Neighborhood Indicators Report issued by the Office of Planning measures a set of social, economic, demographic, and environmental indicators at the neighborhood level in order to determine the well-being of a community. Findings from this report will help District agencies understand how success is created, identify neighborhood planning projects, and measure the impacts of those projects. In fiscal year 2009, the Office of Planning initiated a small area planning process in Ward 8's Bellevue neighborhood that placed special emphasis on using data indicators to drive planning decisions.

DYNAMIC AMENITIES

The District has all the ingredients of a great place for retail: walkable neighborhoods; disposable income; millions of tourists; extensive public transit; vibrant cultural institutions; and a strong base of creative industries, research institutions, and government and business innovation.



Increasing Access to Education and Employment

The Comprehensive Plan's goal of increased access to education and employment requires improving educational quality, preparing residents for employment, expanding the economy into our neighborhoods, and continuing to diversify our central employment area. Extending and sustaining the District's success relies on growing and retaining a skilled workforce.

Historically, due to low educational attainment rates and training, relatively high levels of unemployment persisted among District residents – even in a jobs-rich environment. Educational institutions are improving with the support of residents and District agencies. The Mayor's Education Reform Plan continues to increase accountability and affect educational outcomes – implementing several Comprehensive Plan education policies. Included in the Reform Plan and recommended in the Comprehensive Plan, the 2008 Master Facilities Plan will help deliver needed school facilities more quickly and cost effectively.

New education agencies formed in 2007 include: DC State Board of Education, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) (formerly the State Education Office), Office of the Chancellor (OOC), Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM) and Deputy Mayor for Education (DME).

Providing for education beyond elementary and secondary school is central to providing life-long learning opportunities and improving the job-readiness of residents.

In August 2009, the District's only fully-accredited public university, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), opened its new Community College. The new college offers over 20 associate degree and certificate programs and more than 25 workforce development programs. Also in 2009, the District of Columbia Council allocated capital funds to UDC to build a student center, further supporting Comprehensive Plan policies to sustain and advance the university.

The Comprehensive Plan recommends that neighborhood economies be grown and employment diversified. Since 2006, studies such as the Center City Action Agenda have focused on a geographic area, while others have focused on specific industries.



Modernization at H.D. Cooke Elementary School.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In June of 2007, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty gained authority over the DC Public Schools (DCPS) through the DC Education Reform Act of 2007 to improve access to quality education for all DC residents.

Since that time, math and reading proficiency levels have increased. On the 2009 DC Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS) tests, DCPS made steady gains at the elementary and secondary levels in both reading and math proficiency (source: Mayor's Press Release, July 13, 2009).

Thirteen school modernizations have been completed since 2006. A list of those schools with completion dates and a preliminary program cost (in millions) is provided below. Costs include Planning, Design, Project Management, Furniture, Fixture & Equipment and Construction.

- Columbia Heights (Bell/Lincoln) (January 2006), \$83.1
- Luke C. Moore (January 2006), \$16.5
- Brightwood (August 2006), \$21.6
- Sousa (August 2007), \$30.9
- Hardy (August 2008), \$48.5
- Phelps (August 2008), \$67.2
- Addison (December 2008), \$10.1
- H.D. Cooke (August 2009), \$35.0
- Deal (Phase 4, August 2009; Phase 5/Final, January 2010), \$67.7
- Wheatley (August 2009), \$34.6
- Walker-Jones (August 2009), \$36.2
- Savoy (August 2009), \$34.3
- School Without Walls (August 2009), \$39.2

The Creative DC Action Agenda is the District's first ever strategy to strengthen the District's creative economy (design, film and video, media, museums and heritage, visual and performing arts, and culinary arts). The Agenda presents strategies to support creative employment and business opportunities, to use creative arts to revitalize underserved areas, and to improve the use and connections between creative economy assets and education, job-training, and similar supports.

There are more than 75,000 direct jobs in the District's creative sector, approximately 10 percent of the city's job base. Indirect jobs in the creative sector account for another 36,000 jobs. (Source: Office of Planning, Creative DC Action Agenda)

In both the green and creative industry sectors, employment opportunities can have fewer barriers to entry, extending business opportunities to entrepreneurs and jobs to under or unemployed residents. Growing the District's creative and green industries offers the opportunity to further diversify and revitalize the local economy and provide neighborhoods with additional art, cultural, and green resources.

Connecting the Whole City

The Comprehensive Plan's emphasis on connecting the city is about creating the physical and social links that tie our city together. Bridging divides and better connecting the whole city requires: creating new public spaces, investing in transportation, transforming corridors, connecting greenways and waterways, and building federal and regional ties. Several District agencies are working with residents, private and public property owners to improve the way residents and visitors reach



DC Summer Green Jobs staff. Image courtesy of USDA Forest Service.

GREEN JOBS

Existing and proposed District policies, legislation, and programs could produce over 169,000 green jobs between 2009 and 2018. Thirty-seven percent of the District's green jobs require minimal technical or educational preparation. These jobs include construction laborers, roofers, painters, landscaping and grounds keeping workers. (Source: Office of Planning, Green Job Demand Study)



DC youth program for green jobs.





Rendering of a portion of the Riverwalk Trail.

their destinations, as well as the public spaces and common places in between.

The Great Streets Initiative focuses on target corridors and involves many public and private partners to change identified corridors – offering strategies and financial assistance to create better connections and make public spaces more vital, accessible, safe, and useful.

Multi-agency efforts led by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) along the Anacostia River are providing extensive improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular connections. From the separation of freeway and local traffic across the rebuilt 11th Street bridges, to new pedestrian and bike connections running the length of the Anacostia River on the Riverwalk Trail, better access, improved safety, and greater travel choices are being created and Comprehensive Plan policies are being implemented.

District residents are also getting around and travelling in different ways. The new SmartBikes bike sharing program gives subscribers on-demand and self-service access to bicycles. Expanded express Circulator service – a Comprehensive Plan action – offers frequent, reliable service to some of the city’s most visited destinations. The Circulator’s new “Where’s My Bus?” application for mobile devices uses GPS data to provide real-time information on the closest buses and any service updates. Washingtonians also continue to walk, taking advantage of pedestrian connections, sidewalk improvements, and enhanced pedestrian crosswalks. As mobility options have increased for District residents, the city has seen reduced vehicle registrations.

DC is home to 10 SmartBike stations and more than 1,000 SmartBike patrons. At least another 90 stations will be built.
(Source: DDOT)

TRANSIT AND MOBILITY

Increasing mobility and transit options for residents and visitors is perhaps more critical now than ever. The Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) reported that 13 of the top 20 highest weekday ridership days in Metrorail’s 32-year history occurred during the summer of 2008. On an average weekday, more than 1.2 million trips are taken on Metrorail and Metrobus in the Washington Metropolitan Area. (Source: WMATA Press Release January 20, 2009)



DC’s SmartBikes.



The District has 41 miles of linear bike lanes.

Building Green and Healthy Communities

The Comprehensive Plan's goal of a prosperous and inclusive city requires promoting the well-being of District residents and being a careful steward of natural resources. Building green and healthy communities requires: protecting views and vistas, protecting and restoring natural resources, building sustainably, improving the health of residents, and improving parks and open space. Residents, District agencies, and public and private stakeholders are actively greening the city – protecting natural resources, conserving energy, and creating healthier options for all residents.

The District is building more sustainably with the help of legislation such as the Green Building Act of 2006 and the green building code. Enacted in 2006, the Green Building Act requires that all District facilities, all projects receiving District subsidies equaling at least 15 percent of total project costs, and all private development of more than 50,000 square feet (by 2012) achieve a LEED silver rating or higher. As recommended in the Com-

prehensive Plan, the District developed and implemented a comprehensive overhaul of its building codes to incorporate higher environmental standards. Effective January 2009, the new green building codes require greater water and energy efficiency – featuring commercial energy requirements 7 percent higher than Maryland's or Virginia's.

In line with Comprehensive Plan policies that encourage consuming and polluting less, the Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008 establishes District goals for cleaner, more affordable energy. Provisions include the creation of a Sustainable Energy Utility to provide resources for encouraging energy conservation efforts, required Energy Star benchmarking for all qualified public and private buildings, and sets the overarching goal that by 2012, 20 percent of the District's consumed energy come from renewable sources.

In addition to greening the built environment, multi-agency efforts are restoring natural environments left damaged by past practices. Detailed in the Comprehensive and other plans and led by District agencies for the

HEALTHY CHOICES

People living in highly walkable, mixed use communities are more than two times as likely to get 30 or more minutes of daily exercise than in auto-oriented, single use communities. As density increases the amount of residents' daily physical activity increases. *(Source: American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2004)*



Dupont Circle's Farmers Market.



environment, transportation, economic development and planning, the river restoration and wildlife habitat creation efforts along the Anacostia River are improving water quality and providing residents with access and use of their river. The District Department of the Environment's *Anacostia 2032: Plan for a Fishable and Swimmable Anacostia River* is a key planning and implementation tool to improve water quality and natural habitats, providing a road map and recommendations for restoring the Anacostia River.

Increased access to the District's rivers and green spaces provides increased opportunities to exercise and live well. A new initiative, Healthy by Design, is a framework for District government policies and programs that encourage active living and healthy eating by increasing access to healthy food, primary care facilities, walkable destinations and recreational opportunities. Healthy by

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified 80 buildings in DC with the Energy Star efficiency label, more per capita than any other city. (Source: EPA)

Design planning principles were woven into the Bellevue small area planning process, completed in 2009. The plan features strategies to increase access to fresh foods and recreation systems.

With more than 7,800 acres of parks in the nation's capital, the opportunities to enjoy nature and be outside are great. Planning for and construction of parks and recreational areas along the Anacostia River including Diamond Teague Park are the product of years of coordination among federal and District agencies and the private sector. There are also continuing efforts to renovate and rejuvenate the District's numerous smaller recreational areas, improving the distribution of and access to parks as described in the Comprehensive Plan. Improvements at the recently redeveloped 14th and Girard Street Park, athletic fields at Benning Terrace, playgrounds at Murch Elementary School, and countless others, create accessible neighborhood destinations.



DC is home to the first LEED-certified baseball stadium in the country, Nationals Park, which features a green rooftop.



Lamond Recreation Center, a LEED Silver building. Photo courtesy of Ron Blunt.

In September 2009, the US Green Building Council reported that Washington, DC had 70 LEED-certified projects and 522 LEED-registered projects – more than any other city comparable in size in North America. (Source: US Green Building Council)

DC'S GREEN AGENDA

Launched in 2009, the DC Green Agenda documents the District's commitment to becoming one of the world's most sustainable cities. Key agenda items include the restoration of the Anacostia River and developing a Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

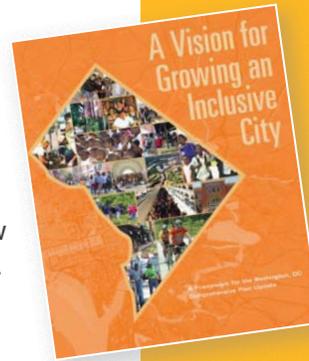
KEEPING THE PLAN A LIVING DOCUMENT

The Comprehensive Plan recommends that the plan be updated on a regular cycle to keep the plan's policy framework current. The District is currently reviewing the 2006 Comprehensive Plan and making corrections or adjustments through the plan amendment process. This first review of the new plan offers residents and District agencies the chance to look back through the plan, confirm that it is working as it was intended to, and suggest any needed adjustments or corrections. The next review of the Comprehensive Plan will take place in 2012-2013. This process of review – detailed in the Implementation Element – will ensure that the Comprehensive Plan remains current, serving the needs of District residents.

This inaugural Progress Report feeds directly into plan maintenance.

Produced biennially, the Comprehensive Plan Progress Report serves as a vehicle for review as well as for measuring progress. It is an opportunity to examine the important role the plan plays in decisions affecting the change, growth and development of the District. By keeping the plan a topic of public discourse, the progress report keeps the planning process open, transparent, and responsive.

The Progress Report, the amendment process, and the continued commitment of residents and District agencies are vital parts of maintaining the usefulness of the Comprehensive Plan. These efforts keep the Comprehensive Plan a living, breathing document – supporting the District as it continues to improve, continues to change, and continues to become a more inclusive city.



The Plan's guiding principles are heavily based on "A Vision for Growing an Inclusive City," the vision document that provided

the framework for the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. Published in 2004, the Vision laid the foundation for the community dialogue leading up to the Comprehensive Plan revision process.



Residents learn about projects at the Anacostia Waterfront Community Fair.



Nighttime rendering of the Yards mixed-use development.





New waterfront park along the Potomac River in Georgetown.



Public art in front of the Portrait Gallery.

LIST OF PLANS AND STUDIES SINCE 2006 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTION

Approved Small Area Plans (SAP)

1. Benning Road Land Development Plan
2. Brookland/CUA Metro Station Area Plan
3. Deanwood Strategic Development Plan
4. Florida Avenue Market Small Area Plan
5. Kennedy Street Corridor Revitalization Plan
6. NoMA Vision Plan and Development Strategy
7. Pennsylvania Avenue SE Land Development Plan
8. Riggs Road/South Dakota Avenue Area Development Plan
9. Saint Elizabeths East Redevelopment Framework Plan
10. Upper Georgia Avenue Land Development Plan

Completed Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) Plans

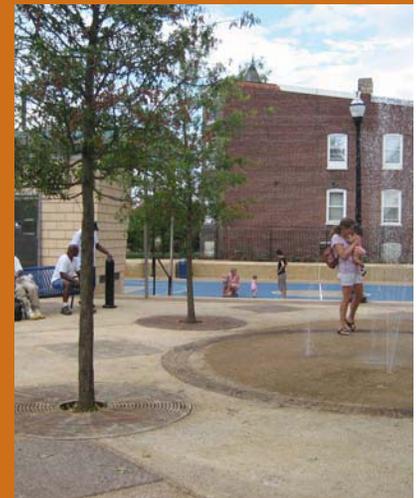
1. Anacostia NIF Plan
2. Bellevue NIF Plan
3. Bloomingdale/Eckington NIF Plan
4. Brightwood NIF Plan
5. Brookland/Edgewood NIF Plan
6. Columbia Heights NIF Plan
7. Congress Heights NIF Plan
8. Deanwood/Deanwood Heights NIF Plan
9. H Street NE NIF Plan
10. Logan Circle NIF Plan
11. Shaw NIF Plan
12. Washington Highlands NIF Plan

Other Completed Plans, Studies and Initiatives

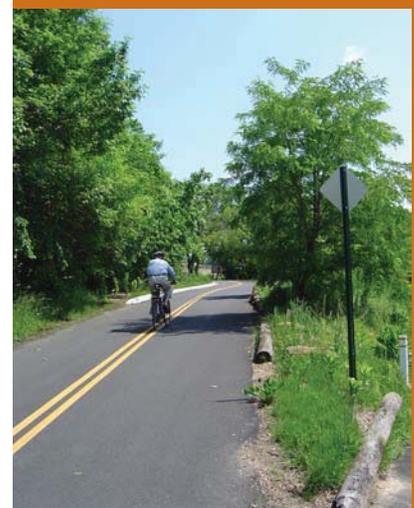
1. Anacostia 2032: Plan for a Fishable and Swimmable Anacostia River
2. Center City Action Agenda
3. Child Health Action Plan
4. DC Green Agenda
5. DC Green Collar Jobs Demand Analysis Report
6. Healthy By Design: A Snapshot of Washington DC Today and Tools for the Future
7. Mayor's Education Reform Plan
8. North Capitol Street Cloverleaf Feasibility Study
9. Neighborhood Indicators Report
10. Planning Process Study

Plans and Studies that are Currently in Process

1. Bellevue Small Area Plan
2. CapitalSpace
3. Chinatown Cultural Development Strategy
4. Creative DC Action Agenda
5. Mount Pleasant Street Revitalization Framework Plan
6. Mount Vernon Square District Project
7. Neighborhood Sustainability Indicators Pilot Project (NSIPP)
8. Retail Action Strategy
9. Zoning Review



14th and Girard Street Park, Columbia Heights.



A cyclist along the Riverwalk Trail.

HOW IS THE DISTRICT PROJECTED TO GROW?

National economic conditions are affecting how cities think about their futures — how they expect to grow and change. The 2006 Comprehensive Plan's Framework Element forecasted population, job, and household growth through the horizon year of the plan, 2025. To review the Comprehensive Plan's expectations for growth, the plan's forecasts can be compared to other estimates and forecasts, such as those by the US Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

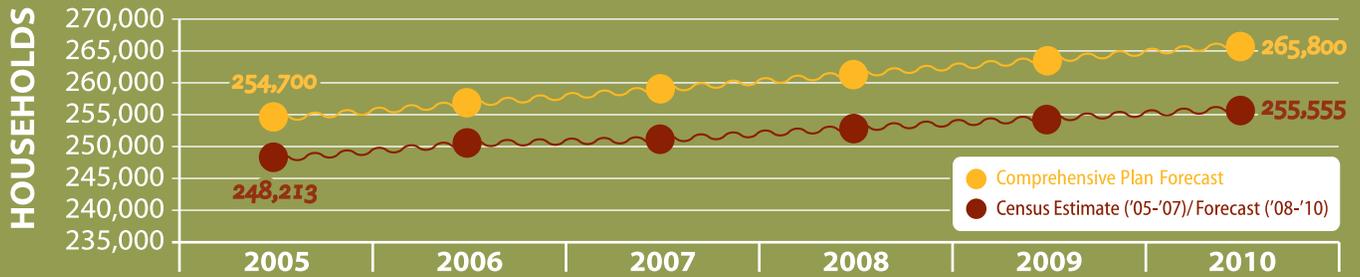
As shown in the graphs below, the Comprehensive Plan forecasts more growth than outside sources for all three categories of growth. However, population and household forecasts are very similar, varying by as little as one or two thousand in some cases. Some of this variance can be attributed to the US Census's methodology

The Comprehensive Plan forecasted the District to add 57,100 households, 121,700 residents, and 125,000 jobs by 2025. (Source: US Census, Office of Planning)

for annual population estimates consistently underestimating the District's actual population. In 2000, the US Census estimated the District's population to be 521,000; the actual decennial census determined the city's population to be 572,000. This same historical underestimation is true for households.

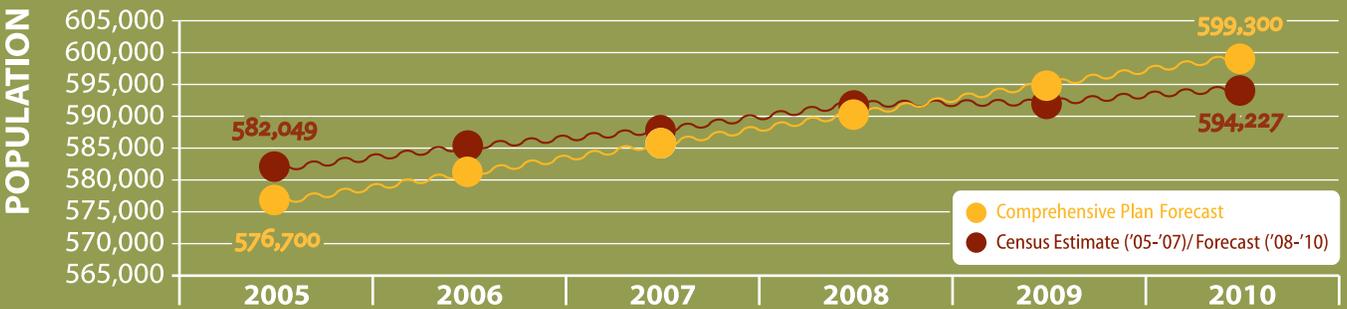
Household Forecasts, 2005-2010

Source: American Community Survey 2005-2007, Office of Planning, June 2009 Annual Average Rate of Change (%): CP, 0.87; Census, 0.59



Population Forecasts, 2005-2010

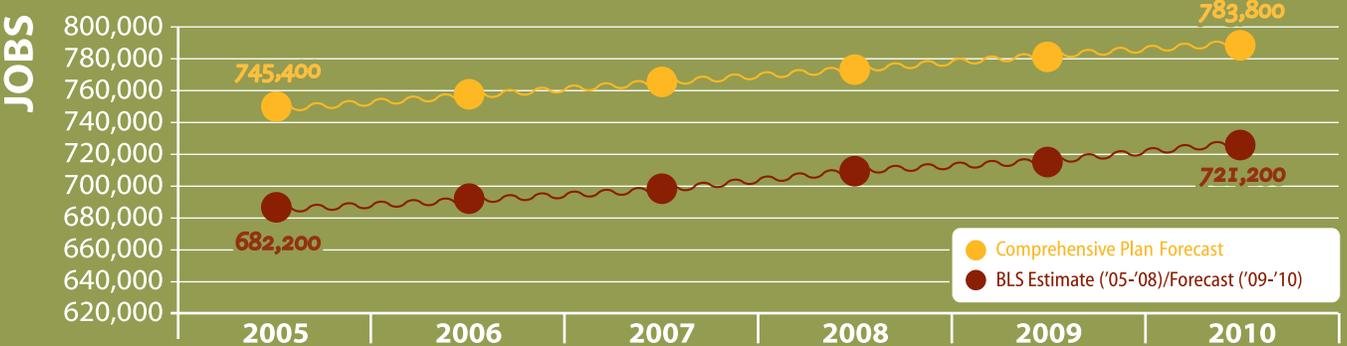
Source: US Census, Office of Planning, June 2009 Annual Average Rate of Change (%): CP, 0.78; Census, 0.31



Job Forecasts, 2005-2010

Source: US Census, Office of Planning, June 2009 Annual Average Rate of Change (%): CP, 1.03; BLS, 1.14

The greater difference between Comprehensive Plan and BLS job forecasts is due, in large part, to what each counts: BLS does not include self-employed workers, the Comprehensive Plan does. Despite this difference, both sources forecast jobs to grow at approximately the same rate.



* The Comprehensive Plan contains forecasts for 2005, 2010, and every five years after, through 2025. The interim year forecasts shown in this table represent a statistical approximation of the annual values of the 5 year forecast;
 ** Census household forecasts are derived from American Community Survey 2005-07 estimates. Census population forecasts are derived from 2005-08 population estimates;
 *** BLS forecasts are derived from 2008 employment estimates.





Government of the District of Columbia
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