

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) is proud to have participated in the process of amending the D.C. Comprehensive Plan. The ANC 2B appreciates that the Office of Planning has been responsive to feedback the ANC 2B and the Dupont Circle neighborhood has provided regarding this process dating back to 2016. The ANC 2B is thankful that our suggestions submitted in 2018 were included in the Recommended Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in October 2019, and that an additional opportunity for ANC feedback was granted.

The ANC 2B generally agrees with the Recommended Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as related to Dupont Circle and surrounding area. Upon review of the Near Northwest Area Element, the Future Land Use Map, and other portions of the Recommended Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, and upon receiving feedback from neighbors, community organizations, and local businesses, the ANC 2B provides the below consolidated feedback, building upon our previous resolutions to the Office of Planning.

Future Land Use Map (Dupont Circle Area)

The ANC 2B recommends changing the **Commercial Land Use Category** around Dupont Circle Metro Station and northward along Connecticut Avenue to Florida Avenue (1500-1700 blocks of Connecticut Avenue), and its immediate surrounding area which are currently classified as Medium Density Commercial to the **Mixed Use category of High Density Commercial and High Density Residential**.

Since the beginning of this process, the District's housing crisis has been more clearly articulated, the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District was formed, and some of the best locations for future housing in the District are close to transit and commercial areas.

The ANC 2B understands the Future Land Use Map is a designation which new developments going through discretionary review processes must not be incompatible with. In addition to the Future Land Use Map, ANC 2B recognizes zoning regulation and historic preservation review are additional constraints on development within Dupont Circle and the District.

Near Northwest Area Element

The ANC 2B represents Dupont Circle which is within the Near Northwest Area Element.

2108.11 Policy NNW-1.1.10: Parking Management

In the last sentence of the proposed amendment, strike "and ridesharing services" to read "**In addition, efforts should be taken to encourage visitors to these commercial districts via non-motorized modes and public transit.**" ANC 2B believes visitors to Near Northwest commercial districts should not be encouraged to use car-based services, whether hailed, shared, or personally-owned.

Add "**Consider the removal of parking minimums and consider the implementation of parking maximums throughout Near Northwest.**" ANC 2B believes mandatory parking minimums are destructive to the future strength and resilience of commercial districts by inducing demand for car traffic, and in residential areas parking minimums negatively impact the cost of housing.

2108.12 Policy NNW-1.1.11: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Replace paragraph with **“Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists through the continued upgrading and improved maintenance of all sidewalks, intersections, and roadways, and by supporting the construction of networks of protected bike lanes and trails. Sidewalks should be constructed and maintained in such a way as to ensure accessibility for people who are elderly or disabled. Protected bike lanes offer many benefits, including improved safety and walkability for pedestrians, reducing traffic accidents and injuries for cyclists, and making bike riding more attractive for riders of varying abilities.”** This language clarifies maintenance of all sidewalks and additional context.

2108.15 Policy NNW-1.1.14: Transit to Georgetown

Replace paragraph with **“Improve transit connections to Georgetown by implementing a transit way on K Street.”** Language specific to the H Street streetcar can be removed, and “transit way” can be left non-specific to transit mode.

2109.10 Policy NNW 1.2.10: Sustainable Development

Reinstate this paragraph as modified: **“Encourage the use of green building practices within Near Northwest, with a particular emphasis on solar installations and green roofs. Rooftop gardens should be encouraged in new construction and major rehabilitation projects as a way to create additional green space, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide an amenity for residents.”** The ANC 2B is unclear as to why this section was removed, and is comfortable if this or similar suggestions on green building practices are being applied District-wide instead of specific to Near Northwest.

2112.1 Intro to NNW-2.2 DUPONT CIRCLE

Remove the word “parking” to read **“The healthy mix of commercial and residential uses necessitates careful management and balance of public safety and noise to maintain a high quality of life.”**

Action NNW: “Cap Park” project

To reflect an updated project name, replace instances of “Cap Park” with **“Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project”**

Policy NNW: LGBTQ Cultural Hub

To reflect the intent of ANC 2B’s suggestion for an LGBTQ Cultural Hub, replace language with **“Celebrate existing and new LGBTQ arts, cultural experiences, and history within Dupont Circle with placemaking and sustained, active programming in parks and community areas in the neighborhood.”**

Action NNW: Expanded Recreation Center at Stead Park

To reflect recent plans for the Community Center at Stead Park, change title as above and change entire paragraph to: **“Create an expanded recreation center at Stead Park to include modern facilities to accommodate the growing needs of community programming for residents of all ages. The expanded Recreation Center should strive to receive certification as a net zero energy building.”**

A “Children’s Library” and “outreach services” are not consistent with the DCPL Library Facilities Master Plan nor within the scope of DCPL’s services. Those items are also not within the current plans of DPR for the space.

Supporting the LGBTQ+ Community in the Housing Element and the Community Services and Facilities Element

The ANC 2B represents Dupont Circle and is proud to be the neighborhood which is historically the center of D.C.'s LGBTQ+ community. We are proud of our LGBTQ+ community and the fact that D.C. is one of the most welcoming jurisdictions in the country. Members of the LGBTQ+ community can have needs different than non-LGBTQ+ members and the Comprehensive Plan should plan for these needs moving forward.

Housing Element

H-4.3 Meeting the Needs of Specific Groups

Persons in the LGBTQ Community should be identified as one of the populations which have specific requirements that benefit from specific supportive services as profiled in this section.

Policy H-4.3.x

Housing for LGBTQ Older Adults should be considered as an addition to this section. D.C. has the highest percentage of LGBTQ adults in the country but critically insufficient LGBTQ-affirming older adult housing compared to other comparable cities.

Community Services and Facilities Element

In this element, and as appropriate in the Housing Element, indicate better **support for youth experiencing homelessness who self-identify as LGBTQ**, which constitutes nearly half of D.C.'s youth experiencing homelessness.

Include **health care and services for LGBTQ patients**, a group that faces disparities similarly to other populations identified as at-risk or disadvantaged.

Action CSF-2.3.D: Improving Coordination and Service Delivery Among District Agencies

Include the **LGBTQ community** in this language, as there are specific health care and services the LGBTQ community either requires or can benefit from.

Implementation Element

2507.5 Policy IM-1.5.3: Faith Institutions

Replace paragraph with: **“Recognize faith institutions as members of neighborhood life in Washington, D.C., including their role as neighborhood centers, social service providers, and community anchors. Engage with local faith institutions as participants in neighborhood planning and development initiatives to ensure the views and needs of their members, some who might not otherwise participate in such discussions, are recognized and addressed.”**

This continues to recognize the contributions and importance of religious institutions while avoiding language that could be construed to give specific institutions greater weight on neighborhood planning on development initiatives compared to similar institutions.