

Monumental Core Streetscape Design Guidelines: Vertical and Surface Elements

Washington DC

Information Presentation

National Capital Planning Commission

Overview

- I. Overview: project background and purpose
- II. Streetscape Design Guidelines:
 - 1) Vertical Elements:
 - a) Streetlights: express the framework of capital city streetscapes
 - b) Trees: consistently frame vistas to important structures and open spaces
 - 2) Surface Elements:
 - a) Landscapes and Plantings: enhance framed vistas and the public realm
 - b) Stormwater Management: address flooding and water quality issues
 - c) Pavements: unify streetscape character and improve transitions
 - d) Pedestrian Circulation: address comfortable pedestrian movement
 - 3) Current Work and Next Steps: advance Guide and Manual development

Overview: project background and purpose

Background

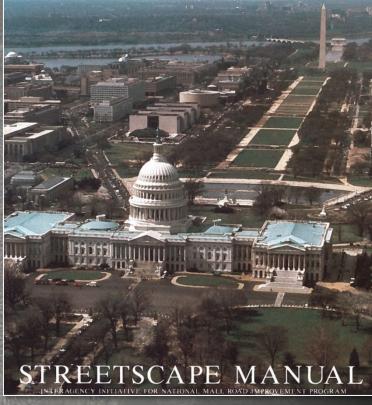
Arlington

National

Cemetery

Focus area within the monumental core

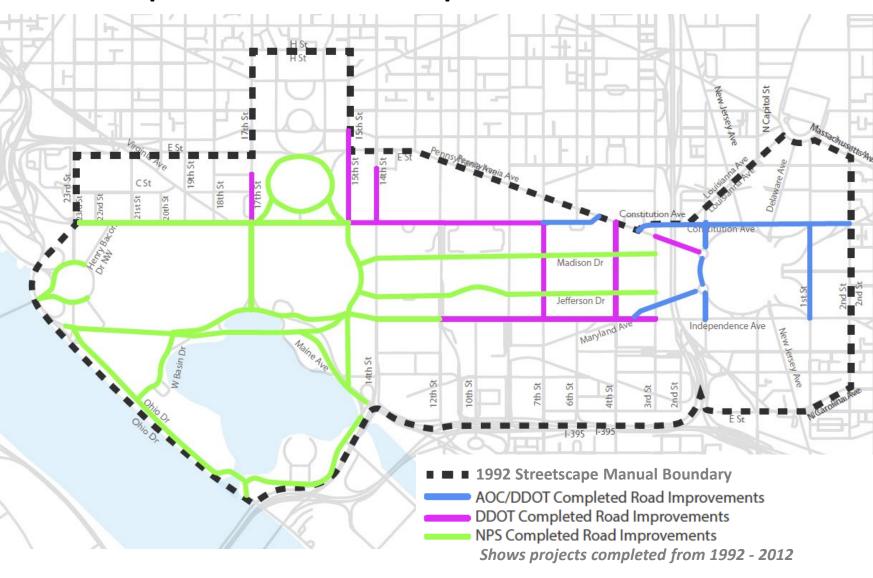


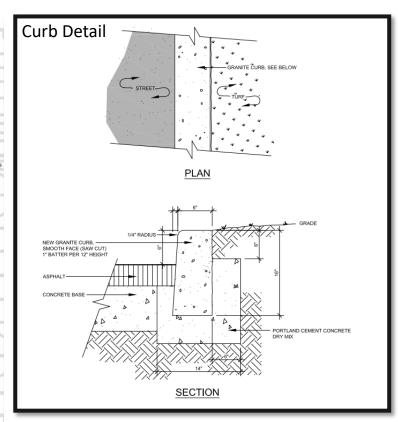


Purpose Statement: provide guidelines for a coordinated and consistent streetscape treatment for roadways in the central area of the city in the vicinity of the National Mall.



Completed Road Improvements





1992 Streetscape Manual Construction Detail

Interagency Working Group

Current Interagency Working Group

Parties:

AOC

- DDOT
- FHWA
- NCPC
- NPS

Endorsers:

- CFA
- DCOP
- GSA
- Kennedy Center
- NGA
- SI

Agency Subject Matter Experts

- Arborists
- Architects
- Environmental Engineers
- Historic Preservationists
- Landscape Architects
- Lighting Designers

Streetscape Guide and Manual

8 Guide Streetscape

- 1) Urban Design
 Streetscape
 Framework &
 Lighting Policy
- 2) Streetscape
 Design
 Guidelines
- 3) Streetscape Construction Manual Update
- 4) MOU Update







Streetscape Guide and Manual

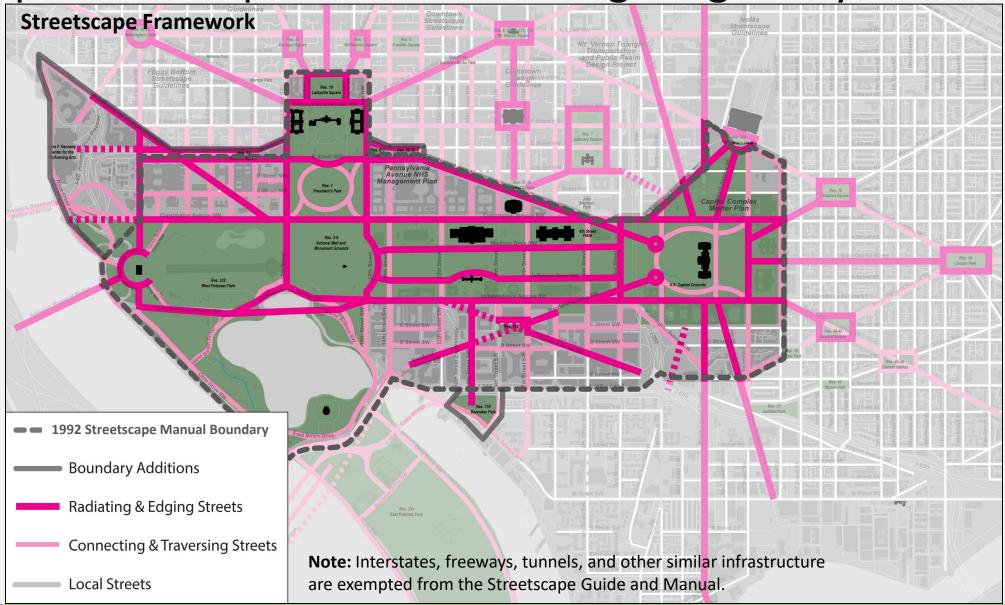
Guide & Streetscape

- 1) Urban Design
 Streetscape
 Framework &
 Lighting Policy
- 2) Streetscape
 Design
 Guidelines
- 3) Streetscape Construction Manual Update
- 4) MOU Update

June 2019 Information Presentation

CFA:

- Advised anticipating contemporary environmental issues for systematic planning.
- Emphasized that streetscapes are performative landscape systems.
- Advised that major axial and diagonal roadways should emphasize continuity beyond the project boundary, and that the boundary edge may suggest locations of significant thresholds.





Radiating & Edging Streets:

Nationally significant.
Symbolic, monumental, civic, commemorative, cultural role.



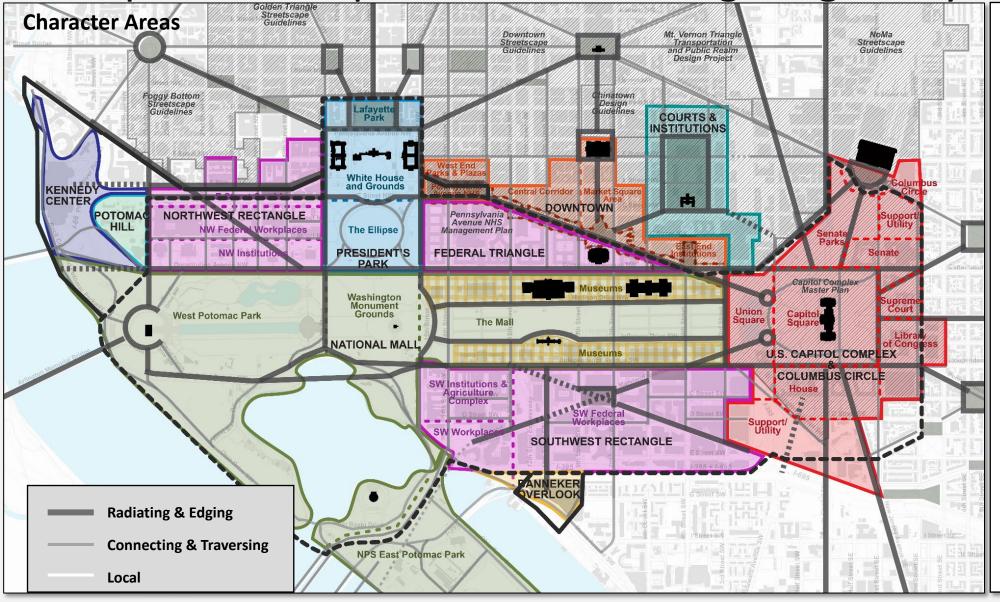
Connecting & Traversing Streets:

Nationally and locally significant. Civic and recreational role.



Local Streets:

Locally significant.
Orthogonal grid with functional role.

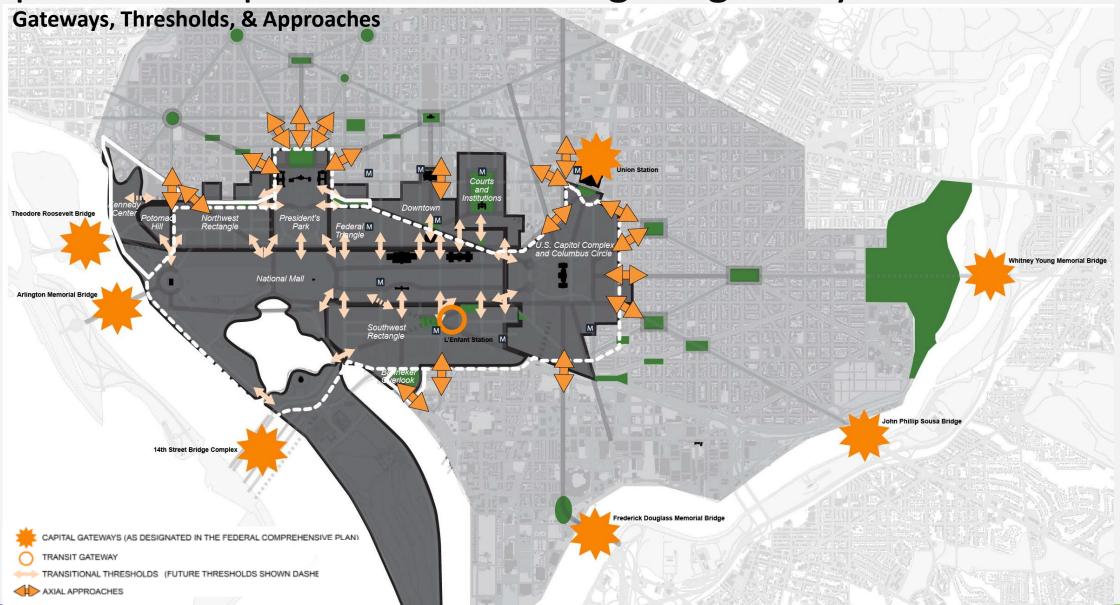


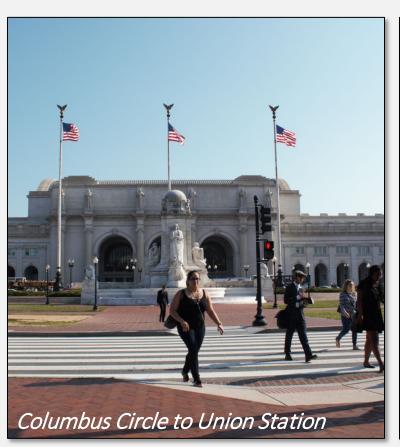
Character Area Example



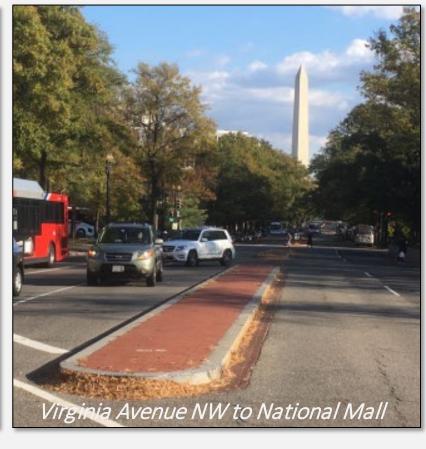












Capital Gateway:

Signals entry to the nation's capital, has distinct or elevated quality

Transitional Threshold:

Reinforces transition, aids wayfinding, indicates site or building entries, uses pedestrian scaled elements

Axial Approach:

Reinforces continuity, supports open vistas, enhances symmetry and uniformity along major corridors







Credit: Architect of the Capitol

Streetscape Guide and Manual

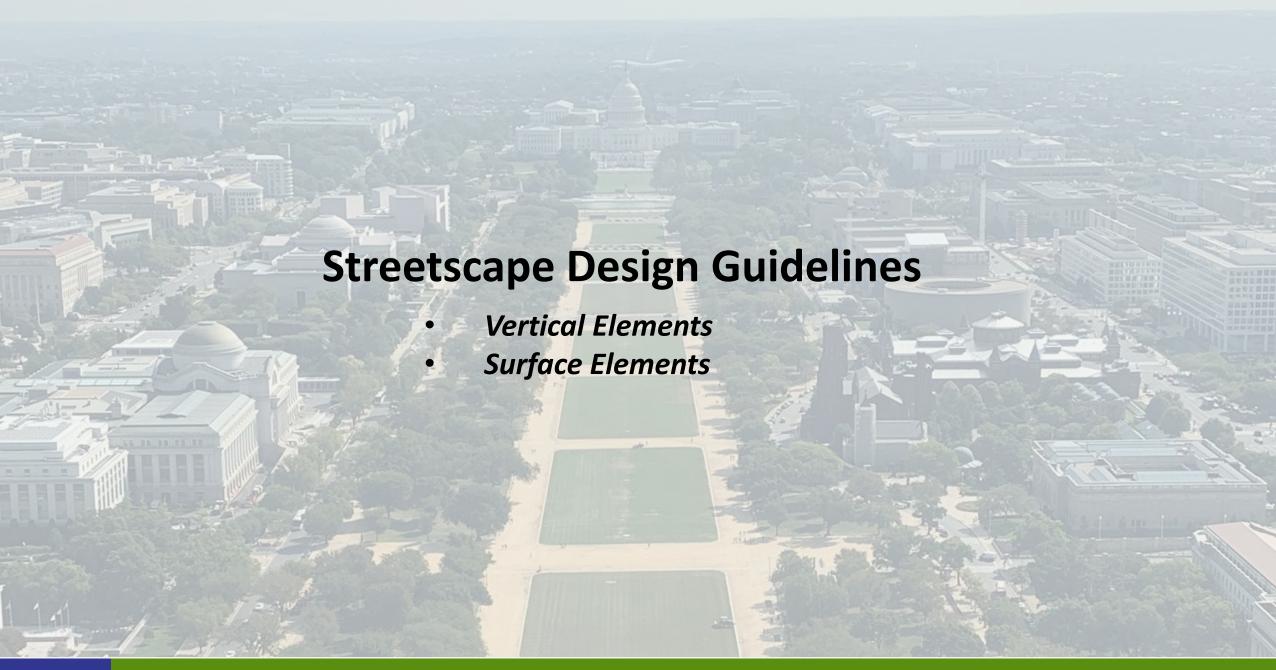
1) Urban Design Streetscape Framework & **Lighting Policy** Guide & 2) Streetscape Design Guidelines 3) Streetscape Streetscape Construction **Manual Update** 4) MOU Update

February 2022 Release for 90-day Public Comment Period Closing May 11th

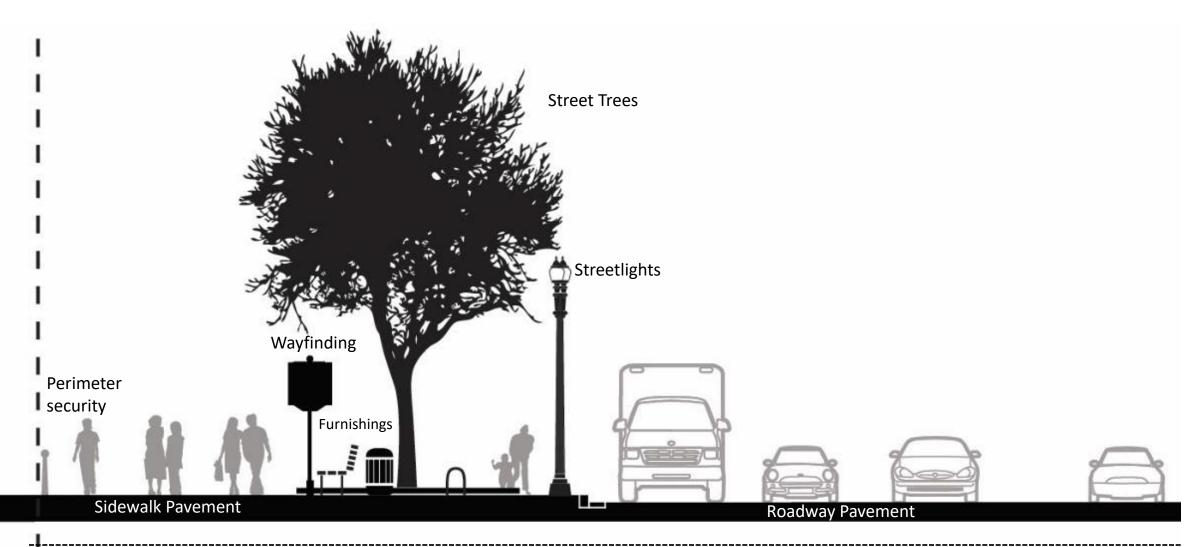
NCPC:

- Authorized release for public comment.
- Directed staff to use the Guidelines as the basis for updating the Construction Manual.
- Reinforced CFA's comments regarding the relationship between the monumental core and the surrounding city.

File: 7886



Streetscape Elements



Right-of-Way

Streetscape Element Categories

Highest Degree of Consistency

Vertical Elements Streetlights

Street Trees

Surface Elements

Landscape and Plantings

Stormwater Management

Pavements

Pedestrian Walking Space

Small-Scale Elements

Furnishings (benches, trashcans, etc.) Civic Infrastructure (fire hydrants, etc.)

More Variable

Consistent Highly

> Streets Edging Radiating

Streets

Traversing

Ø

Connecting

Consistent

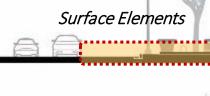
Mostly

Somewhat

Consistent

Streets Local.

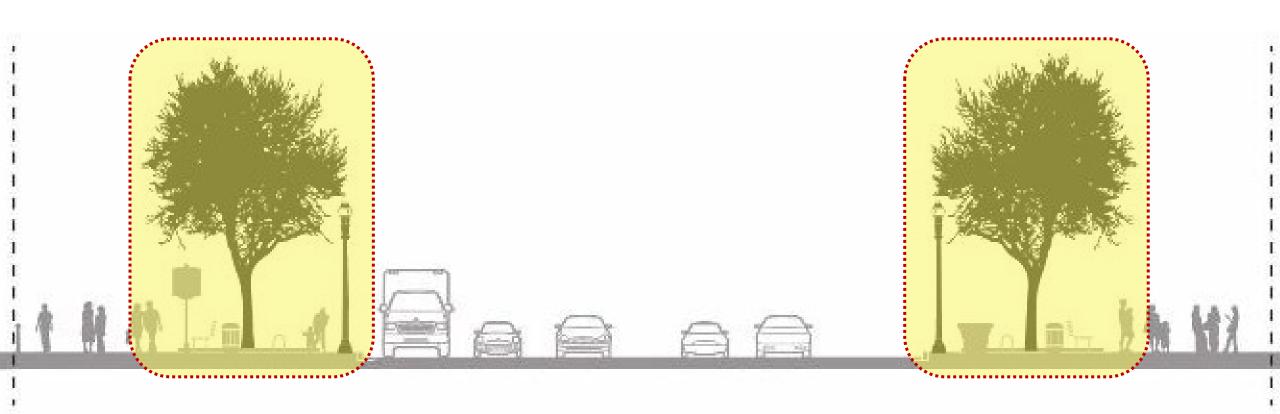
Vertical 1 **Elements**





Streetscape Design Guidelines: Vertical Elements

- Streetlights
- Trees

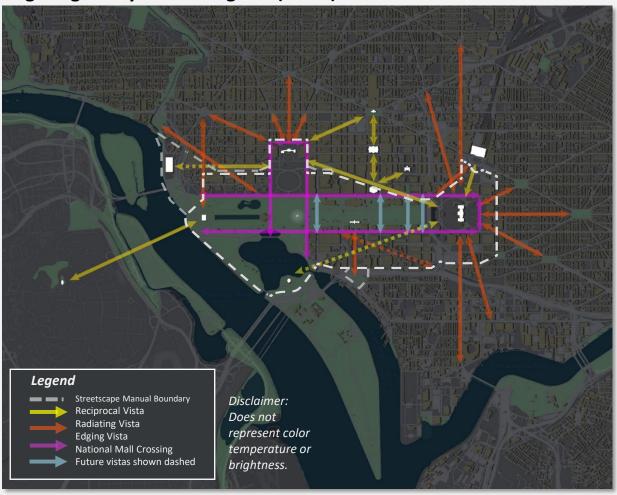


Vertical Elements: Streetlight Guidelines

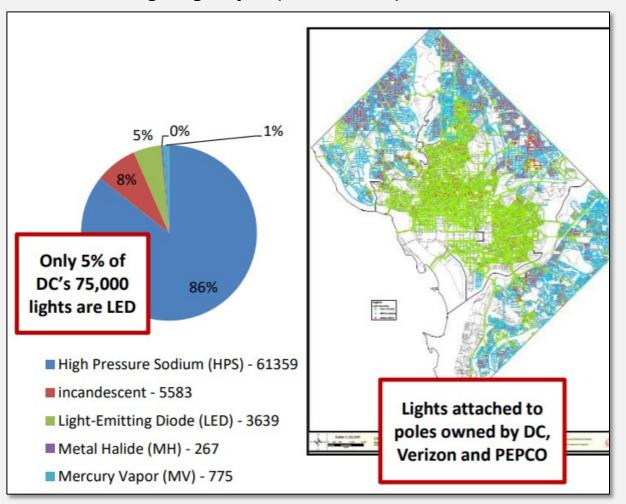
- Streetlight Fixtures
- National Mall Panel Crosswalk Lighting Improvements

Recap: Lighting Policy

Lighting Policy: Vista Diagram (NCPC)

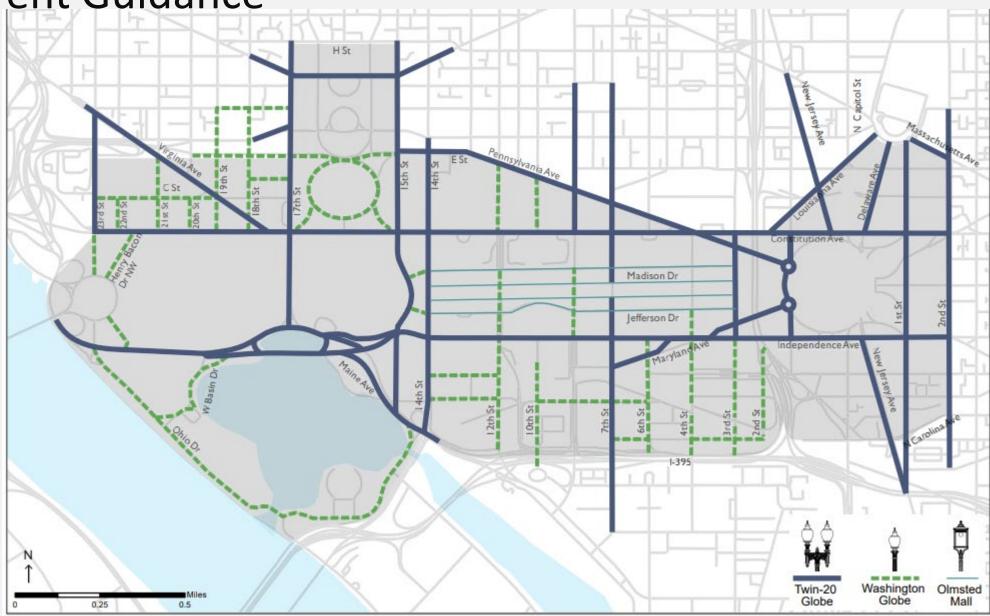


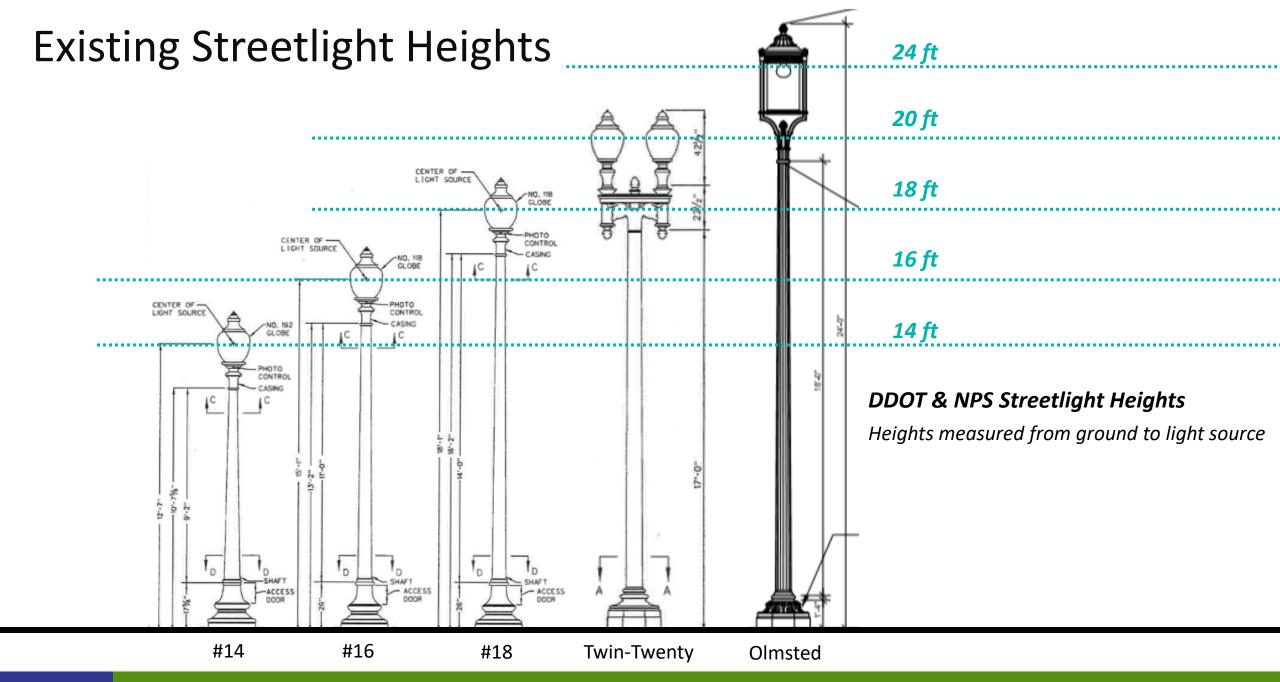
Smart Street Lighting Project (DDOT & OP3)



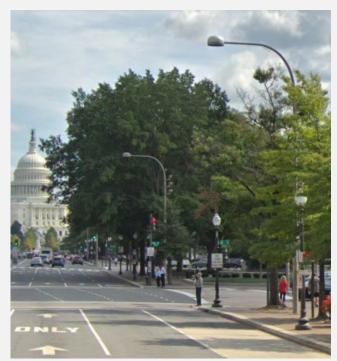
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Current Guidance





Special Streetlight Fixtures



Pennsylvania Avenue Tiered Lighting Suite



US Capitol Ladder Rest



Kutz Bridge Saratoga

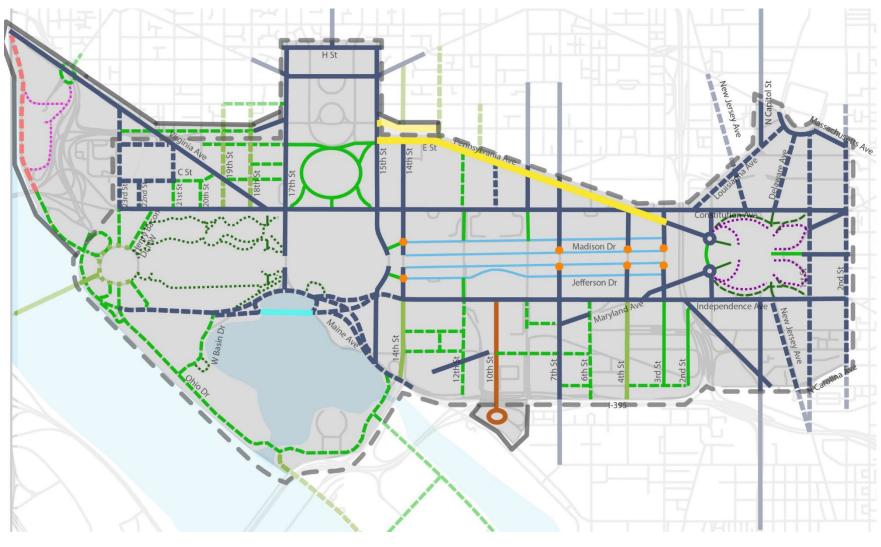


L'Enfant Promenade



Kennedy Center

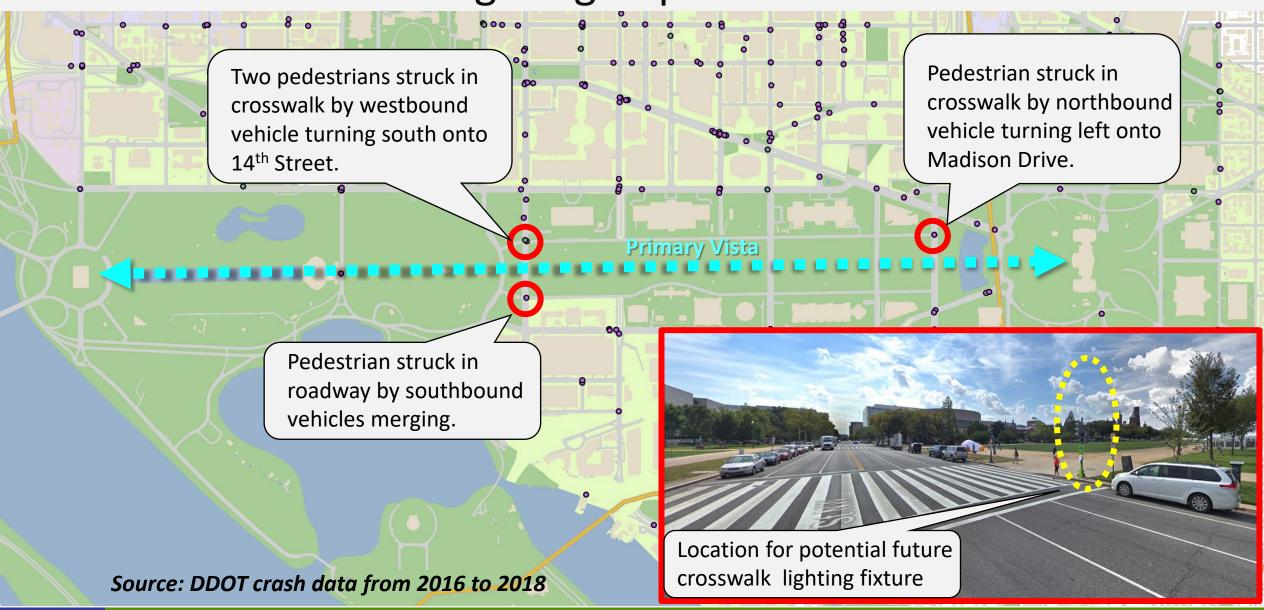
Proposed Guidance – Streetlight Fixtures



^{*} Heights shown are approximate fixture mounting heights (as measured from light source to roadway surface). See section drawings within the Streetscape Manual for actual dimensions.

Streetlight Fixture	Height*	Configuration
Cobrahead	30	Staggered
Twin-Twenty (including State Dept)	20 ft	Opposite Staggered
Washington Globe	18 ft	Opposite Staggered 1-Sided
Washington Globe	16 ft	Opposite Staggered
Washington Globe (historic areas)	14 ft	Opposite Staggered 1-Sided
Olmsted	24 ft	Opposite
Penn Ave Cobrahead Penn Ave Pedestrian Penn Ave Eagle Globe	40 ft 8' – 6" 16 ft	Opposite Opposite Opposite
Capitol Square Ladder Rest Globe	13 ft	1-Sided
Kutz Bridge Saratoga	19 ft	Opposite
10 th Street, SW (L'Enfant Promenade)	20 ft	Opposite
Kennedy Ctr PostTop Kennedy Ctr Pedestrian	30 ft 12 ft	1-Sided 1-Sided
Crosswalk Fixture (See Recommendations)	TBD	Placed at Crosswalks (See Recommendations)

Mall Panel Crosswalk Lighting Improvement Recommendations



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Mall Panel Crosswalk Lighting Improvement Recommendations

Existing Conditions:

 Single line of lights flank sides of the center panel.

View of Mall Center Panel Vista

Existing Conditions:

- No crosswalk lighting.
- Signal poles located at each crosswalk.

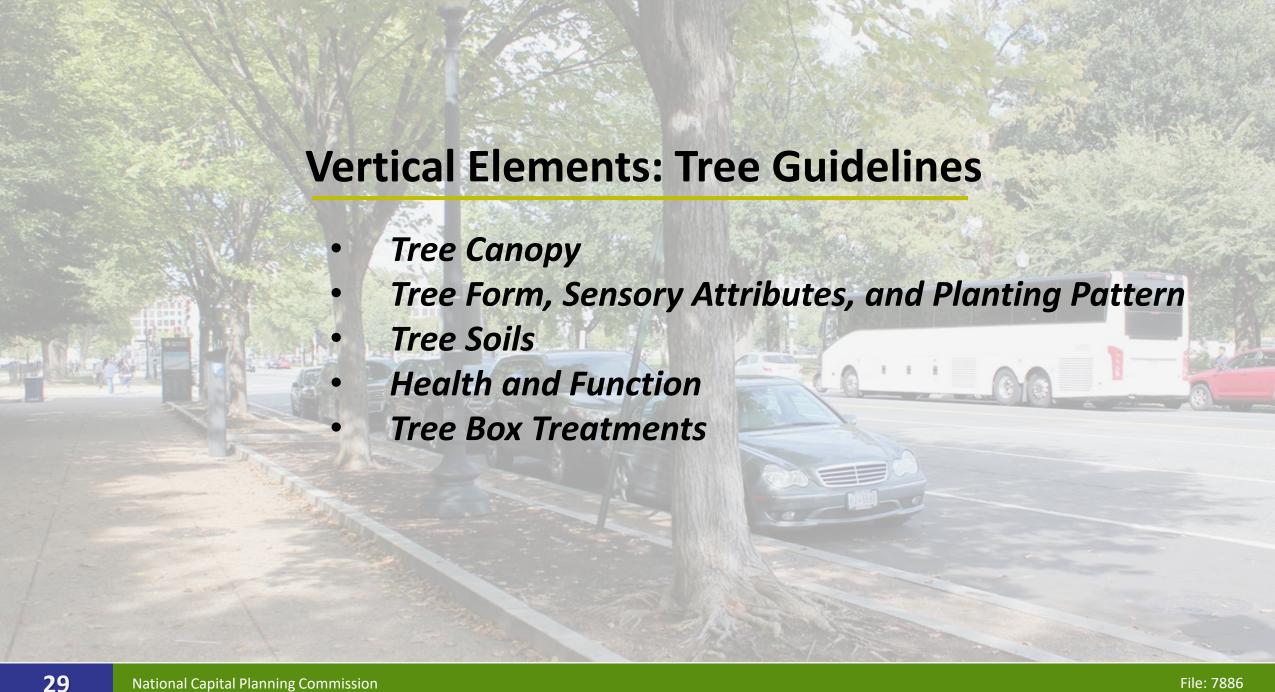
View of 7th Street, NW Crosswalk



Streetlight Summary

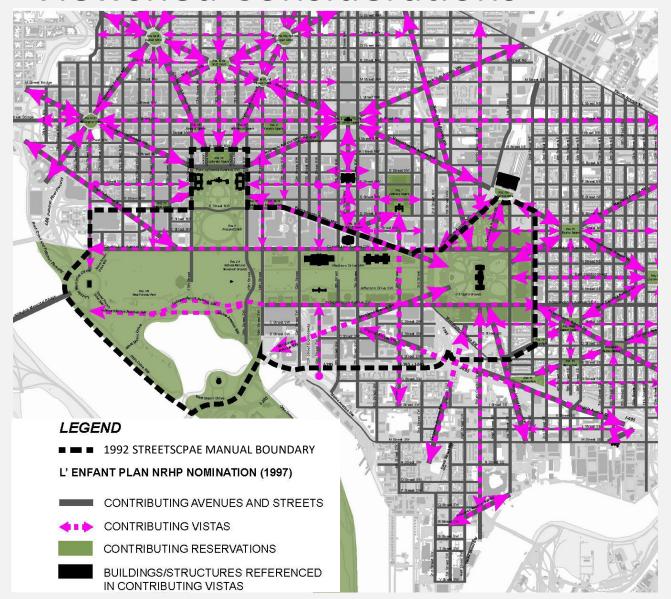
Guidelines support streetlight fixtures that:

- Unify city streets
- Express the dignity of the federal city
- Highlight unique areas
- Achieve a consistent palette on the National Mall while improving crosswalk lighting



Current Guidance H St Madison Dr **American Elm** (disease resistant)

Viewshed Considerations

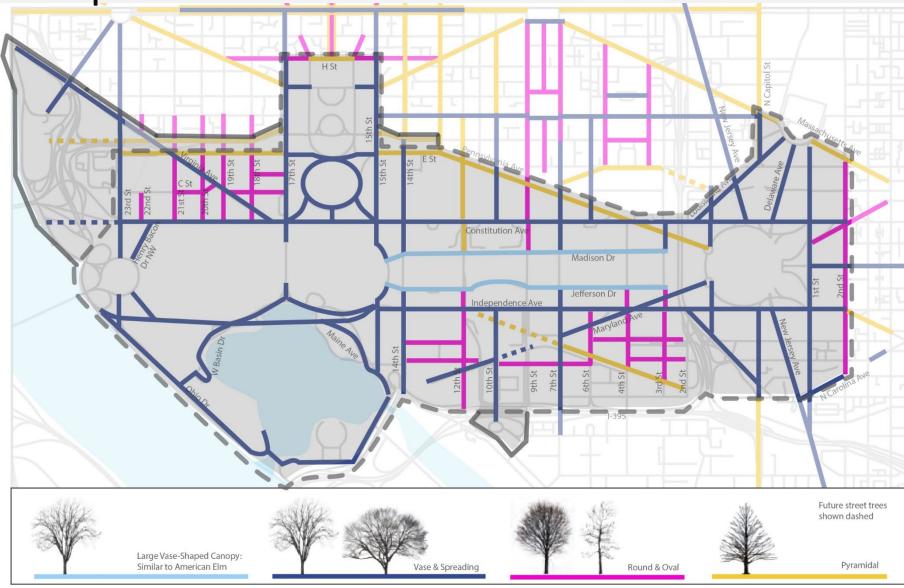


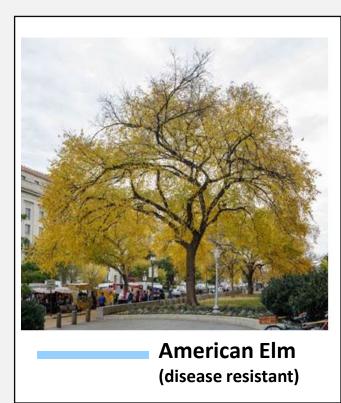




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Proposed Guidance – Tree Form

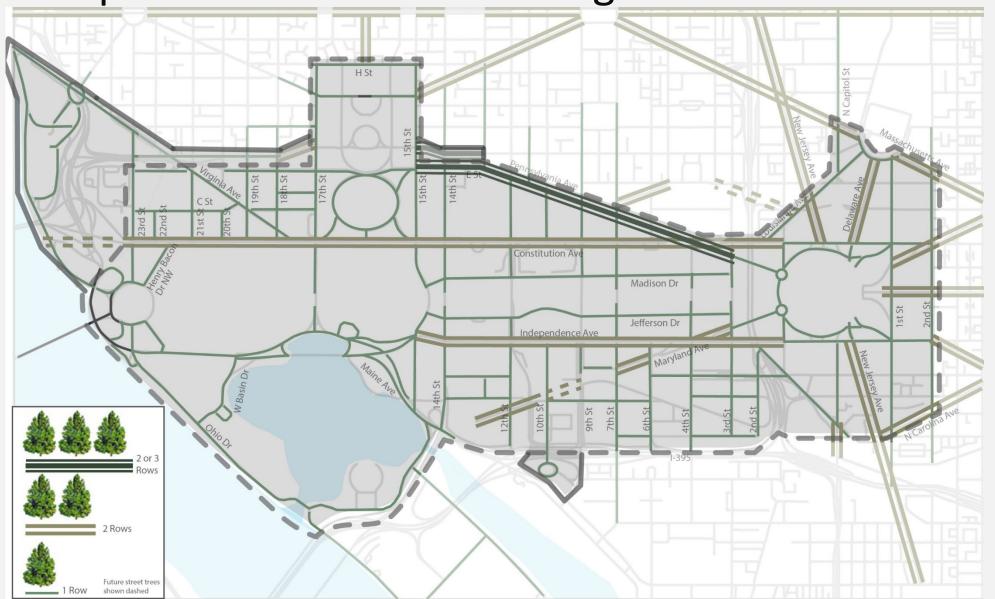




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Proposed Guidance – Planting Pattern



Historic Tree Plans:

- 1791 L'Enfant Plan
- 1803 Jefferson Plan for Pennsylvania Avenue
- 1880 DC Commissioner's Shade Tree Plan
- 1903 Olmsted Plan for 16th Street
- 1974 Pennsylvania Avenue Plan
- 1980 Constitution and Independence Avenue Study*

Current Guidance - Tree Box Treatments

Specified in the Streetscape Manual



Post and Chain



Existing Conditions



Granite Edge

Proposed Guidance - Tree Box Treatments

Urban and Building Yard Character

Bioretention





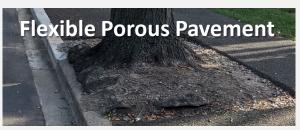
Park, Garden, and Mall Character



Non-Bioretention









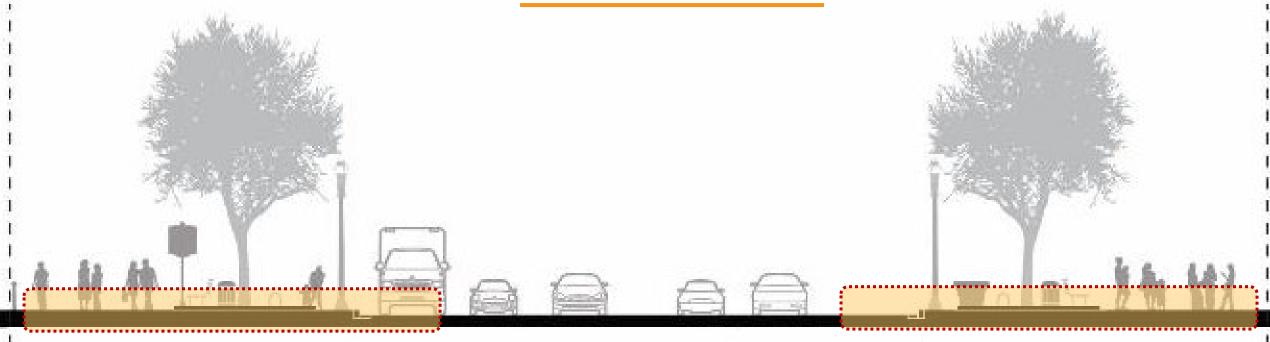
Tree Summary

Guidelines support:

- Increasing tree canopy cover
- Selecting trees that reinforce streetscape views and improve the pedestrian experience
- Improving biodiversity and tree health
- Enhancing environmental and human health

Streetscape Design Guidelines: Surface Elements

- Landscapes and Plantings
- Stormwater Management
- Pavements
- Pedestrian Circulation

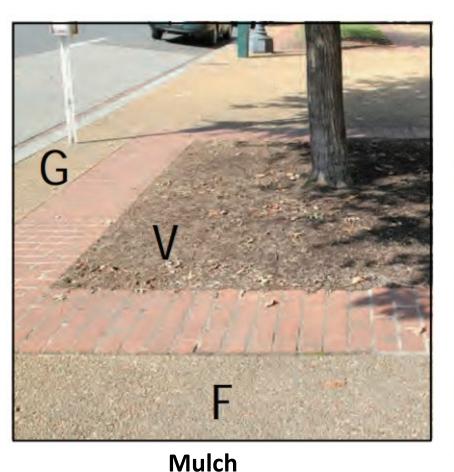


Surface Elements: Landscapes and Plantings

- Urban Design Considerations
- Public Parking
- Verges
- Public ROW Soils
- Plant Palette and Environmental Considerations

Current Guidance



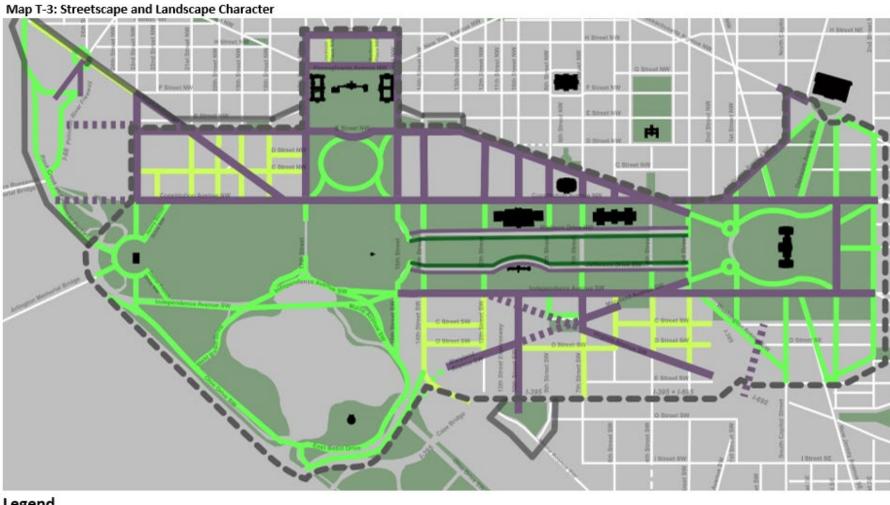


Grass

STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS

- F. Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk
- G. Exposed aggregate concrete step-out curb border
- Individual tree replacement (i.e., Federal Triangle planting bed with brick border)
- W. Tree planting in linear tree space, wood mulched

Proposed Guidance – Landscape Character











Legend

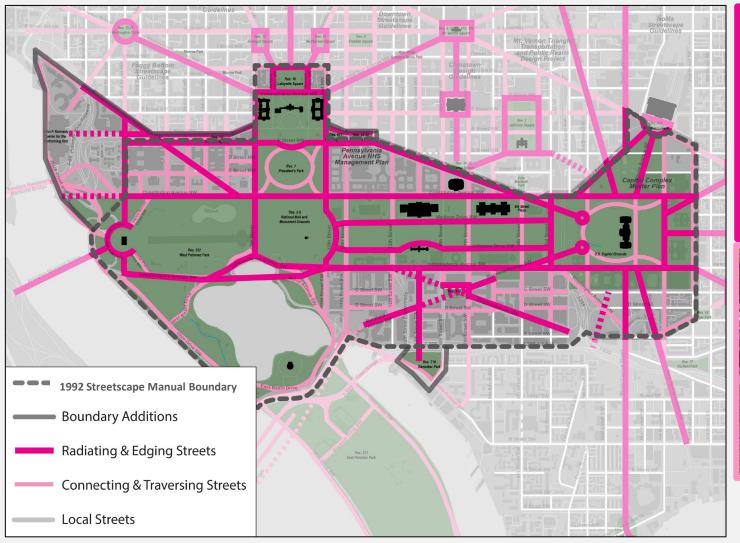
Urban

Building Yard

Park and Garden

Central National Mall Panel

Proposed Guidance – Vegetation Height







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Landscape and Planting Summary

Guidelines support:

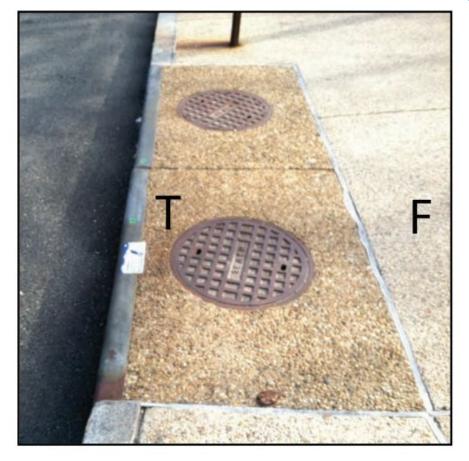
- Enhancing streetscape landscapes and green spaces
- Improving soils for healthy trees and vegetation
- Promoting native and pollinator-friendly plants

Surface Elements: Stormwater Management

- Stormwater Management Best Practices
- Application of Stormwater Management Best Practices
- Environmental Function and Design
- Maintenance

Current Guidance

Specified in the Streetscape Manual

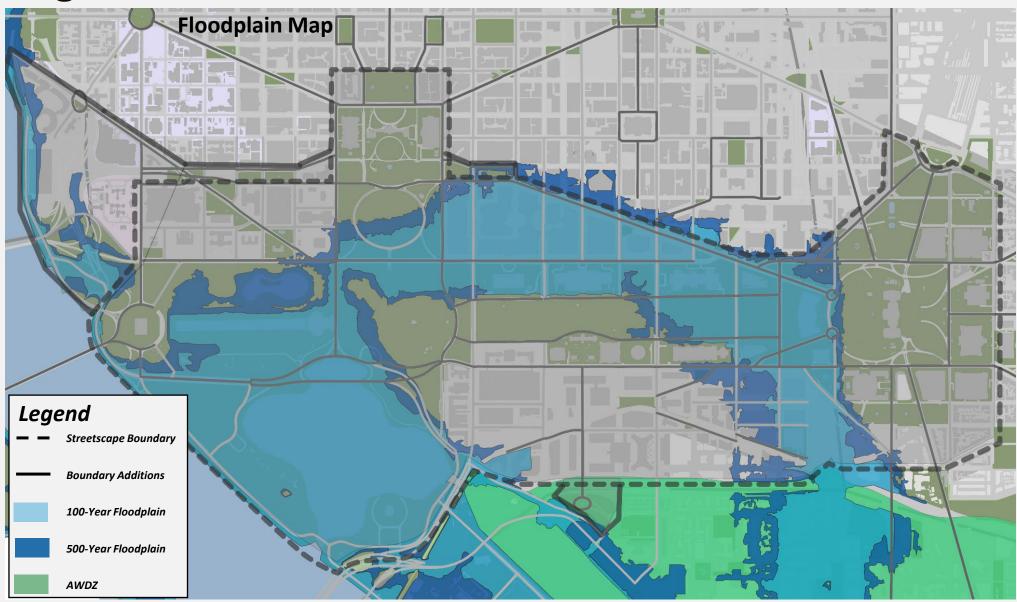




STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS

- F. Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk
- Exposed aggregate or simulated granite (pre-cast concrete) inlet cover

Existing Conditions



Proposed Guidance – Urban Design Considerations





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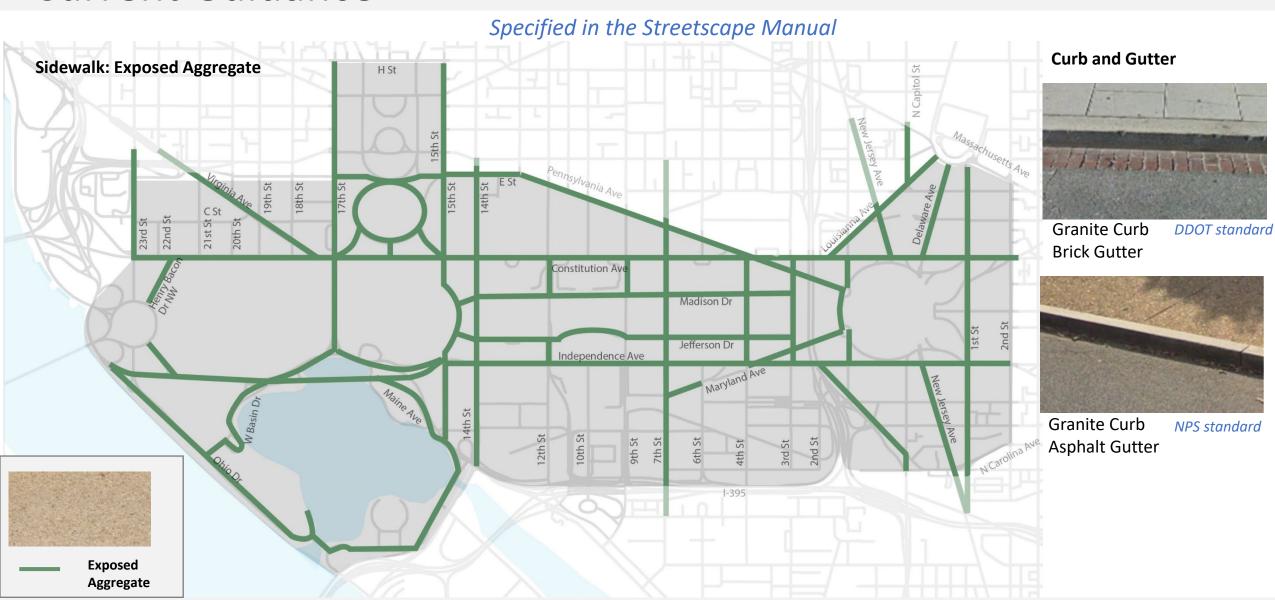
Stormwater Management Summary

Guidelines support:

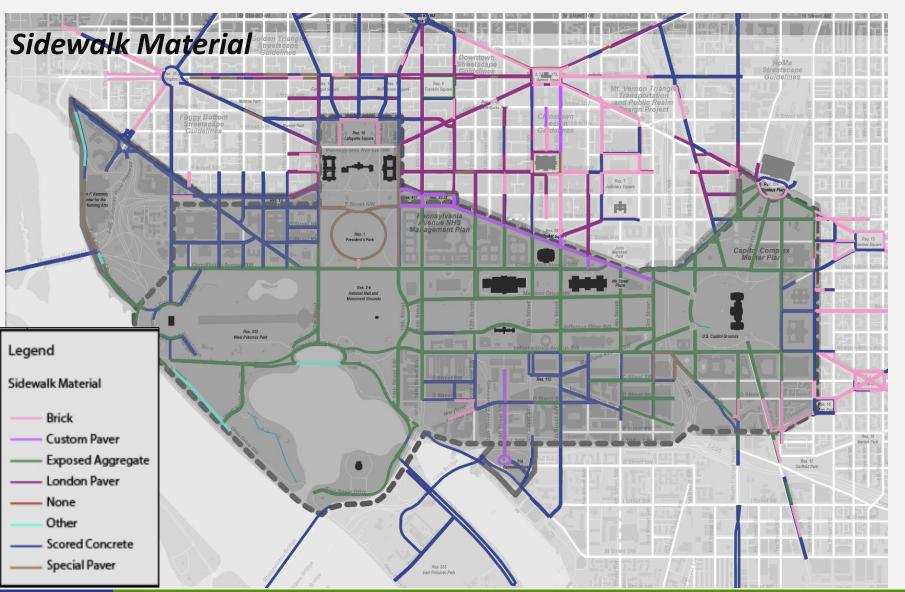
- Using best management practices to address flooding and water quality issues and meet federal and local standards and regulations
- Protecting historic and cultural resources and aesthetic character
- Ensuring proper stormwater facility maintenance

Surface Elements: Pavement Vision and Character **Pavement Materials Pavement Transitions Environmental Considerations** 48 **National Capital Planning Commission** File: 7886

Current Guidance



Existing Conditions





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Proposed Guidance – Sidewalk Pavement



Note: Custom Pavers reflect existing conditions and planned projects including the President's Park South design competition and future E Street, NW corridor improvements to achieve the Monumental Core Framework Plan goal of connecting the Kennedy Center with the White House and President's Park with a linear park.

Pavement Summary

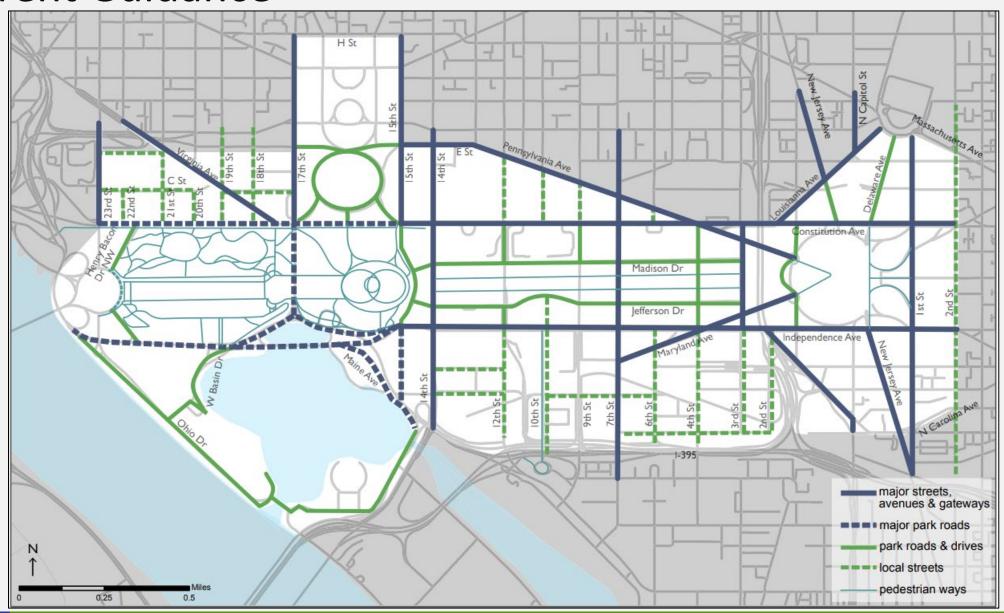
Guidelines support:

- Unifying monumental core pavements
- Enabling comfortable movement
- Simplifying material transitions and joints
- Improving stormwater management and mitigating heat island effect

Surface Elements: Pedestrian Circulation

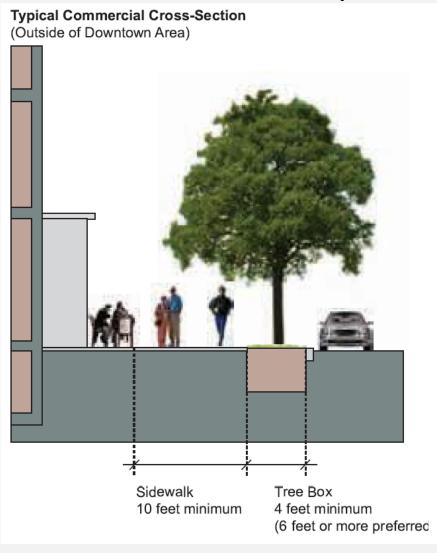
- Circulation Routes
- Unique Land Uses and Special Event Locations
- Pedestrian Circulation
- Coordination with Other Streetscape Zones
- Coordination with Other Travel Modes

Current Guidance



Considerations

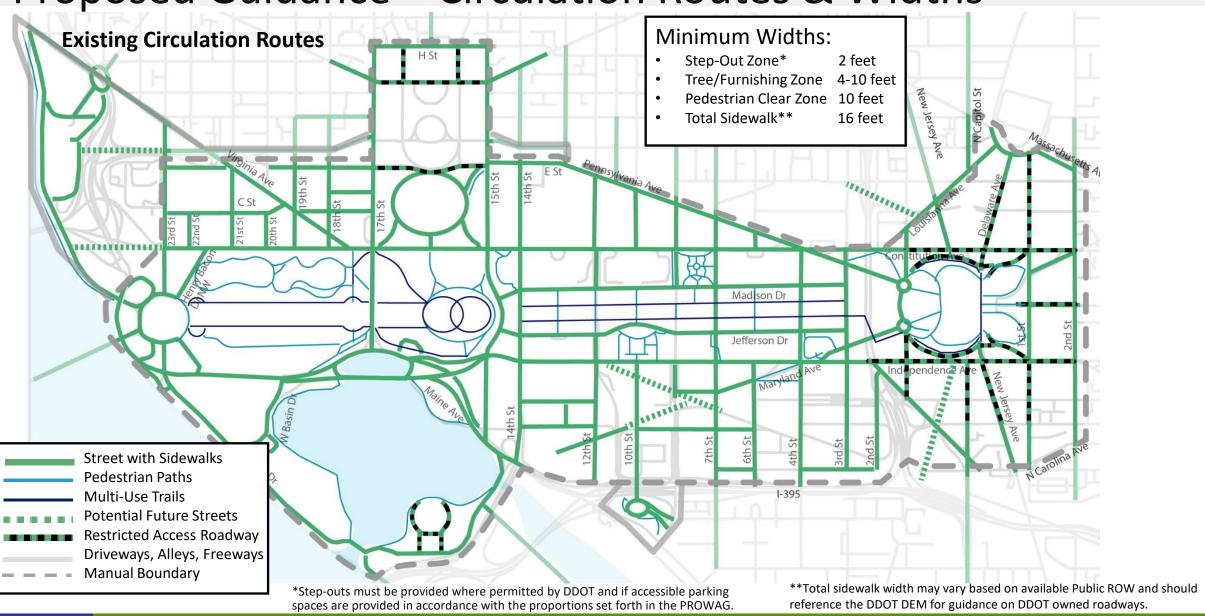
District Guidance for Pedestrian Space



Coordination with Other Travel Modes

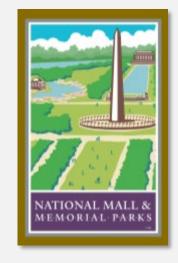


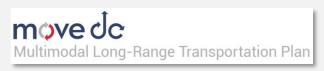
Proposed Guidance – Circulation Routes & Widths

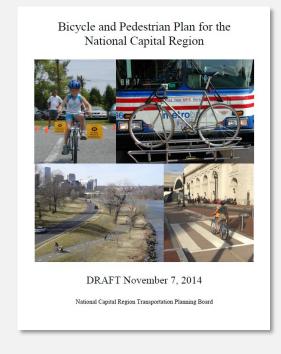


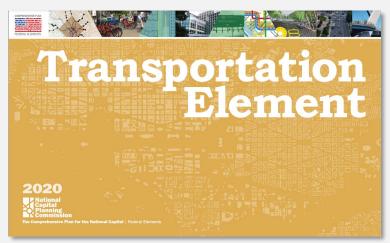
Coordination with Federal and Local Guidance

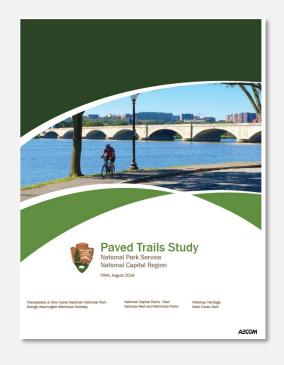
- Comprehensive Plan: Transportation Element (2020)
- NPS Paved Trails Study (2016)
- Move DC (2014)
- MWCOG/TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2014)
- NPS National Mall Plan (2010)











Pedestrian Circulation Summary

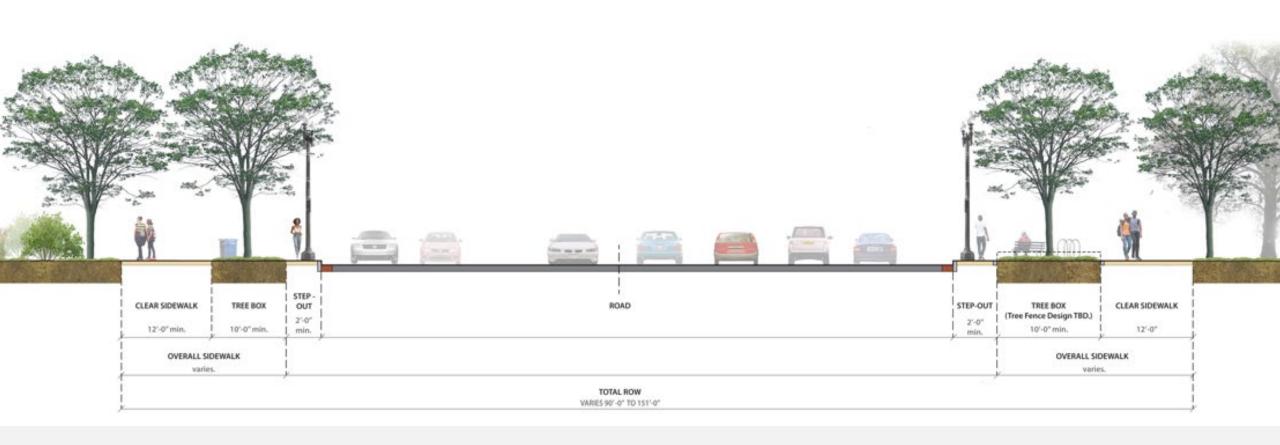
Guidelines support:

- Enhancing circulation routes for comfortable and enjoyable pedestrian movement
- Providing access to unique destinations and events
- Ensuring consistent alignment and adequate size of pedestrian spaces
- Coordinating pedestrian spaces with other streetscape zones and travel modes

Guideline Application – Example Illustrations

Radiating and Edging Street Example: Constitution Avenue, NW

Typical street section between the Potomac River and US Capitol Grounds / 2nd Street: 90' to 151' ROW



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Guideline Application – Example Illustrations

Connecting and Traversing Street Example: 12th Street, SW

Typical street section between the Mall and SW Freeway: 85' ROW

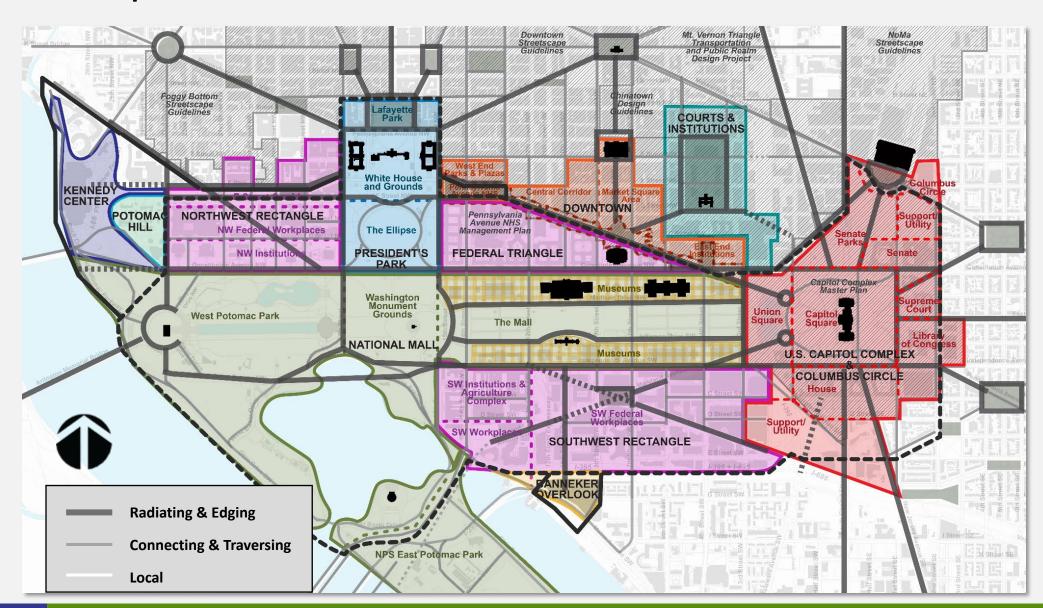


Current Work and Next Steps

Current Work and Next Steps

- Small-Scale Element Guidelines
- Construction Manual Update
- Companion Streetscape Review Guide

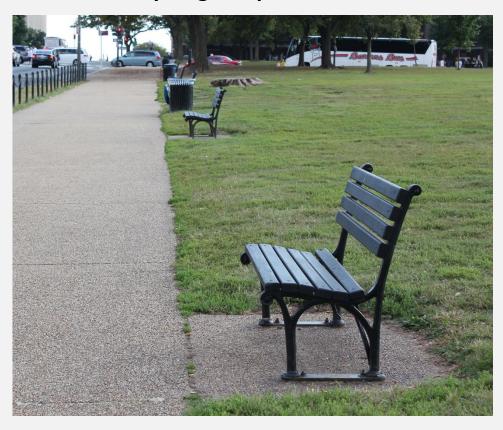
Next Steps: Small-Scale Element Guidelines



Next Steps: Small-Scale Element Guidelines

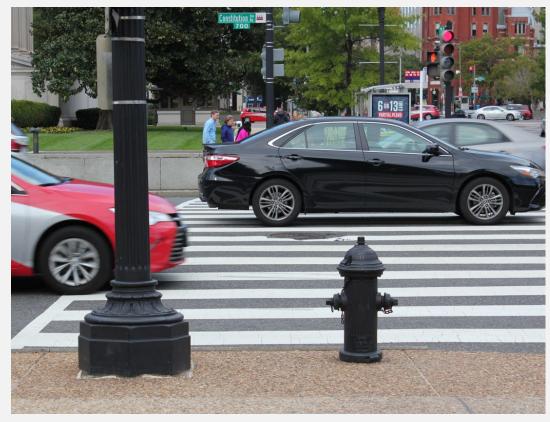
Furnishings

Current Standards: address benches, and trash and recycling receptacles



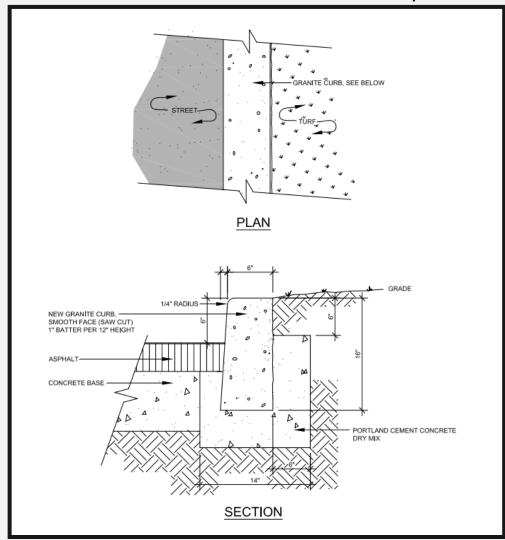
Civic Infrastructure

Current Standards: address fire hydrants, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, and post and chain fence



Next Steps: Construction Manual Update

1992 Streetscape Manual Construction Details

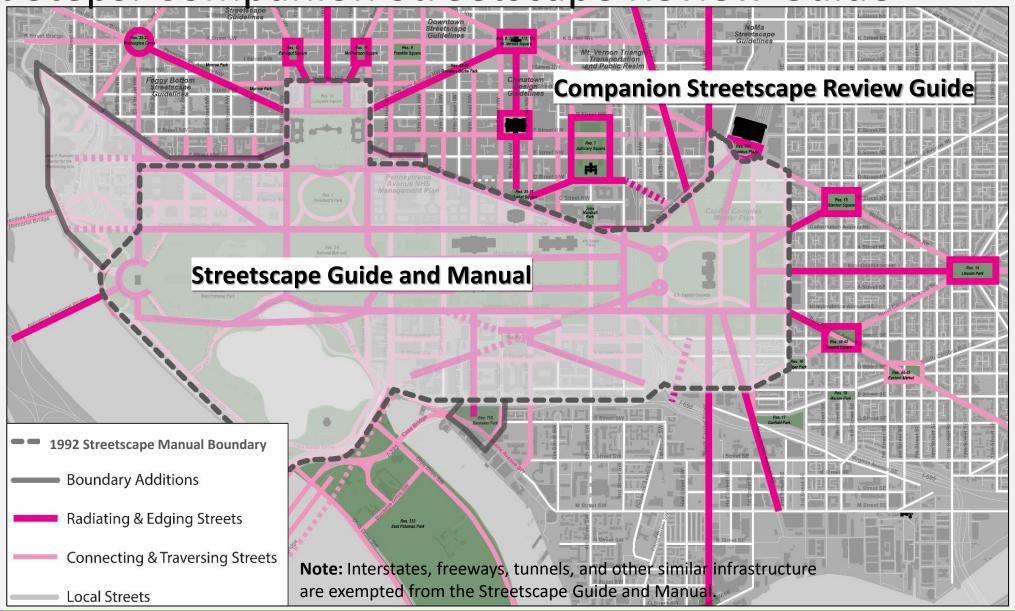


CAST ALUMINUM FINIAL, THREADED FOR ATTACHMENT TO GLOBE WITH BOLT. PAINT BLACK TO MATCH POLE METAL HALIDE LAMP FROSTED, TEXTURED ARCYLIC OR BLOW-MOLDED POLYCARBONATE GLOBE CAST ALUMINUM BALLAST ENCLOSURE WITH REMOVABLE ACCESS DOOR TYPE PHOTO CONTROL IN-LINE FUSE LOCATED IN BALLAST COMPARTMENT NO. 6 SOLID COPPERWELD GROUND WIRE DETAIL GROUT TO LEVEL FINISH SURFACE STANDARD CONNECTION INSTALL 5/8" X 8" GROUND 8"X6-1/2"X17'-0" **ELEVATION OF BASE** 11 GAUGE STEEL SHAFT GROUND WIRE CAST-IRON CLAM SHELL BASE WITH ACCESS DOOR AND GROUND STUD BASE PLATE, ALL SIDE TO BE EQUAL 11" BOLT RING PLAN OF BASE **ELEVATION**

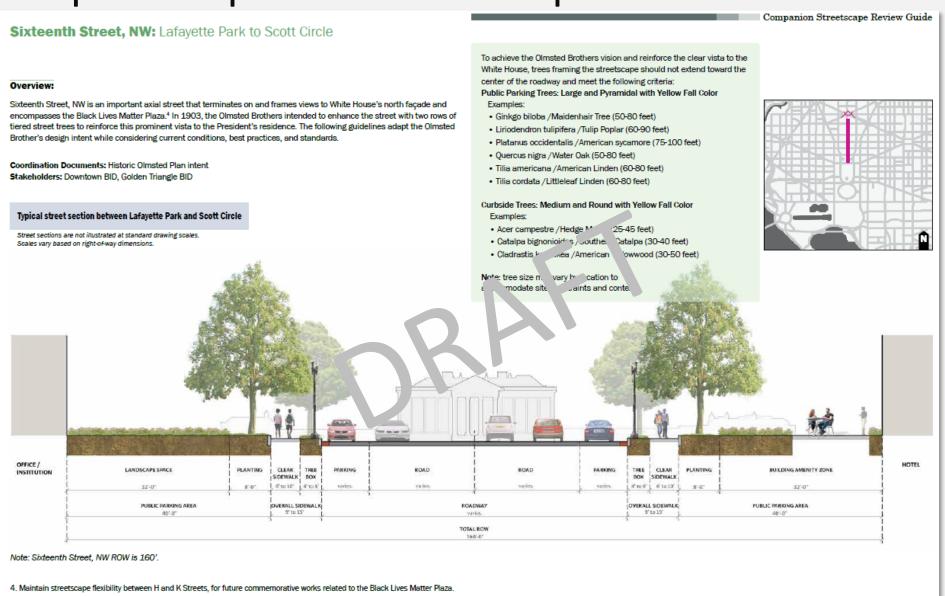
Paving, Curb, and Gutter Detail

Twin-Twenty Streetlight Detail

Next Steps: Companion Streetscape Review Guide



Next Steps: Companion Streetscape Review Guide



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How the Streetscape Guide and Manual Will Be Used

Guidance:

- For agencies to achieve streetscape consistency among multiple jurisdictions
- To inform interagency coordination on project details
- To inform NCPC and CFA staff project review



