## **Central Washington**

Element Summary: 16-CW

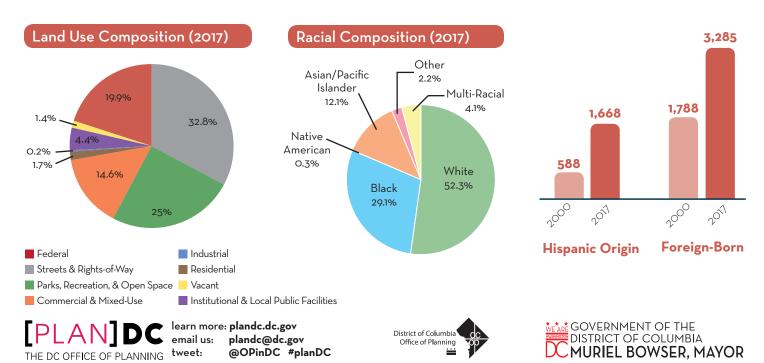
#### **OVERVIEW**

Central Washington is comprised of 6.8 square miles of land that include the "monumental core" of the city, with such landmarks as the U.S. Capitol and White House, the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, the Federal Triangle and Smithsonian Museums. Planning for this area is done collaboratively with the federal government, with the National Capital Planning Commission having land use authority over federal lands. Central Washington includes the city's traditional Downtown and other employment centers, it includes Gallery Place and Penn Quarter, the region's entertainment and cultural center, and recently emerging neighborhoods like Mount Vernon Triangle and NoMa. A majority of the area is within Ward 2, with portions also in Ward 6. All of Central Washington is within the boundary of the 1791 L'Enfant Plan and its streets, land uses, and design reflect this legacy.

As the center of employment in the region, 475,531 people are employed within its boundaries and most commute to the area for its jobs. The area's preeminence is underscored by its land use patterns; it includes more than 115 million square feet of office space (almost 23 percent of the region's total), 2.6 million square feet of retail floor space, over 15,000 hotel rooms, major entertainment venues, and one of the largest theater districts in the country. Compared to the other nine Planning Areas in the city, Central Washington contains much higher percentages of commercial and federal land.

#### **CONTENTS**

- The area's context, including its history, land use, demographics, housing characteristics, income and employment, and projections for growth.
- **CW-1:** General Policies for Guiding Growth and Neighborhood Conservation.
- CW-2: Eight Policy Focus Areas: Metro Center/Retail Core; Gallery Place/Penn Quarter; Chinatown; Mount Vernon District; Downtown East/Judiciary Square; Golden Triangle/K Street; L'Enfant Plaza/Near Southwest/Maryland Avenue; NoMa/Northwest One.



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### SUMMARY OF MAJOR POLICY THEMES

#### Accommodating Growth

- Foster mixed-use development that includes retail, office, and new cultural and entertainment venues to enhance vibrancy and to retain Central Washington's primacy as a regional and national employment center for employment, culture, and entertainment.
- Expand opportunities for housing production throughout the area, with a focus on large development opportunities, air-rights development and federal disposition. Activate Central Washington 24-7 through increased residential development.

#### Coordinating with Federal Partners to Enhance Central Washington

- Continue the partnership and collaboration with federal agencies to improve existing open space and parks in order to augment the supply and quality of recreational opportunities in Central Washington as well as to improve the design of the urban environment.
- Continue to collaborate with federal agencies to improve, revitalize or redevelop key properties, open spaces and iconic avenues, like the FBI Headquarters, Pennsylvania Avenue, L'Enfant Plaza, 10th Street SW, and federal reservations, to create world-class and vibrant public spaces and mix-use developments
- Continue working with federal agencies to improve Central Washington's resilience to flooding and climate-related risks

#### Supporting Multi-modal Transportation and Better Circulation

- Support infrastructure improvements and policy initiatives that reduce the dependency on cars for commuting to and from Central Washington.
- Improve non-vehicle transportation linkages especially east to west and infrastructure investments that improve regional connectivity.

### Creating Active Street Life and Well Designed Public Spaces

• Focus on design quality and human experience when revitalizing spaces in Central Washington in order to create a more vibrant, exciting and engaging experience.





