The Comprehensive Plan

A Brief Overview

Updated 6.26.2020

What is it?

- The Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) is a high-level guiding document that sets a positive, long-term vision for the District, through the lens of its physical growth and change.
- It is divided into 25 elements (see back) and 2 maps, the Future Land Use Map and the Generalized Policy Map

Why is it important?

- The Comp Plan allows us to be intentional about how and where we change, and how we balance competing interests to promote a vibrant, equitable, and resilient city, not only for us, but for our children and grandchildren.
- The Comp Plan establishes a vision and broad goals to help inform decision-making and provide context for residents, officials, and stakeholders and can help guide and inform more fine-grained planning efforts.

Why amend now?

- The Comp Plan was written in 2006 and amended in 2011. Given how our city has changed in that time, it is important that we amend it now to reflect today's conditions, opportunities, and challenges – including housing, equity, resilience and public resources.
- COVID-19, its economic effects, and civil unrest highlight the need for the amendment to be adopted for the Comp Plan to appropriately guide the District through and beyond these events.

The Comp Plan also...

- Guides land use and impacts zoning and the District's budget.
- Incorporates over 40 various plans, including five Small Area Plans adopted since 2011.
- Provides high-level guidance for the District to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and emerge stronger, healthier, more resilient, and more equitable than before.

Amendment Timeline

2016
- Spring: Coordination with District Agencies
- Summer: [PLAN]DC Kickoff Campaign
- Fall: Citywide Public Engagement

2017
- Spring: Open Call for Proposed Amendments
- Fall: Framework Element Development

2018
- Jan: Framework Element Introduced to Council
- Mar: Framework Element Council Hearing
- Summer/Fall: Analysis of Open Call Amendments

2019
- May: DC Values Launch
- Jun: Values Public Engagement
- Oct : Council Approval of Framework
- Draft Plan Amendment Release & 80+ Day Public Review Period (ANC 120+ Days)
- Oct-Dec: Public Engagement

2020
- Mayor's Proposal submitted to Council
- Council Review & Approval

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MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

The Comprehensive Plan

Elements

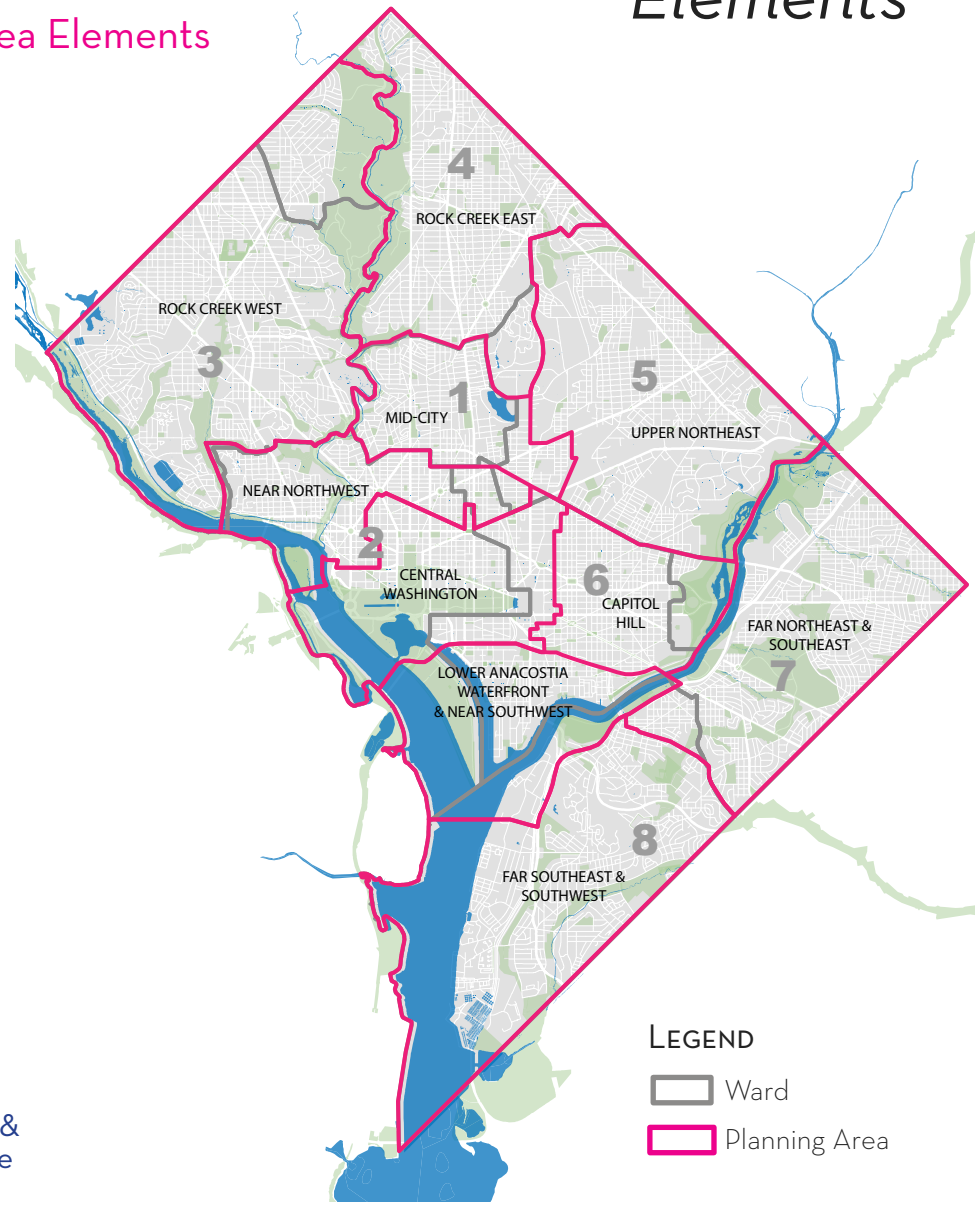
Context Elements

- Framework
- Introduction
- Implementation

Citywide Elements

- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Arts & Culture
- Environmental Protection
- Transportation
- Community Services & Facilities
- Educational Facilities
- Urban Design
- Historic Preservation
- Infrastructure
- Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

Area Elements



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THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Major Themes and Updates

WHAT ARE MAJOR THEMES?

Major Themes are themes that have been woven throughout the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) that address critical needs of the District while managing the city's continued growth.

- Housing affordability in a growing city
- Racial equity and justice
- Resilience for climate change economic distress, and health emergencies
- Systemic approach to public resources including health, education, and food access

Additionally, each of the Major Themes aim to achieve a number of the eight Comp Plan Values that have been derived from public input received since the Comp Plan amendment process began in 2016.

OTHER UPDATES

In addition to the Major Themes, there are a number of plan-wide updates which include:

- Incorporating 40+ plans
- Reducing contradictory language and increased prioritization
- Updating data, information, terminology, and maps that can guide planning efforts for COVID-19 recovery and advancing racial equity

Address increasing housing cost and Mayor's goal of **36,000 new units by 2025**.

Align **land use policies** with housing production goals.

Support **area targets for affordable housing** to address inequitable distribution.

Preserve and expand approaches and options for increasing **affordability and affordable housing.**

Address continuum of housing from **homelessness to homeownership.**

Monitor data to **support emergency response** and recovery efforts including key economic, housing, and demographic indicators.

Add an **equity crosswalk** that highlights equity policies throughout the Comp Plan, including racial equity.

Advance **social and structural determinants of health**.

Address **physical and cultural displacement**, including through the Cultural Plan implementation.

Include **Age-Friendly DC** policies.

Address **food system** needs, including food access, with policies throughout.

Address **underlying social and economic conditions** that impact communities and their ability to immediately respond to and recover from COVID-19.

Recognize and address increased vulnerabilities during threats to natural security, major weather events, and public health emergencies like COVID-19, through a **resilience crosswalk** that highlights the Comp Plan's multiprongued approach.

Include **Resilience Focus Areas** on the Generalized Policy Map.

Incorporate **hazard mitigation and response** needs into civic infrastructure.

Address **Economic Resilience** through improved access to economic opportunities.

Include **Vision Zero** policies and goals.

Address the changing nature of transportation, including **mobility innovation.**

Support the District's **Smart Cities** efforts.

Enhance planning of public facilities through an **integrated Civic Infrastructure** planning effort.

Add **public life** considerations into urban design.

Connect **access to parks and physical activity to health and wellness and** mitigate adverse physical and mental health effects of sheltering in place.

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