Near Northwest
Element Summary: 21-NNW

OVERVIEW

The Near Northwest Planning Area encompasses the 3.6 square miles located directly north and west of Central Washington. Most of the area has historically been within Ward 2, although in past and present times, Near Northwest has also included parts of Wards 1, 5, and 6.

Near Northwest is known for its historic architecture, well-established neighborhoods, lively shopping areas, and nationally recognized institutions. These features provide enduring reminders of the city’s growth, from the 18th century to today’s international city. The Georgetown Historic District, established in 1950 in response to the demolition of large numbers of waterfront and canal-related historic buildings, was the first historic district established in the city.

Today, more than half of Near Northwest land area is included in historic districts. In 2017, the area had a population of 79,374, or about 11.8 percent of the city’s total. From 2000 to 2017, the population grew by over 10,800 people from 68,539 representing a 14 percent increase. With 54 percent of the population in Near Northwest between the ages of 18-34, young professionals make up a much higher percentage of the population in this area than they do in the city - a difference likely due to the presence of several university campuses in the area.

CONTENTS

- The area’s context, including its history, land use, demographics, housing characteristics, income and employment, and projections for growth.
- **NNW-1:** General Policies for Guiding Growth and Neighborhood Conservation.
- **NNW-2:** Five Policy Focus Areas: Shaw/Convention Center Area; Dupont Circle; 14th Street/Logan Circle; Lower Georgetown Waterfront; Foggy Bottom/West End.
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SUMMARY OF MAJOR POLICY THEMES

Accommodating Growth

- Respect and enhance the historic neighborhoods of Near Northwest while allowing new housing opportunities for a mix of income levels, families, and other households.
- Create new and enhance old public spaces and parks especially focusing on supplying the new and expanding neighborhoods like NoMa and Mount Vernon Triangle with adequate recreational opportunities.
- Work with universities and their campus plans to accommodate the institutions’ needs while sharing benefits with the larger community and mitigating impacts to neighboring residents.

Expanding Housing Opportunities

- Preserve and expand the stock of affordable housing for residents of all ages and abilities.
- Increase housing opportunities, as well as recreational, cultural and memorial space, by redesigning street infrastructure and leveraging air rights in Foggy Bottom.

Enhancing Community Resources

- Enhance natural open spaces for passive and active recreation as well as for their historical and cultural significance.
- Protect riverfront neighborhoods in Georgetown and Foggy Bottom from increased risk of flooding.

Improving Mobility

- Reduce the dependency on cars and support parking and transit strategies that encourage multi-modal options.
- Improve transit options connecting east and west of the District.