

NoMa Parks Foundation



Community Conversation
November 19, 2015





Community Conversation: Welcome

Robin-Eve Jasper

NoMa Business Improvement
District (BID) / NoMa Parks
Foundation (NPF)



Community Conversation: Welcome

Steve Brigham

Public Engagement Associates



Community Conversation: Purpose

- Update residents about the NoMa Parks Foundation and planning process
- Share details and solicit residents' ideas and views about several parks projects



Agenda

- **Table Introductions and Opening Polling**
- **Overview of the NoMa Parks Project and Parks Plan**
Presentation / Q&A
- **Acquisition of Properties for Parks**
Presentation / Q&A
- **Dog Parks Overview**
Presentation / Q&A
- **Four Interactive Park “Stations” to Visit**
NoMa Green, L Street Plaza, Metropolitan Branch Trail
3rd and L Streets
- **Next Steps**



Key Aspects of the Conversation

- Presentations / Q&A
- Polling Questions
- Worksheets
- Stations
- Sign In Sheets



Table Introductions

Share at Your Table:

- Name
- Where do you live?
- What is something new and good that's going on in NoMa right now?



Using Your Keypad



- Press the button of your choice
- When you get the green light, your vote has been received
- If you make a mistake, just vote again



What is your gender?

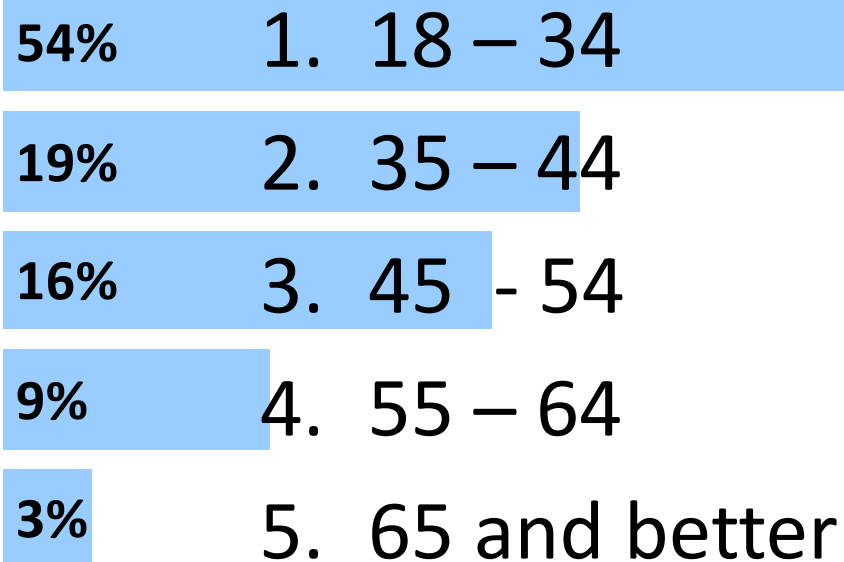
58% 1. Male



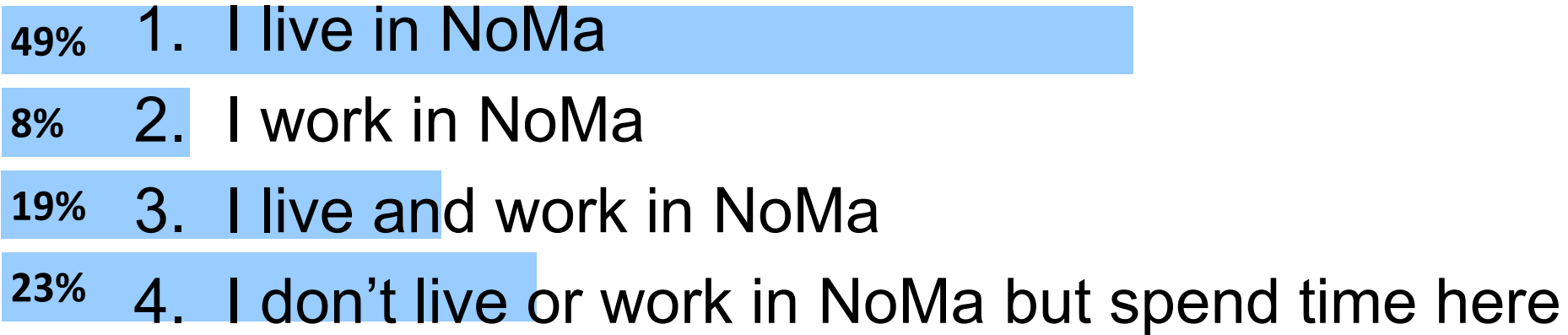
Gender	Percentage
1. Male	58%
2. Female	42%

42% 2. Female

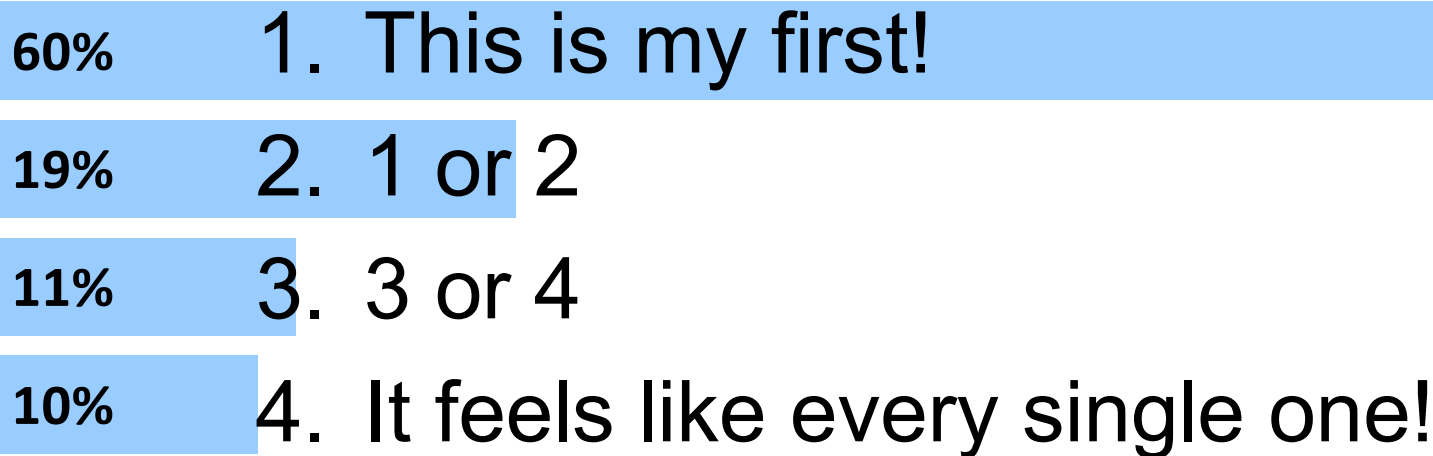
What is your age?



What best describes your relationship to NoMa?



How many meetings have you attended in the last 4 years about NoMa parks?



How much have you heard about the plan to create parks and public spaces in NoMa over the next few years?

- 11% 1. I have heard a lot
- 25% 2. I know only a little bit about it
- 30% 3. I have heard about it and know basic info
- 34% 4. I've heard a lot and familiar with plan outline





Presentation #1

Overview of the NoMa Parks Project and Parks Plan

Robin-Eve Jasper



NoMa Neighborhood

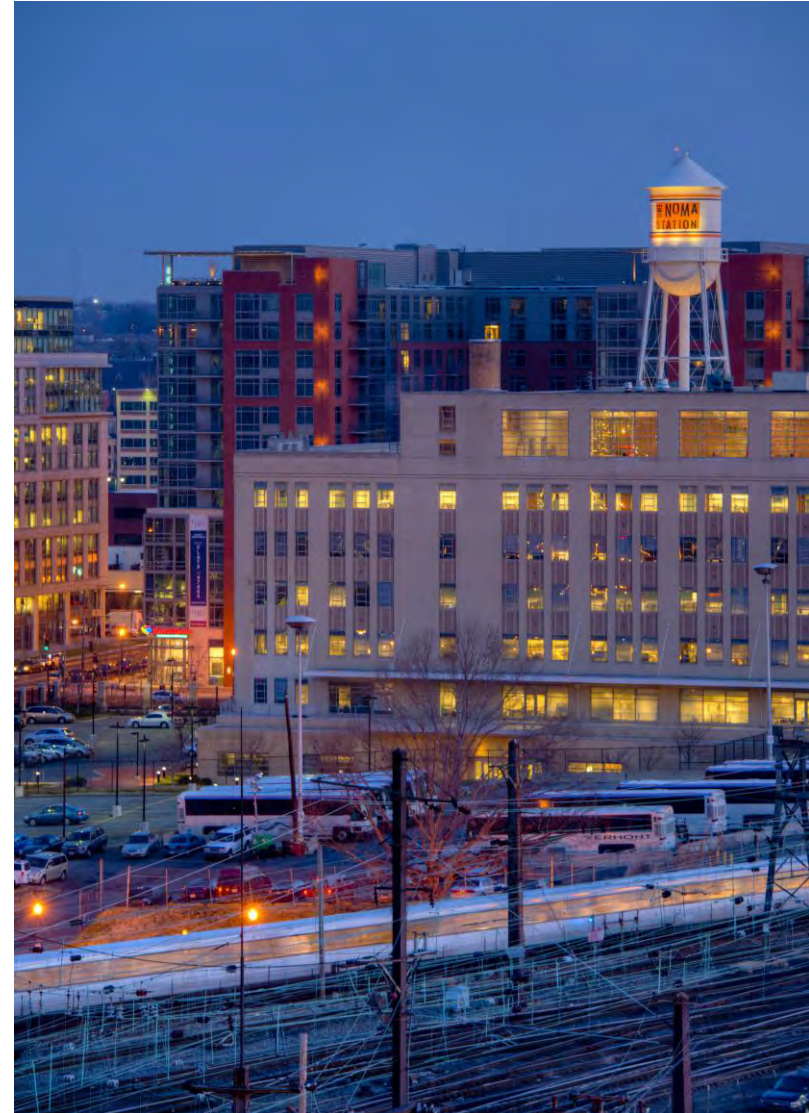
At a glance

NoMa Today

- 36,000 people within market area (18,000 residents within ½ mile of 1st and M St NE)
- 54,000 employees
- 94,000 weekday average pedestrian count

And growing:

- Almost 1,000 apartment units under construction
- 3,720 apartment units planned over the next 3 years
- Most dense mixed-use neighborhood in DC at build out





NoMa Neighborhood

At a glance

What does NoMa lack?

Parks!

- No publicly accessible park space
- On average, the District has 12.9 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents
- NoMa has less than 5 acres of open space

Parks are critical for the future of a great, growing neighborhood





Planning for Parks

Over many years:

- 2006 NoMa Vision Plan & Development Strategy
- 2011 American Planning Association Workshop
- 2012 Public Realm Design Plan

And with many stakeholders:

- NoMa residents and employees
- Local ANCs and community associations
- Development community
- DC Government agencies

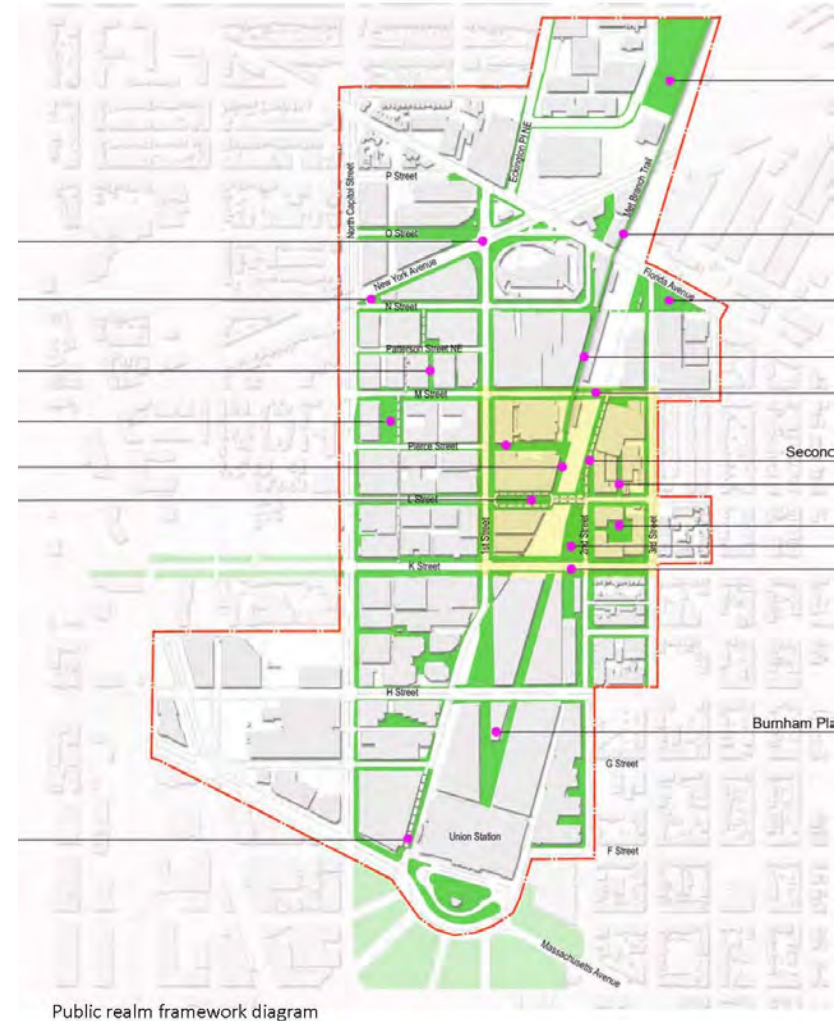




Planning for Parks

Common themes emerged:

- Limited public land in NoMa for open space
- Connectivity to and through neighborhood is key
- Streets and sidewalks are opportunities
- A central “commons” is needed for gathering
- Recreation-centered open space and playgrounds are essential





NoMa Parks Foundation

Establishment

What is the NoMa Parks Foundation?

- Formed in December 2012
- Mission: establish welcoming, sustainable, beautiful spaces where people can play, refresh, and connect, now and in the future
- Established to bring resources from private and public sectors together to bear on the parks problem





NoMa Parks Foundation

A Public-Private Partnership

How do we partner?

- \$50 million grant from DC Government
NoMa Parks Grant Authorization Act of 2013;
allows for grants to the NoMa Parks Foundation
“for the purpose of acquiring land and building
parks and public spaces...in accordance with the
NoMa Public Realm Design Plan”
- Grant signed October 2014 and concludes
September 2020
- Private sector has already committed \$15 M
value in foregone development





NoMa Parks Foundation

Public Engagement



ONGOING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The NoMa Parks Foundation is committed to carrying out the vision expressed in the NoMa Public Realm Design Plan. That Plan, however, is conceptual and there will continually be a need for community engagement in order to refine and implement each of the NoMa park projects. To that end, the NoMa Parks Foundation is committed to the following plan for on-going community engagement.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Each of the design contracts for NoMa parks includes community meetings as a design team requirement during the schematic design process. Additionally, the NoMa Parks Foundation looks forward to opportunities to regularly provide web-based information and receive online feedback.

GENERAL:

At least three times each year, the NoMa Parks Foundation will hold a public meeting to provide general updates on NoMa Parks progress and receive community feedback.

FEATURED POSTS

Washington Post: As D.C. embraces its industrial past, New York's High Line Park shows the way

MORE NOMA PARKS NEWS





NoMa Parks Foundation

Re-Cap of June Community Conversation

Top NoMa Parks Interests:

1. NoMa Green
2. Dog parks
3. Green space and trees
4. Children's playgrounds
5. NoMa Meander

Top Activities:

1. Biking
2. Hiking/Walking
3. Jogging
4. Picnics in parks
5. Walking my dog

Top Locations for Favorite Activities:

1. Metropolitan Branch Trail
2. The National Mall
3. Rock Creek
4. Anacostia Waterfront
5. Lincoln/Stanton Parks

40% of attendees live in NoMa

10% work in NoMa

13% both live and work in NoMa

55% of attendees indicated that the June meeting was their first NoMa Parks meeting

NoMa Parks Foundation



NoMa Parks System





NoMa Parks Foundation

Parks Envisioned

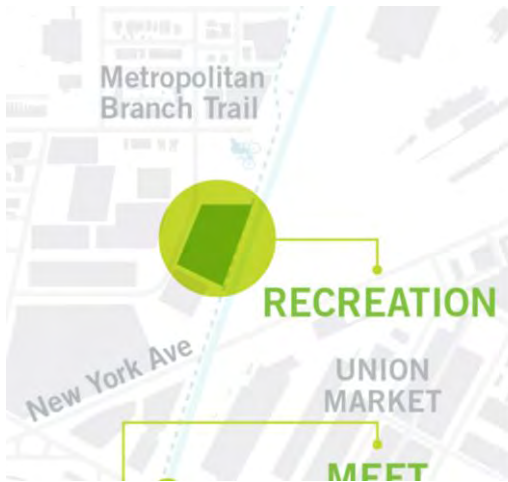
- Public Realm Design Plan identifies specific park opportunities and recognizes need to be opportunistic
- The parks system includes:
 - green spaces
 - playground
 - public plazas and gathering spaces
 - pocket parks
 - dog park, and
 - underpass/connectivity improvements
- Goals include incorporating the best thinking on:
 - Urban park design
 - Public safety
 - Sustainability
 - Accessibility
 - Ease of maintenance



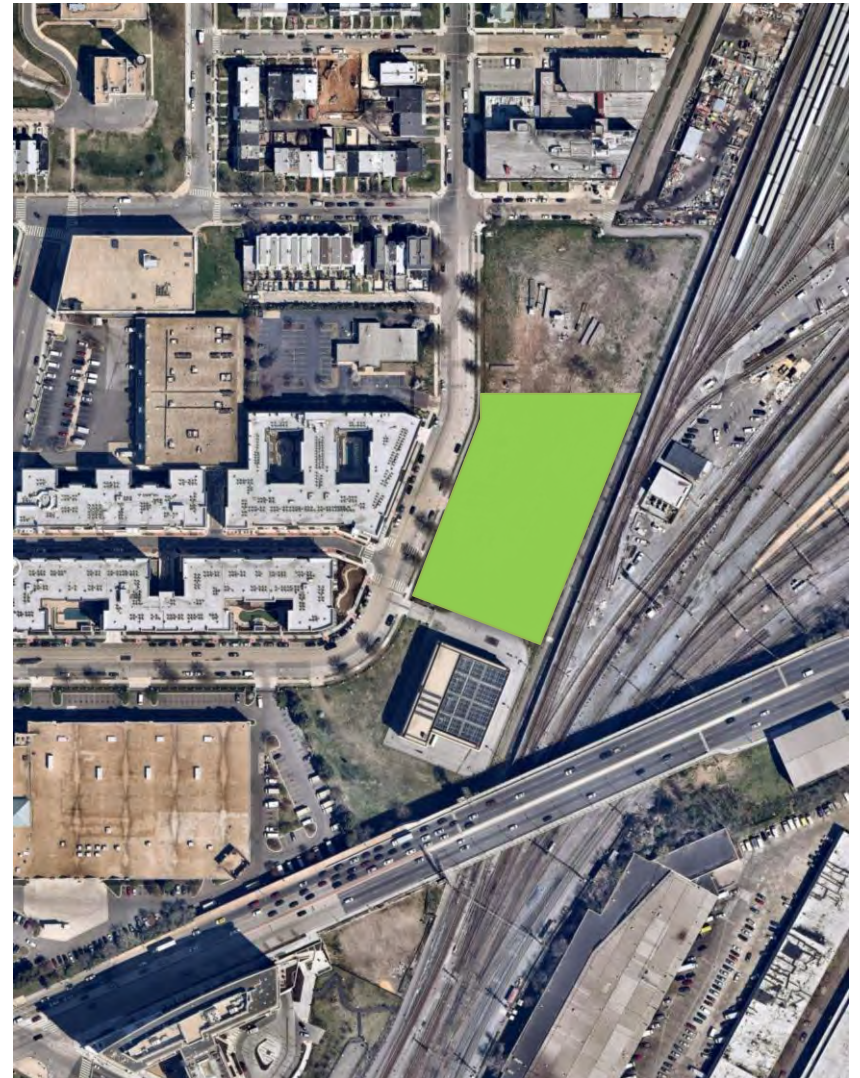


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NoMa Green



- Neighborhood “back yard” – large, open recreation area
- Located on Harry Thomas Way NE, just west of the Metropolitan Branch Trail
- Roughly 2 acres





NoMa Parks Foundation

3rd and L Street Park



- Located at the southwestern corner of 3rd and L Streets NE
- 5,295 square feet; with adjacent public space, nearly 8,200 square feet for a park
- Previously planned as condos; NPF acted quickly in late summer to acquire when it was put up for sale

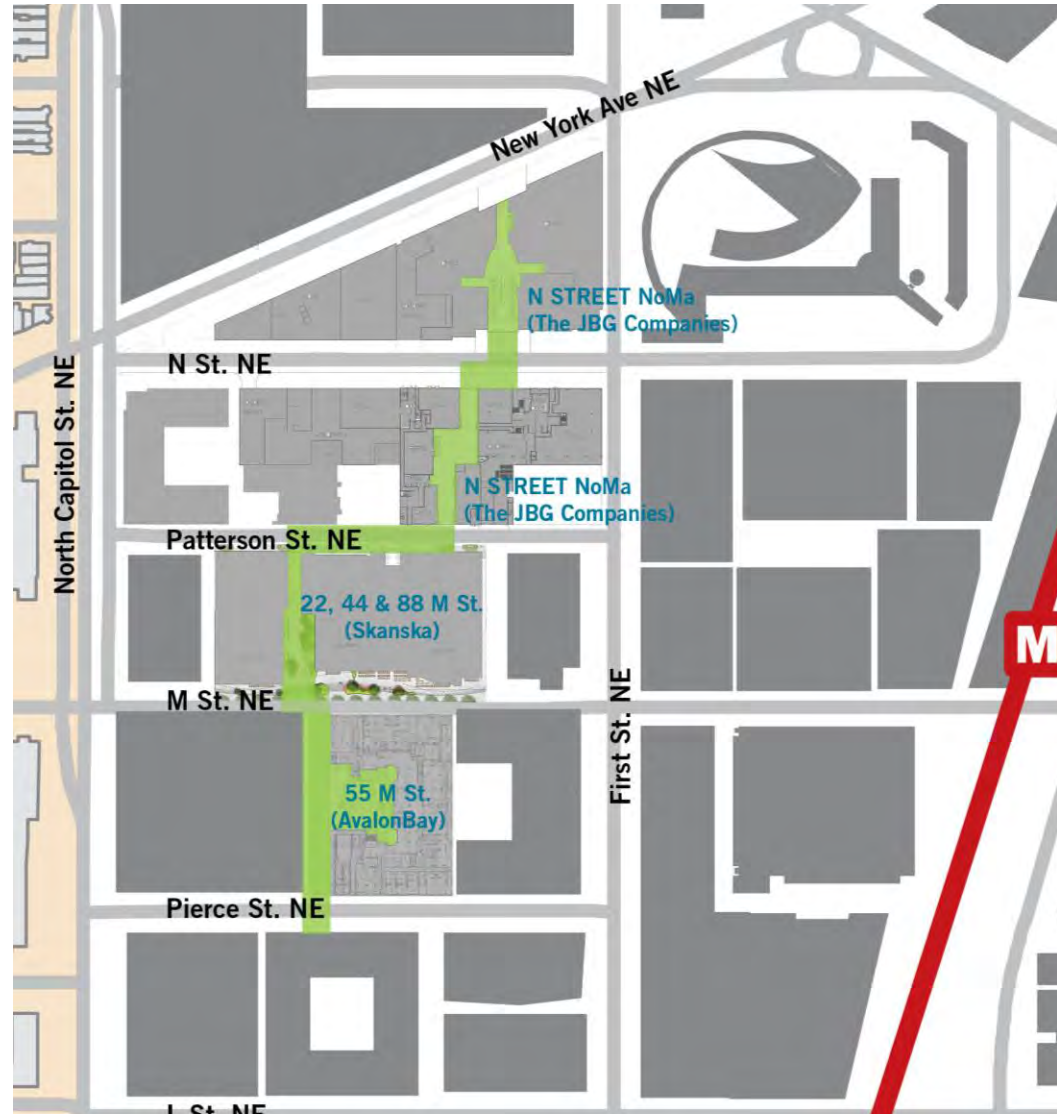




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NoMa Meander

- Mid-block pedestrian promenade
- North-south orientation from New York Avenue to Pierce Street NE
- Seating, plantings, water features all planned along active retail corridor
- First block of Meander going under construction this winter

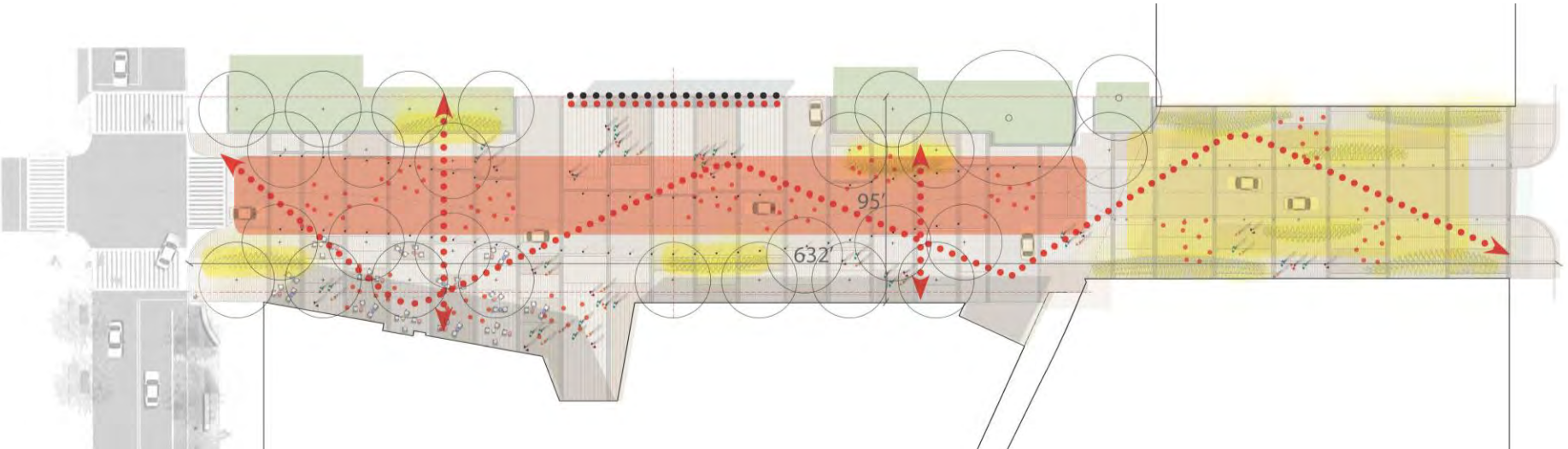
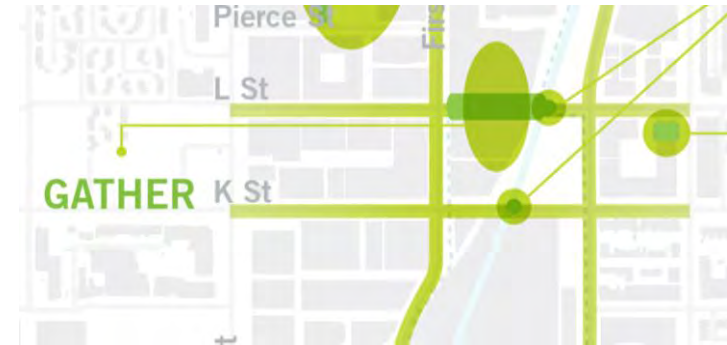




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L Street Plaza

- Neighborhood “town square”
- First and L Street NE; adjacent to Storey Park development site
- Modification of existing street and traffic calming will accommodate great public space for gatherings and events

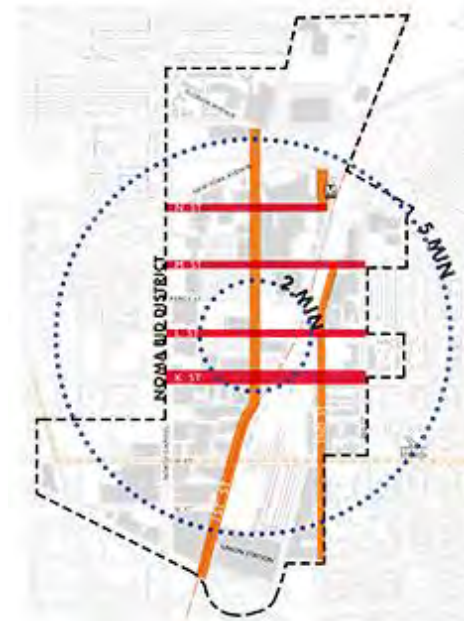




NoMa Parks Foundation

Linear Parks and Pocket Parks

- Linear parks, pocket parks, and underpasses are the “connective tissue” in the neighborhood
- Takes advantage of public space to extend park elements through neighborhood, improving comfort, safety, and aesthetics
- 4 underpasses and 8 streets already identified; pocket park opportunities will be identified in the future
- First underpass, M Street (“Rain”) will go under construction this winter
- Second underpass, L Street (“Lightweave”) is scheduled for construction in spring of 2016



MBT Safety and Access Study

Over 900 stakeholders, DDOT, MPD, NoMa BID and property owners helped determine recommendations for improved:

› Access:

- L Street ramp
- Union Market connection
- R Street connection
- Edgewood connection
- Franklin Street Alley

› Safety

- Mile markers
- Lighting
- Trail patrols

› Identity

- Public art and murals
- Wayfinding
- Branding

Connectivity

Improve and Increase Access Points

LEGEND



Enhance Existing Connections



Improve bike storage facilities at key locations, such as Metro Stations

Ongoing-Long Term



Potential Future





NoMa Parks Foundation

Priorities and Timeline

Underpasses:	2015-16
NoMa Green:	winter 2016 announcement
3 rd and L:	design 2016
L Street Plaza:	design 2016
NoMa Meander:	design ongoing
Corridors and Pocket Parks:	design 2016





Q & A

NoMa Parks Foundation



Community Conversation
November 19, 2015





Acquisition of Properties for Parks

Forest Hayes

Department of General Services



Grant Structure

NoMa Parks Foundation Grant Agreement

- Established with the District, with the Department of General Services as District partner to NPF
- Grant fully negotiated and funds available beginning October 2014
- Funding is structured over 6 years
- All parks will be owned by the District of Columbia

EXECUTION COPY

GRANT AGREEMENT

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT, dated as of October 15, 2014 (the "Effective Date") (this "Grant Agreement"), between the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, a municipal corporation, acting by and through the Department of General Services, with offices at 2000 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. ("Grantor"), and the NOMA PARKS FOUNDATION, a District of Columbia tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, having its principal office at 1200 First Street, NE, Washington D.C. ("Grantee").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the 2014 Budget Support Act provided the DC Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"), through its implementing agency the Department of General Services ("DGS"), with a budget of fifty million and 00/100 dollars (\$50,000,000.00) of capital funds over the period of District of Columbia Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2019 for the



Acquisition Process

1. NoMa Parks Foundation identifies a site
2. NPF coordinates with owner agency (e.g. – DPR, DDOT, DCCA)
3. NPF coordinates real estate offer with DGS
4. DGS approves all documentation and offers
5. DGS authorizes NPF to proceed to closing



Acquisitions

Q & A



Planning for Dog Parks

Brent Sisco

DC Department of Parks and Recreation

Public Dog Parks in the District of Columbia:

- Maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in partnership with the public.
- Guided by 2007 regulations that allowed for creation of official, public dog parks.
- DPR developed regulations with the public and other DC agencies: Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Public Works (DPW), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Office of the Clean City, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), and DC Water.





Planning for Dog Parks

Dog Park Site Guidelines:

- No less than 5,000 s.f. where feasible (industry best practice: 5,000-10,000 s.f. minimum)
- Well-drained land to prevent soil erosion
- Located near a water supply
- Surface should allow for positive drainage away from site and should help mitigate waste management issues
- Must be ADA-accessible, and comply with the Clean Water Act and local clean water guidelines
- Cannot be located on sensitive habitat areas or wildlife areas or directly upslope from a community garden



Planning for Dog Parks

Dog Park Application Process:

1. Contact DPR with proposed location; DPR and DOEE review
2. A “Dog Park Group” – which shares maintenance and management responsibility – forms and submits application to DPR
3. Application includes ANC support and petitions of support from individuals and organizations near proposed site
4. Application placed into DC Register for 30-day comment period
5. Dog Park Application Review Committee (DPARC) reviews application
6. Committee makes recommendation to DPR Director
7. DPR Director responds to applicant and ANC
8. If application is accepted, DPR and sponsoring dog park group enter into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for maintenance and management

Some Dog Park Best Practices:

- Avoid fenced areas with acute angles
- Buffer from nearby residences
- Site should be relatively flat with permeable soils; maximum slope of 20%
- Shade is highly desirable
- Provide sufficient buffer between dog park area and other recreational facilities
- Minimum of 5 foot high chain link fence should be installed
- Entry corral (at least 8 ft x 8 ft) with two gates should be provided
- Decomposed granite or pet-friendly artificial turf surfaces are most durable
- Separate areas for large and small dogs





Planning for Dog Parks

Q & A

Fill out Dog Park Worksheet



Move to the “Station” You are Most Interested in!

- **NoMa Green / Pepco Site**

Moderator: Carlos Perez, Perez Planning and Design

- **L Street Plaza**

Moderators: Doug Hays, Michael Vergason, Landscape Architecture

- **Metropolitan Branch Trail**

Moderator: Karina Ricks, Nelson\Nygaard

- **3rd and L Streets**

Moderator: Gabbi Salvemini, Lee and Associates



NoMa Parks Foundation

Next Steps

- Acquisition phase continues
- Design meetings in 2016
- Next Community Conversation in mid-late Spring 2016
- Attend meetings of the ANC 6C Parks & Events Committee - First Tuesday of the month (December is on 12/8), 7pm, Kaiser Permanente (Chair, Christine Healey; christinehealey100@gmail.com)

Want to learn more?

nomaparks.org

Stacie West – Director of Parks Projects

swest@nomaparks.org 202-810-0091



NoMa Parks
Foundation



Thank You !!

