



APPENDIX: PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following written comments were received by DOEE from members of the public during the Public Comment period in June 2023.

From: Jessica Ertel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Limauro, Andrea (DOEE) [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comments - SW Buzzard Point Flood Resiliency Strategy

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Hi Andrea,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SW/Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy. I'm a resident of Riverside Condominium, which sits within the Project Area (1425 4th Street SW) alongside the Washington Channel and in close proximity to flood prone areas. I sit on Riverside Condominium's Sustainability Committee, which provides guidance to Riverside Condominium's Board of Directors in making sustainable and environmentally sound decisions. This includes advising on investments that promote energy and resource conservation practices, and by establishing a commitment to actions that ensure a healthier and more livable community. I have followed and appreciate the DOEE's community engagement efforts held at each phase of the Strategy's development. One comment on the dissemination of the Strategy is that the initial version released on the DOEE site was very low resolution. I noticed that high resolution versions were later uploaded, but a few people commented to me that they were unable to view the diagrams and maps, which may have hindered their ability to provide comments.

With this context, I'd like to comment on the following aspects of the SW Buzzard Point Flood Resiliency Strategy:

- **Lansburgh Park Community Garden**
- **Bike Path Extension**

Lansburgh Park Community Garden

I'd like to propose an extension to the Lansburgh Park community garden, a valued recreational asset. Per the current design, the area that sits between the community garden's art mural and Delaware Ave SW does not have any proposed changes. Figure 47 further indicates that there will be no change in the garden (with the exception of adding a cistern, which should be discussed with the garden coordinators as the proposed location is currently a compost shed). Expansion of the garden fits within the current design and would offer the following benefits:

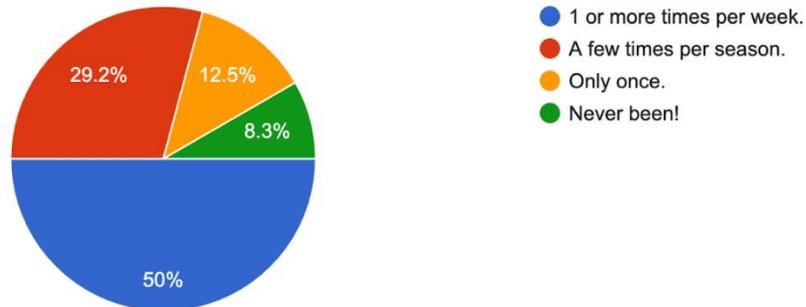
- Create a more visually appealing entrance to the park
- Provide additional places for visitors to enjoy participate in garden events
- Further enhance Lansburgh Park as a "park people love to use" due to the popularity of the community garden

In a survey distributed via SW Community Garden newsletter last month, we asked residents what they would most like to see if the garden was expanded. A total of 24 individuals participated, half of which visit the garden at least once per week. Through this survey, we learned that SW residents value the garden for its ability to bring the community together in a peaceful space. Multiple individuals expressed how much they enjoy the communal section of the garden and the fruit trees. For reference, 27 of the 37 plots in the community garden

are individual plots. The remaining 10 are communal plots maintained by volunteers, whose produce is distributed on a bi-weekly basis to elderly residents in Greenleaf.

How often do you visit the garden?

24 responses



If the community garden were expanded, residents would be most excited to see:

- More communal garden beds (mentioned by 8 respondents) which would in turn support the CSA program
- A shaded seating or relaxation area where visitors can enjoy the sights and smells of the garden
- Areas dedicated to native and pollinator species
- More fruit trees

Given the presence of the fenced in basketball court and chain link fence surrounding the perimeter of the garden, an extension could use natural features to delineate space in an aesthetically pleasing way. A living archway, boundary plantings and other agricultural aesthetics could be integrated into the expansion. The community garden currently has no place for visitors to sit or congregate (aside from the immediate entrance) as well as no shade. However, the large heritage tree in the proposed extension area could serve this purpose.

The SW community garden should be seen as a vehicle to engage individuals and the larger community in efforts towards environmental and social initiatives. Its expansion is well aligned with the overarching goals of the Strategy.

Bike Path Extension

Thank you for considering an extension of the existing bike path from the Titanic Memorial to Buzzard Point along 2nd street. Currently, this area is subject to surges of bike and pedestrian traffic following sports games. The concrete dividers between the bike path and road are often broken or shifted, which creates dangerous conditions for bikers. The only item to note here is to consider the timing and impact of the 2nd Street Pilot Project construction. While the east side sidewalk is not destined for redesign, it is an extension of the home for many of the residents living in this neighborhood, who congregate outside on the sidewalk daily. They would be greatly impacted by the noise and timing of this aspect of construction.

Thank you for your timing and consideration of these comments. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,
Jessica

TO: Project Manager Andrea Limauro – [REDACTED]

FROM: Sarah Young, SW DC Resident – [REDACTED]

DATE: July 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Comments on SW/Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy, Lansburgh Park - <https://doee.dc.gov/service/swresilience>

Dear Ms. Limauro,

I appreciate and support your efforts with Ramboll architecture and the other members of the SW Flood Resilience team to develop an overall Blue-Green Infrastructure plan for SW DC to manage extreme rainfall and other flood events. Creating stormwater capture in streets and open spaces will improve our neighborhood resilience and also has the potential to make our streets and our parks more usable, attractive, and safe every day.

I urge DOEE and DDOT to commit long term effort to building out this Blue-Green Infrastructure plan across SW. Please don't let it end with one or two pilot projects in Lansburgh and King Greenleaf parks.

To achieve these goals, all street projects should include safety improvements for both people riding bicycles and people walking and crossing streets. These include **protected** bike lanes integrated into a contiguous network throughout the neighborhood, traffic calming and car slowing interventions (such as narrowing lanes, especially on 2nd Street and M Street), and improved crosswalks with better pedestrian visibility and car slowing elements. We also need wider sidewalks, particularly along 4th Street and 2nd Street to improve access for people walking to events at Audi Field.

I live in SW and I am an active gardener in the SW Community Gardens. I helped establish the garden in 2013. I prune and cultivate the fruit trees which include figs, persimmons, and pawpaws. The pawpaw is unique. It is the largest native fruit in North America and it was an important food source for Native Americans and enslaved Africans. The pawpaw trees we have planted in Lansburgh Park are a reminder and tribute to people who lived in this region in centuries past. Any redesign plans in Lansburgh Park should not damage the pawpaw trees on the east side of the community garden. See additional specific comments and pictures regarding the Lansburgh Park pilot design below.

Thank you for your work on this project and for considering my comments. Please contact me at [REDACTED] if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Young
SW DC Resident and Community Gardener

Specific comments on Lansburgh Park pilot project design

- To make the park more useable, especially for small children, we need a public restroom facility ideally in the park, or at a minimum very close by and well-signed.
- Any new stormwater cistern should not displace the existing community composting bins on the north side of the garden (Figure 1, Figure 2). These bins are actively used by the neighborhood compost cooperative that engages neighbors to turn fruit and vegetable waste into beneficial compost. In the current draft design, the cistern is located on top of the compost bins, implying that the community compost would be eliminated.
- A cistern would not extend the growing season of the community garden. We have access to city water and the growing season is currently limited by daytime temperatures, not water.
- The proposed design (Figure 3) does not account for the existing fruit trees that are planted on the north and east sides of the community garden. These fruit trees extend approximated 25 feet to the north and east of the garden fence. The figs (Figure 4, Figure 5) and pawpaws (Figure 6, Figure 7, Figure 8) have proven to be our most successful and productive fruit trees. The oldest fruit trees are ten years old and are too large to move without killing them. Pawpaws in particular grow tap roots and can't be moved after they become established.
- Nut trees are unlikely to be productive in Lansburgh Park. We have found that we never get ripe fruit from the apple trees or persimmon trees because the squirrels eat all of the immature fruits off of those trees. Squirrels are likely to cause similar damage to nut trees given that they would consider walnuts, hazelnuts, or pecans to be particularly tasty treats.
- The recently planted apple, pear, and plum trees on the mound to the north and to the west side of the garden could be transplanted, unlike the fig and pawpaw trees.
- The two recently planted sassafras trees on the west side of the garden are another notable native tree that has historical and food uses and should be preserved.

Figure 1: Closeup of existing community compost bin on the north side of the garden



Figure 2: Existing community compost bin from the sidewalk



Figure 3: Picture of proposed Lansburgh Park design near community garden, existing pawpaw trees are located near the end of my finger



Figure 4: Fig trees on the north side of the garden, next to compost bin



Figure 5: Ten year old fig tree on the north side of the garden



Figure 6: Ten year old pawpaw tree



Figure 7: East side of community garden with large pawpaw and fig trees in the background and younger pawpaw trees indicated by stakes in the foreground



Figure 8: Immature pawpaw fruit in June



Dear Mr. Limauro,

Thank you for developing the draft Southwest and Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy and providing an opportunity for the community to submit comments. As individuals who live in the neighborhood and care deeply about equity and sustainability, we appreciate DOEE's efforts to increase flood resilience in SW and Buzzard Point.

According to the US Census' 2019 American Community Survey, SWDC is composed of nearly 14,500 residents. The racial breakdown in 2019 was White - 46.2%, Black/African-American - 38.7%, and Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or other - 15%. Roughly one-third of the SWDC population is between 20-34, another one-third is 35-59, with the last third ranging from 0-19 of age or over 60. According to the DC Office of Planning, SW has experienced the following demographic shifts since 2000 - the white population nearly doubling while the black population dropped by nearly 30%. From 2000-2015, we also see shifts in economic power with the neighborhood median income level increasing 117%. **Given this extreme demographic shift, we seek to pay special attention to the needs and desires of our longer-term and Black residents. It must be underscored how important it is to integrate** these demographic changes as we think about the needs and future of our neighborhood, especially for those who have been intentionally and historically underserved.

After reviewing the proposed draft, we respectfully submit the following comments and feedback. Comments with an (*) asterisk are of particular importance.

General Feedback

- Graphics are difficult to read and therefore make it challenging to understand what is informing the flood risk modeling, the level of risk for each area, as well as the proposed projects and typologies. This may contribute to the quality of public comments provided.
- *A higher priority should be given to protecting more natural land. Can DOEE increase the amount of natural and green space in Southwest through land acquisition? Please (see [30x30 goal](#) of conserving at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030).
- *This plan should also seek to integrate other elements of planning for a climate-just future that will improve overall climate resiliency for the area. For example:
 - Project sites could also serve as sites for solar panels, which could lessen the electricity cost-burdens for neighboring residents.
 - Planting more trees could help compensate for the many mature trees cut down as a result of negligence and new development in the neighborhood ([Example 1](#); [Example 2](#)).
 - Use of project funds could be used in tandem with efforts to improve the affordability, durability and resilience of nearby public housing.
 - Land for community-governed entities like Douglass CLT could allow for a resident-led development planning process.
- *Lansburgh Park may be at risk of floods, but this is also one of the few existing sizable green spaces in the area covered by the plan, and therefore already provides benefits such as flood control/ground infiltration as-is. DOEE should prioritize ways to decrease impervious and impermeable surfaces, which will help to decrease flooding during high precipitation events.
- Provide additional details around how DOEE is addressing the land surrounding Fort McNair to mitigate flooding and erosion. Prevention measures taken here could have a significant impact on the rest of the neighborhood.



Figure 1. Pictured above are city-owned areas of land near the Metropolitan Police Department that are currently underutilized and could be prime candidates for a flood-risk redesign.

Continued Engagement

- *DOEE should continue to engage with the community in the design and implementation of projects. For example, King Greenleaf field has been included as a Phase 1 project in the Strategy and initial drawings are provided, but outreach during the Strategy’s development did not specifically request feedback on that space.
 - Consider conducting a series of direct surveys targeting the specific user groups of Lansburgh Park, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, and all other noted project sites.
 - Priority should be given to perspectives and viewpoints of folks who have been users of these project sites for years. It should also be made clear how community input is integrated into the final plan.
- Consider partnering with Riverside Condominium on the flood risk for Waterfront Park, directly adjacent to the Washington Channel.

Lansburgh Park

- *Do not shave the mound. This topography, beyond its aesthetic appeal, helps to ensure that many of the SW Garden’s trees are the recipients of water flowing downhill during precipitation events. Changes to the mound appear to be merely a concern of “optics” and “aesthetics” masquerading for racism, given that the primary users of Lansburgh Park are Black.
- *Mature trees should be valued and preserved. Mature trees’ carbon sequestration capacity is nearly irreplaceable; the hundreds of saplings needed to match the capacity of a single mature tree could barely fit in the park. The current average tree canopy coverage for the city is 38 percent, down from 50 percent in 1950 despite the many known benefits of a healthy tree canopy for a community’s ability to adapt to climate change. As the goal is flood resiliency due to effects of climate change, it is irresponsible to remove the very resources that will most effectively mitigate climate change in the name of “fixing” the downstream effect of flooding. In addition to preserving mature trees, efforts could be made to educate the public with signage that includes information about the resident trees (e.g. tree species, known benefits, year planted).
- No cistern should displace a compost system and a mature persimmon tree without SW Gardeners buy-in. However, it’s great to be thinking about ways to retain and reuse the water on-site for gardening or landscaping. We strongly recommend working directly with SW Community Gardens to identify an appropriate location and design for any cistern.
- Invest in community health infrastructure like a public restroom.
- This is a relatively small area of land with a lot of plans for redesign. We would urge DOEE to find other ways to convert neighboring parcels into green space.

SW Community Gardens Expansion Opportunity

We propose an extension to the community garden space within Lansburgh Park, which serves as a valued recreational asset. Per the current design, the area that sits between the community garden's art mural and Delaware Ave SW does not have any proposed changes. Figure 47 further indicates that there will be no change in the garden (with the exception of adding a cistern, which, as noted above, should be discussed with the garden coordinators as the proposed location is currently being utilized for composting and fruit tree growth).

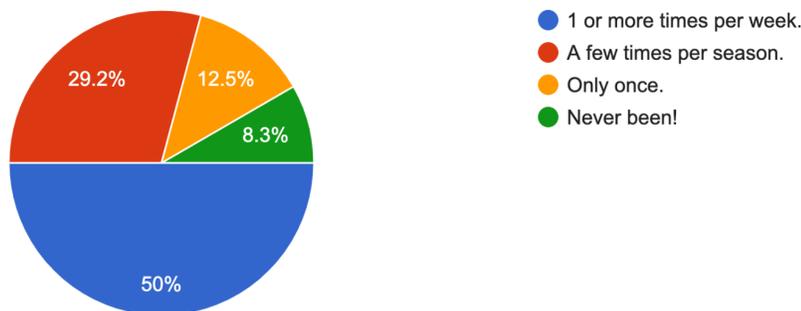
Expansion of the garden fits within the current design and would offer the following benefits:

- Create a more visually appealing entrance to the park
- Provide additional places for visitors to enjoy and participate in garden events
- Further enhance Lansburgh Park as a “park people love to use” due to the popularity of the community garden

In a survey distributed via SW Community Gardens' newsletter last month, we asked residents what they would most like to see if the garden was expanded. A total of 24 individuals participated, half of which visit the garden at least once per week. Through this survey, we learned that SW residents value the garden for its ability to bring the community together in a peaceful space. Multiple individuals expressed how much they enjoy the communal section of the garden and the fruit trees. For reference, 27 of the 37 garden beds are individual plots and the remaining 10 are communal plots, whose produce is distributed to volunteers and, on a bi-weekly basis, to elderly residents in Greenleaf.

How often do you visit the garden?

24 responses



*If the community garden were expanded, residents would be most excited to see:

- More communal garden beds (mentioned by 8 respondents) which would in turn support the CSA program
- A shaded seating or relaxation area where visitors can enjoy the sights and smells of the garden
- Areas dedicated to native and pollinator species
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Given the presence of the fenced in basketball court and chain link fence surrounding the perimeter of the garden, an extension could use natural features to delineate space in an aesthetically pleasing way. A living archway, boundary plantings, and other agricultural aesthetics could be integrated into the expansion. The community garden currently has no place for visitors to sit or congregate (aside from the immediate entrance) as well as no shade. However, the large heritage tree in the proposed extension area could serve this purpose.

The SW Community Gardens should be seen as a vehicle to engage individuals and the larger community in efforts towards environmental and social initiatives. Its expansion is well-aligned with the overarching goals of the Strategy.

Community Development for SW

Per the [results](#) of a 2021 SW Action Community Survey of more than 300 neighbors (approximately 2% of the total SWDC population) from January - May of 2021 on what Community Development means to the Community, we'd also like to highlight a few findings that relate and reemphasize our prior comments as it relates to the scope of this plan.

- The community needs open spaces for socializing, recreation, small businesses (e.g. farmer's markets) and entertainment.
- There must be recreational opportunities for all ages with inclusive accessibility options for all residents.
- Any new developments in Southwest should include investments in open spaces, including parks, recreational fields, and communal spaces.
- Southwest should have more community gardens, edible landscaping, and community-maintained flower/green beds.

SW DC Action Comments on the DC Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2020 Plan that are also Relevant for this Strategy

The following comments that were provided on the SCORP should also be considered and help inform this Strategy:

Accessibility and Inclusion - HIGH priority

- DC should establish a goal that residents and commuters in Washington are within a 5-minute walk of a park, greenspace, recreation area or community space
- Make sure parks and public parks are developed where the benefits are needed the most (e.g. areas where there is less public tree canopy, areas to recreate and enjoy etc.)
- Implement safe zones for families with children within parks that provide security screening in high risk areas. Only registered, weapon-less individuals with children able to enter.
- All spaces should be developed to be widely accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities
- Work with DC agencies to preserve and promote fishing areas along riverfront areas, including on leased public land. Seek to educate the public on the health, community, and ecological benefits of recreational fishing.
- Implement retractable shades above high use areas of the park to encourage use during hot summer weather. For example, enable semi-transparent shading along a track.

Resilience and Sustainability - HIGH priority

- The improvement and expansion of the tree canopy should be highly prioritized. Use more light-colored pavement to reflect the sun's energy and to reduce urban heat island effects
- Ensure that greenspace and parks are designed with wildlife and natural habitats in mind (e.g. lighting should be efficient and not radiate upwards into the atmosphere. This harms wildlife such as bats)
- Combat climate change stressors (E.g. flood resilient plans, native plants, maintain and preserve riparian buffers, ensure connectivity between green space, preserve and expand the tree canopy)

Collaboration and Administration - HIGH priority

- Establish stronger partnerships between NPS, often charged with managing park land, and local communities who regularly enjoy this land
 - Leverage community volunteer groups

- The District should pursue opportunities to establish land trusts in partnership with organizations like Casey Trees to safeguard and expand parks for residents in perpetuity (e.g. Crispus Attucks Park)
 - Link: <https://caseytrees.org/2015/11/the-story-of-crispus-attucks-park/>
- Partner with academic and non-profit organizations to study the benefits of park space use for park users.
- Administration should encourage and cultivate worker cooperatives as a more justice-oriented way of fostering social relationships and business opportunities.
- Develop a plan to ensure that parks are adequately maintained (eg. trash collection and litter clean-up) in all areas of the city.

Health & Equity - HIGH priority

- Discourage management of public park space by commercial entities or business improvement districts (BID). The lack of oversight of BIDs who assume ownership of public space is a detriment to health and equity because they often focus on certain parks in communities that tend to be wealthier and whiter.
- Enable parks to be a place for the community to “come together.” Social spaces make for stronger communities. Enable large communal seating and consider concert seating. Design and promote space for regular and permanent community activities (e.g. designs for long term farmer’s markets, community gardens, outdoor concerts, food trucks, public viewing of movies on screens)
- Contribute to the annual report of the Office of Racial Equity to show changes in important racial equity measures such as improving imbalance of funding, improving park utilization in areas that would stand to benefit most from community social space (e.g. high crime areas).
- Encourage and expand access to community gardens. The desire for community gardening still exceeds the space available. Community gardens that consist of only individual plot owners/renters should be discouraged. Instead, new community gardens should either be communal, or be a hybrid of individual plots and public plots (ex. SW Community Garden: <https://swgardens.org/>).
- Work with DC government agencies, including DC FACES, to optimize public space for monuments or memorials to historically underrepresented groups including women and people of color.
- Conduct study to assess cultural and psychosocial conceptualizations for optimal park space use. Use this insight for culturally appropriate park designs.
- Monitor changes in park design and amenities and assess changes in terms of all residents, for example, not just new residents
- Develop and implement a racial equity scoring. Apply this scoring to each park in the annual report.
- Ensure public safety.
 - Thoughtfully consider the types of materials used to develop and maintain parks to ensure they are not harmful (e.g. grass is preferable to turf fields as artificial turf is often made out of low-grade/crumb rubber and likely carcinogenic)
 - Provide adequate, down-focused lighting that provides safety to visitors but does not disrupt wildlife (such as bats).
- Read Important considerations and examples: *How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering*
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/24/climate/racism-redlining-cities-global-warming.html>
 - Learn how cities are working to mitigate the impacts of racist policies in neighborhood planning

Identity & Culture - HIGH Priority

- Honor and acknowledge historical and cultural spaces through use of education plaques and informational boards etc.

- Innovate with the use of public space to encourage the visual and performing arts. Select a park in each ward that provides a 6-month, lease-free office space/pods for artists-in-residence. It will be necessary to create a pop-up office (e.g. small glass frame building)
- Design space to be versatile for small and large groups, including large secular and religious groups
- Innovate with the use of public space to help support the small business community, especially Black-owned businesses. Consider the use of six-month lease pods for small businesses (e.g. glass pod for barber-in-residence).
- Consider sponsoring art galleries in large scale lightboxes. Implement outdoor *Gospel in the Park* series in public parks in Ward 6, 7, and 8.

Again, we appreciate the work that DOEE is doing and for providing an opportunity to the community to submit feedback. We look forward to continuing to engage with DOEE and other DC government agencies as this Strategy is finalized and projects are implemented.

Respectfully,



SW DC Action

We are a group of SW DC residents who are organizing and advocating for anti-racist development and an equitable and environmentally sustainable neighborhood. To learn more, please visit

<https://www.swdcaction.com/home>



SW Community Gardens

SW Community Gardens is located in Lansburgh Park. It currently includes 37 plots, 10 of which are communal plots that are open to anyone to volunteer. The communal section grows food not only for its volunteers but for the neighborhood as well. To learn more, please visit <https://swgardens.org/>

From: Kelley Gallagher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Limauro, Andrea (DOEE) [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments on SW/Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy

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Hi Andrea,

Thank you again for providing the opportunity for SW residents to comment on the draft SW/Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy. I know a lot of time and work has gone into this draft, and I appreciate how open you are to accepting comments and feedback from the community. I'm submitting my personal feedback here for consideration:

Regarding the Lansburgh Park redesign:

- I'm concerned about the plans to remove the mound located in the NE corner of the garden area. On page 86 it says: "In addition, the existing mound blocks sight lines from Delaware Avenue, creating perceptions of safety issues in Lansburgh Park." On page 90 it says "Existing mounds create separation between the park and streets, enhancing the quiet and peaceful environment but also blocks the view corridor and creates safety concerns." And feedback from a community member is included on page 91: "The mound block the view corridor and create some safety concerns. The entry along the 1st walk is too hidden. People would not know there is a park from south and north entry point.

What I don't see in any of these discussions of the mound being removed or lowered is about that being needed for stormwater management. It appears to be entirely focused on aesthetics and perceptions of community safety. I'm in the park 3-4 times a week during the growing season (spring - fall). What I see is people do use the park areas to the east of the mound. There are often folks on the benches or having cookouts. I also know (as do you!) that the area is used for events such as the recent SW Block Party. I also notice that the majority of folks who use the park are Black.

For those reasons, I disagree that the community doesn't know that areas east of the mound exist. And if certain members don't know, I would ask if it's because they haven't really taken time to explore the neighborhood. I would also wonder if some of the concern about safety is motivated by racism, since it seems the majority of the users of the park, especially that area, are Black. I support things like enhanced lighting to make the park nicer for people passing through in the evenings, but I disagree that the mound prevents people from accessing the park or that it negatively contributes to safety issues.

I personally love the mound. I agree with the observation that it creates a sense of peaceful calm. We currently grow flowers and medicinal herbs on it. And, if anything, the elevation of the mound would appear to direct rain down hill toward our growing section of fruit trees.

I am opposed to the removal or lowering of the mound.

- I'm concerned that the diagrams of the park do not capture all the mature trees. I could be misreading the pictures, but there are trees in and around that garden that I don't think are documented here. For

example the large mulberry located on/south of the mound and the nice persimmon where the cistern is proposed to be located. I really appreciate the approach you're taking to preserve existing trees. I would ask that all existing trees be preserved, in addition to the proposal to add new trees. The mulberry tree is of particular concern, especially as it relates to the mound. I'm concerned that any alteration of the mound could harm that tree. All throughout the early summer this tree provides abundant fruit. We harvest the mulberries for weeks. It also provides wonderful shade throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Please don't harm or remove this beautiful and loved tree.

- I am in support of increasing the footprint of the community garden within the area between the existing garden and Delaware avenue. There is a long wait list for plots, so there's much more demand than current supply. The SW Community Gardens also has 10 communal plots that are open to all residents who wish to volunteer, and the produce we grow there is distributed to the community, including residents of Greenleaf. We have pretty much maxed out what we can grow in the communal spaces. But with more plots and growing space, we'd have the opportunity to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables we produce during the season and provide more fresh food to members of the community.
- In general, I would ask DPR or other agencies to work closely with the Garden leaders on any elements that may affect the garden (placement/type of cistern, mound alteration, expansion, etc.).

Regarding King Greenleaf: Thank you for explaining on our recent call the process by which this project got included in Phase 1. I appreciate that this is a complicated process and things can shift. But as discussed, there has been no specific outreach yet requesting feedback on King Greenleaf uses and designs. I would strongly recommend that targeted outreach begin before any additional plans or designs for King Greenleaf are developed.

I live right across from the field, with my River Park High Rise windows facing toward the park. From what I see, these spaces are used by many in the community, especially families and children. And I think many of those users are from the neighboring Greenleaf midrise and other neighborhood public housing. I would strongly recommend engaging with the public housing tenants groups in the neighborhood so they are aware that development in King Greenleaf will be taking place and have the opportunity to participate in discussions about use and features. Another organization you might consider reaching out to is GOOD Projects (<https://www.goodprojects.org/>). They do work in Greenleaf and I often see them holding activities on the field.

Finally, I want to thank you for sending me information about potential resources that might be available to River Park, as its Delaware Ave Parking Lot is included in the list of projects. I want to let you know that I shared that information with our coop's Property and Administration (P&A) Committee and they plan to discuss it at their next meeting. Thanks also for offering to meet with folks from the River Park. I will let you know if P&A is interested in meeting and, if so, will facilitate an introduction.

Thanks again. I really do appreciate all your efforts on this strategy and am happy that work is being done to increase flood resiliency in the SW neighborhood!

All the best,

Kelley Gallagher

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Zachary Burt [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 1:57 PM
To: Limauro, Andrea (DOEE) [REDACTED]
Cc: Peter Sefton [REDACTED]; Rebecca Miller [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lansburgh Park Update

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Thanks, Andrea.

Just one small clarification... I think our comment addressed the need to acknowledge the historic presence of these streets through visual cues and were not as extensive as actually rebuilding the streets. Visual cues would suggest their routes. The concrete paths trace these routes today, but they are not the only alternative.

Zach

On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 12:26 PM Limauro, Andrea (DOEE) [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Zach, Rebecca and Peter,

We will record your comment and update the language in the plan to more clearly state that, where possible, rebuilding L'Enfant Plan streets that were erased through the urban renewal plan should be a design priority for all the BGI components.

Thank you for your feedback and for your input throughout the planning process.

Sincerely,

Andrea

Andrea Limauro (Pronouns: he/him/his)
Environmental Protection Specialist • Resilience Focus Areas
Floodplains, Wetlands, and Groundwater Branch
Regulatory Review Division
Department of Energy & Environment
Government of the District of Columbia
1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202)-724-7777
www.doe.dc.gov

From: Zachary Burt [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Limauro, Andrea (DOEE) [REDACTED]

Cc: Peter Sefton [REDACTED]; Rebecca Miller [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lansburgh Park Update

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Hi Andrea,

We are pleased with the plan's retention of the historic pavilions at Lansburgh Park, while also incorporating new placemaking and sustainability features to the surrounding park area.

Our only concern is similar to HPO's... the plan needs a bit more detail regarding the historic L'Enfant Plan and incorporating/acknowledging the former street plan that was removed when the super-block was created.

Zach

Dear Mr. Limauro,

Thank you for developing the draft Southwest and Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy and providing an opportunity for the community to submit comments. As individuals who live in the neighborhood and care deeply about equity and sustainability, we appreciate DOEE's efforts to increase flood resilience in SW and Buzzard Point.

According to the US Census' 2019 American Community Survey, SWDC is composed of nearly 14,500 residents. The racial breakdown in 2019 was White - 46.2%, Black/African-American - 38.7%, and Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or other - 15%. Roughly one-third of the SWDC population is between 20-34, another one-third is 35-59, with the last third ranging from 0-19 of age or over 60. According to the DC Office of Planning, SW has experienced the following demographic shifts since 2000 - the white population nearly doubling while the black population dropped by nearly 30%. From 2000-2015, we also see shifts in economic power with the neighborhood median income level increasing 117%. **Given this extreme demographic shift, we seek to pay special attention to the needs and desires of our longer-term and Black residents. It must be underscored how important it is to integrate** these demographic changes as we think about the needs and future of our neighborhood, especially for those who have been intentionally and historically underserved.

After reviewing the proposed draft, we respectfully submit the following comments and feedback. Comments with an (*) asterisk are of particular importance.

General Feedback

- Graphics are difficult to read and therefore make it challenging to understand what is informing the flood risk modeling, the level of risk for each area, as well as the proposed projects and typologies. This may contribute to the quality of public comments provided.
- *A higher priority should be given to protecting more natural land. Can DOEE increase the amount of natural and green space in Southwest through land acquisition? Please (see [30x30 goal](#) of conserving at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030).
- *This plan should also seek to integrate other elements of planning for a climate-just future that will improve overall climate resiliency for the area. For example:
 - Project sites could also serve as sites for solar panels, which could lessen the electricity cost-burdens for neighboring residents.
 - Planting more trees could help compensate for the many mature trees cut down as a result of negligence and new development in the neighborhood ([Example 1](#); [Example 2](#)).
 - Use of project funds could be used in tandem with efforts to improve the affordability, durability and resilience of nearby public housing.
 - Land for community-governed entities like Douglass CLT could allow for a resident-led development planning process.
- *Lansburgh Park may be at risk of floods, but this is also one of the few existing sizable green spaces in the area covered by the plan, and therefore already provides benefits such as flood control/ground infiltration as-is. DOEE should prioritize ways to decrease impervious and impermeable surfaces, which will help to decrease flooding during high precipitation events.
- Provide additional details around how DOEE is addressing the land surrounding Fort McNair to mitigate flooding and erosion. Prevention measures taken here could have a significant impact on the rest of the neighborhood.



Figure 1. Pictured above are city-owned areas of land near the Metropolitan Police Department that are currently underutilized and could be prime candidates for a flood-risk redesign.

Continued Engagement

- *DOEE should continue to engage with the community in the design and implementation of projects. For example, King Greenleaf field has been included as a Phase 1 project in the Strategy and initial drawings are provided, but outreach during the Strategy’s development did not specifically request feedback on that space.
 - Consider conducting a series of direct surveys targeting the specific user groups of Lansburgh Park, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, and all other noted project sites.
 - Priority should be given to perspectives and viewpoints of folks who have been users of these project sites for years. It should also be made clear how community input is integrated into the final plan.
- Consider partnering with Riverside Condominium on the flood risk for Waterfront Park, directly adjacent to the Washington Channel.

Lansburgh Park

- *Do not shave the mound. This topography, beyond its aesthetic appeal, helps to ensure that many of the SW Garden’s trees are the recipients of water flowing downhill during precipitation events. Changes to the mound appear to be merely a concern of “optics” and “aesthetics” masquerading for racism, given that the primary users of Lansburgh Park are Black.
- *Mature trees should be valued and preserved. Mature trees’ carbon sequestration capacity is nearly irreplaceable; the hundreds of saplings needed to match the capacity of a single mature tree could barely fit in the park. The current average tree canopy coverage for the city is 38 percent, down from 50 percent in 1950 despite the many known benefits of a healthy tree canopy for a community’s ability to adapt to climate change. As the goal is flood resiliency due to effects of climate change, it is irresponsible to remove the very resources that will most effectively mitigate climate change in the name of “fixing” the downstream effect of flooding. In addition to preserving mature trees, efforts could be made to educate the public with signage that includes information about the resident trees (e.g. tree species, known benefits, year planted).
- No cistern should displace a compost system and a mature persimmon tree without SW Gardeners buy-in. However, it’s great to be thinking about ways to retain and reuse the water on-site for gardening or landscaping. We strongly recommend working directly with SW Community Gardens to identify an appropriate location and design for any cistern.
- Invest in community health infrastructure like a public restroom.
- This is a relatively small area of land with a lot of plans for redesign. We would urge DOEE to find other ways to convert neighboring parcels into green space.

SW Community Gardens Expansion Opportunity

We propose an extension to the community garden space within Lansburgh Park, which serves as a valued recreational asset. Per the current design, the area that sits between the community garden's art mural and Delaware Ave SW does not have any proposed changes. Figure 47 further indicates that there will be no change in the garden (with the exception of adding a cistern, which, as noted above, should be discussed with the garden coordinators as the proposed location is currently being utilized for composting and fruit tree growth).

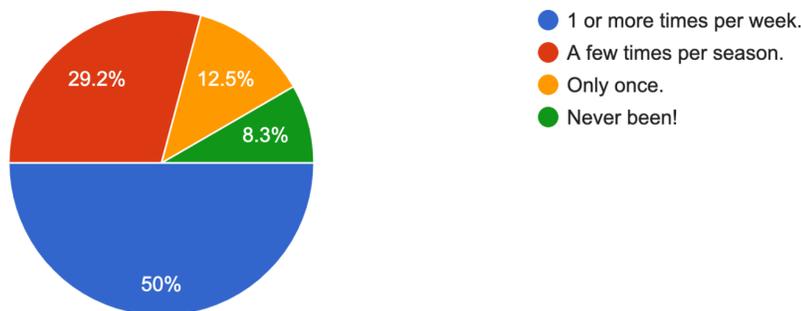
Expansion of the garden fits within the current design and would offer the following benefits:

- Create a more visually appealing entrance to the park
- Provide additional places for visitors to enjoy and participate in garden events
- Further enhance Lansburgh Park as a “park people love to use” due to the popularity of the community garden

In a survey distributed via SW Community Gardens' newsletter last month, we asked residents what they would most like to see if the garden was expanded. A total of 24 individuals participated, half of which visit the garden at least once per week. Through this survey, we learned that SW residents value the garden for its ability to bring the community together in a peaceful space. Multiple individuals expressed how much they enjoy the communal section of the garden and the fruit trees. For reference, 27 of the 37 garden beds are individual plots and the remaining 10 are communal plots, whose produce is distributed to volunteers and, on a bi-weekly basis, to elderly residents in Greenleaf.

How often do you visit the garden?

24 responses



*If the community garden were expanded, residents would be most excited to see:

- More communal garden beds (mentioned by 8 respondents) which would in turn support the CSA program
- A shaded seating or relaxation area where visitors can enjoy the sights and smells of the garden
- Areas dedicated to native and pollinator species
- More fruit trees

Given the presence of the fenced in basketball court and chain link fence surrounding the perimeter of the garden, an extension could use natural features to delineate space in an aesthetically pleasing way. A living archway, boundary plantings, and other agricultural aesthetics could be integrated into the expansion. The community garden currently has no place for visitors to sit or congregate (aside from the immediate entrance) as well as no shade. However, the large heritage tree in the proposed extension area could serve this purpose.

The SW Community Gardens should be seen as a vehicle to engage individuals and the larger community in efforts towards environmental and social initiatives. Its expansion is well-aligned with the overarching goals of the Strategy.

Community Development for SW

Per the [results](#) of a 2021 SW Action Community Survey of more than 300 neighbors (approximately 2% of the total SWDC population) from January - May of 2021 on what Community Development means to the Community, we'd also like to highlight a few findings that relate and reemphasize our prior comments as it relates to the scope of this plan.

- The community needs open spaces for socializing, recreation, small businesses (e.g. farmer's markets) and entertainment.
- There must be recreational opportunities for all ages with inclusive accessibility options for all residents.
- Any new developments in Southwest should include investments in open spaces, including parks, recreational fields, and communal spaces.
- Southwest should have more community gardens, edible landscaping, and community-maintained flower/green beds.

SW DC Action Comments on the DC Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2020 Plan that are also Relevant for this Strategy

The following comments that were provided on the SCORP should also be considered and help inform this Strategy:

Accessibility and Inclusion - HIGH priority

- DC should establish a goal that residents and commuters in Washington are within a 5-minute walk of a park, greenspace, recreation area or community space
- Make sure parks and public parks are developed where the benefits are needed the most (e.g. areas where there is less public tree canopy, areas to recreate and enjoy etc.)
- Implement safe zones for families with children within parks that provide security screening in high risk areas. Only registered, weapon-less individuals with children able to enter.
- All spaces should be developed to be widely accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities
- Work with DC agencies to preserve and promote fishing areas along riverfront areas, including on leased public land. Seek to educate the public on the health, community, and ecological benefits of recreational fishing.
- Implement retractable shades above high use areas of the park to encourage use during hot summer weather. For example, enable semi-transparent shading along a track.

Resilience and Sustainability - HIGH priority

- The improvement and expansion of the tree canopy should be highly prioritized. Use more light-colored pavement to reflect the sun's energy and to reduce urban heat island effects
- Ensure that greenspace and parks are designed with wildlife and natural habitats in mind (e.g. lighting should be efficient and not radiate upwards into the atmosphere. This harms wildlife such as bats)
- Combat climate change stressors (E.g. flood resilient plans, native plants, maintain and preserve riparian buffers, ensure connectivity between green space, preserve and expand the tree canopy)

Collaboration and Administration - HIGH priority

- Establish stronger partnerships between NPS, often charged with managing park land, and local communities who regularly enjoy this land
 - Leverage community volunteer groups

- The District should pursue opportunities to establish land trusts in partnership with organizations like Casey Trees to safeguard and expand parks for residents in perpetuity (e.g. Crispus Attucks Park)
 - Link: <https://caseytrees.org/2015/11/the-story-of-crispus-attucks-park/>
- Partner with academic and non-profit organizations to study the benefits of park space use for park users.
- Administration should encourage and cultivate worker cooperatives as a more justice-oriented way of fostering social relationships and business opportunities.
- Develop a plan to ensure that parks are adequately maintained (eg. trash collection and litter clean-up) in all areas of the city.

Health & Equity - HIGH priority

- Discourage management of public park space by commercial entities or business improvement districts (BID). The lack of oversight of BIDs who assume ownership of public space is a detriment to health and equity because they often focus on certain parks in communities that tend to be wealthier and whiter.
- Enable parks to be a place for the community to “come together.” Social spaces make for stronger communities. Enable large communal seating and consider concert seating. Design and promote space for regular and permanent community activities (e.g. designs for long term farmer’s markets, community gardens, outdoor concerts, food trucks, public viewing of movies on screens)
- Contribute to the annual report of the Office of Racial Equity to show changes in important racial equity measures such as improving imbalance of funding, improving park utilization in areas that would stand to benefit most from community social space (e.g. high crime areas).
- Encourage and expand access to community gardens. The desire for community gardening still exceeds the space available. Community gardens that consist of only individual plot owners/renters should be discouraged. Instead, new community gardens should either be communal, or be a hybrid of individual plots and public plots (ex. SW Community Garden: <https://swgardens.org/>).
- Work with DC government agencies, including DC FACES, to optimize public space for monuments or memorials to historically underrepresented groups including women and people of color.
- Conduct study to assess cultural and psychosocial conceptualizations for optimal park space use. Use this insight for culturally appropriate park designs.
- Monitor changes in park design and amenities and assess changes in terms of all residents, for example, not just new residents
- Develop and implement a racial equity scoring. Apply this scoring to each park in the annual report.
- Ensure public safety.
 - Thoughtfully consider the types of materials used to develop and maintain parks to ensure they are not harmful (e.g. grass is preferable to turf fields as artificial turf is often made out of low-grade/crumb rubber and likely carcinogenic)
 - Provide adequate, down-focused lighting that provides safety to visitors but does not disrupt wildlife (such as bats).
- Read Important considerations and examples: *How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering*
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/24/climate/racism-redlining-cities-global-warming.html>
 - Learn how cities are working to mitigate the impacts of racist policies in neighborhood planning

Identity & Culture - HIGH Priority

- Honor and acknowledge historical and cultural spaces through use of education plaques and informational boards etc.

- Innovate with the use of public space to encourage the visual and performing arts. Select a park in each ward that provides a 6-month, lease-free office space/pods for artists-in-residence. It will be necessary to create a pop-up office (e.g. small glass frame building)
- Design space to be versatile for small and large groups, including large secular and religious groups
- Innovate with the use of public space to help support the small business community, especially Black-owned businesses. Consider the use of six-month lease pods for small businesses (e.g. glass pod for barber-in-residence).
- Consider sponsoring art galleries in large scale lightboxes. Implement outdoor *Gospel in the Park* series in public parks in Ward 6, 7, and 8.

Again, we appreciate the work that DOEE is doing and for providing an opportunity to the community to submit feedback. We look forward to continuing to engage with DOEE and other DC government agencies as this Strategy is finalized and projects are implemented.

Respectfully,



SW DC Action

We are a group of SW DC residents who are organizing and advocating for anti-racist development and an equitable and environmentally sustainable neighborhood. To learn more, please visit

<https://www.swdcaction.com/home>



SW Community Gardens

SW Community Gardens is located in Lansburgh Park. It currently includes 37 plots, 10 of which are communal plots that are open to anyone to volunteer. The communal section grows food not only for its volunteers but for the neighborhood as well. To learn more, please visit <https://swgardens.org/>



Remiseparken
Place: Copenhagen, Denmark.
Source: Ramboll.