



Working Group Name: NATURE

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 17th, 2012

Meeting Location: Josephine Butler Parks Center, 2437 15th St, NW

Attendees: Brian Rodgers, Molly Scott, Matt Grason, Steve Coleman, Dan Rauch, Damien Ossi, Neal Fitzpatrick, Kristina Byrne, Mary Rojas, Jeffrey V. Catts, Jason Berry, Beth Mullin, Elin Zurbrigg, Lisa Morris, Sharon Reinckenss, John Capozzi, Christine LeMieux, Ilya Fischhoff, Anne Lewis, Ian Leahy, Tammy Stidham, Stella Tarnay, Franklin Russell (Working Group Co-Chair), Ella Faulkner (Working Group Co-Chair), John Thomas (Working Group Co-Chair), Polina Bakhteiarov (Facilitator)

Main Points/Discussion: The focus of this meeting was to rehash the draft vision statement and to begin establishing goals and actions for Nature in the Sustainable DC plan.

First, we discussed the proposed vision statement:

Working together, DC will become an urban oasis where all of our actions reflect an understanding and appreciation for nature.

Below are suggestions for revisions to the proposed vision statement:

- Invest in nature to enhance the lives of people who live in, work in, and enjoy Washington, DC. We are committed to restoring, conserving, and respecting:
 - o Natural systems
 - o Parks
 - o Habitat
 - o Biodiversity
 - o Wildlife
- By....
 - ...
 - ...
 - ...
- Working for and with our varied communities, DC will become a model city where respect for ecological systems provides a more profound understanding of our relationship to the natural world.
- Restore, protect, and expand open land and natural resources for the sustainability of the varied communities in the District of Columbia
- Urban oasis for/of nature
- Importance of ecosystems
- Respect



- Making DC beautiful for whom?
- Urban oasis ?= community (human aspect) ?= refuge (wildlife – plants and animals)
- “Alongside us”
- Synonyms for “urban oasis”?
- “To build this urban oasis, we commit to ...” – connect to working group’s scope, then activities
- Responsibility
- Stewards
- Who is the “our”? “DC residents working together”?
- DC as international model for urban nature (people/biodiversity/parks)
- DC as national/international model for natural systems
- Don’t make it too technical
- Don’t limit it to DC residents – federal, workers
- “Oasis” – sounds like it’s not a part of us, don’t make it an abstraction
- Daily intimate engagement with nature – draw it into people’s lives
- Balance the needs of ecological system and increased access for the public
- Human relationship to nature
- Habitat extends into the city

At the end of this brainstorm, we decided to have working group participants submit revised vision statements online and then have a poll/vote to choose a working vision for the group. Please send your vision statements to polina.bakhteiarov@dc.gov.

We then moved onto goal and action formulation. We organized our goals by 5 “social goal” categories and 5 “physical goal” categories. The working version of our goal/action table can be found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AllnDsAqMftddFFKMjBLWFJObHY1OTd1akw3M2lFTWc>.

We also created a list of “other” goals and ideas that did not strictly fall into one of the aforementioned categories:

- *Goal*: establish an inter-agency working group
- *Goal*: connect university environmental groups to DC sustainability initiative
- Connectivity (physical) and collaboration (cultural) seem to be separate items
- Green enterprises
- Health – economic, physical, and environmental
- How does collaboration fit in?
- Food production/urban agriculture



- Relationship to public safety
- Dark Sky Conservation:
 - Decrease light pollution
 - Increase energy efficiency
 - Better human health
 - Concern for migrating birds
- Organize categories another way:
 - Protection
 - Restoration
 - Education/Outreach
 - Accessibility
 - Stewardship
- Placing wildlife at the top of the goal list
- Protect and improve:
 - Ecosystem services
 - Open spaces/parks
 - Wildlife
 - Biodiversity
 - Habitat

Next Steps: At our next meeting (Meeting 4), we will evaluate and prioritize Nature goals and actions for the Sustainable DC plan.

Please review the background information provided on the Sustainable DC Working Group Resource Center (<http://sustainable.dc.gov/page/nature-working-group-background-documents>) prior to the next meeting.

Open Question: How do we structure our goals and actions – along social and/or physical “goal categories”?

Date for next meeting: Wednesday, January 25th, 2012 at 6:30PM

Location for next meeting: 55 M St, SE, 4th Floor

Questions? Email sustainable.nature@dc.gov