



Working Group Name: NATURE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 25th, 2012

Meeting Location: District Department of Transportation – Urban Forestry Administration, 55 M St, SE

Attendees: Jason Berry, Matt Grason, Mike Cowden, Gloria A. Lessington, MonaCheri Pollard, Lisa Morris, Molly Scott, Matt Harper, Dan Rauch, Steve Coleman, Janine Harris, Brian Rodgers, Anthony Jones, Ian Leahy, Franklin Russell (Working Group Co-Chair), Monica Lear (Working Group Co-Chair), John Thomas (Working Group Co-Chair), Polina Bakhteiartov (Facilitator)

Main Points/Discussion: The focus of this meeting was to continue establishing goals and actions for Nature in the Sustainable DC plan. We also evaluated goals and actions across different types of benefits, and then prioritized the recommendations in a voting exercise.

First, the group split up into three sub-groups along the physical goal “categories” as follows:

- Natural systems
- Open space & parks
- Wildlife (flora & fauna), habitat, and biodiversity

The three sub-groups then reviewed and edited the goals and actions developed in Meeting 3.

Next, each of the three sub-groups evaluated their goals and actions across the following types of benefits:

- Economic
- Environmental
- Health
- Social
- Level of effort
- Benefit relative to cost
- Timeframe for implementation

The Wildlife/Habitat/Biodiversity team was able to complete the evaluation during the meeting. Evaluation for goals and actions from the Natural Systems and Open Space/Parks sub-groups will take place at a later meeting. The evaluations will be used in prioritization of goals and actions, and will be passed onto the Green Ribbon Committee and the Sustainable DC consultant team.

Finally, the three sub-groups came back together to prioritize all of the goals and action items for Nature. Each participant voted on their top 5 goals and top 10 actions. The prioritization



results are as follows (please note that goals and actions that did not receive any votes are excluded below):

NATURAL SYSTEMS

GOAL	GOAL TALLY
All students in DC schools receive local environmental education at all educational levels; incorporate environmental education and service into every component and level of schools across the city	11
Tap into international best practices for ecological protection, restoration, and appreciation	6
Connect every DC resident to safe, sustainable green spaces and waterways to advance lasting environmental, physical, and economic health	6
By 2030, the Anacostia River will be swimmable and fishable	3
Increase environmental literacy into all aspects of school curriculum for all grades and subjects	2
Collaborate and invest in the power of nature to help DC meet its toughest health, education, economics, and public safety needs	2
DC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to engage with DC natural resources – 20,000+ youth	2
Support green start-ups, businesses, enterprises, and jobs that protect and restore the environment	1
Develop environmental education initiative that broadens and deepens residents', etc. understanding of natural systems; education across all ages	1
ACTION	ACTION TALLY
Invest in green infrastructure to reduce storm overflows	7
Require developers to fund green space by Green Area Ratio (GAR)	4
invest in green vocational programs (high school - college)	4
Promote/create an "Sustainability secretary" position in all ANCs or neighborhood associations	4
Convene summit in 2014	3
Tax incentives, seed money, training, education	2
Volunteer events: schools, curriculum, comprehensive community programming	1
Comprehensive public awareness campaign, art installation, signage, branding	1
Series of community gardens, rain gardens, bottom-up, all aspects of city groups	1
Expand volunteerism – schools, universities, green jobs, student jobs, District government sponsored programs and activities, also private, business, faith-based	1



4 days of “unplugging” campaign to celebrate nature on the first day of each season	1
Create timetable through 2030 for increased number of public access points to the Anacostia River & Watershed	1

OPEN SPACE & PARKS

GOAL	GOAL TALLY
Decrease impermeable surfaces by 10% by 2020 and by 20% by 2030 (green streets to incorporate nature into neighborhoods and manage stormwater)	9
Restore DC’s tree canopy: 40%+ tree canopy throughout the District	3
Get every public school linked to a park/open space for education	3
No net loss of parkland	2
Increased “connectivity” has to do with physical connection of natural spaces and physical access to these spaces – more collaboration, which describes a process that cuts across sectors to its own goal and flesh out or make action; collaboration between environmental groups and charter schools or businesses	2
Promote and invest in DC's status as greenest city in North America (25% of public space is green)	2
Address safety concerns	1
ACTION	ACTION TALLY
Plant 250,000 native trees by 2030; focus along streets, parks, private and non-profit reforestation. Use incentives, lining stream and river systems	8
Develop green space from the RFK Stadium parking lots (Oklahoma Avenue and Benning Rd NE) – turn asphalt into green space for use by youth and adults who are DC residents	6
Establish a DC “green belt” - bike path or scenic route to connect major parks greenway	6
Create a connectivity map – wildlife and people corridors to increase accessibility (master planning)	6
Target parking lots, alleys, schoolyards, sidewalks, curbs, roofs, plazas, storm drains (LID)	5
Promote investment in open space with more connectivity, more accountability, more programming	4
Return some fraction of lawn-type parkland to natural prairie/forest/native landscaping and promote/invest in stewardship partnerships	4
Increase park space – acquire more land for parks/natural areas (connectivity, zoning, incentives). Promote green-oriented development with Green Area Ratio (GAR)	4
Metro-to-nature maps. Link w/bike and boating access. Create a smartphone app.	3



Bring back forgotten corridors	
Identify possible new parkland	3
“Wild places are closer than you think!” advertising campaign. Target campaign at residents, regional workers, and visitors/tourists.	2
Signs at the entrances of DC parks that show the trails (Fort DuPont Park)	2
Stricter development protections (and stewardship) for forested land than for brownfields or redevelopment	1
Create overall inventory of existing parkland w/ status and condition	1
More access points to parks, especially large, linear ones like Oxon Run	1

WILDLIFE (Flora & Fauna), HABITAT, & BIODIVERSITY

GOAL	GOAL TALLY
Increase habitat restoration across DC by 8,000 acres by 2025	7
Increase wetland area by 200% by 2020	6
Restore all current (2012) wetlands by 2017	6
Not net loss of wild species	6
75% native trees/plants used by DC government by 2014	4
No net loss of biodiversity	2
Increase native fish populations by x% by 20__	1
ACTION	ACTION TALLY
Restore understory canopy by removing invasive species for forested areas	6
Convert paved to unpaved surfaces in greenspaces/parks citywide	6
Require set asides in developments; wildlife corridors	6
Implement wildlife action plan	5
Regulations passed by Office of Contracting and Procurement	4
Installing fences to restrict goose populations	3
Take part in "Lights Out" program	2
Removal of invasive plant and animal species within existing wetlands	2
Water quality improvements, dissolved oxygen	2
Managed mowing of grassland areas to reduce invasive species and protect existing native species	1

Next Steps: At the next meeting (Meeting 5), all of the working groups will come back together to review vision statements, goals, and actions, and will prioritize recommendations across all working group topics.

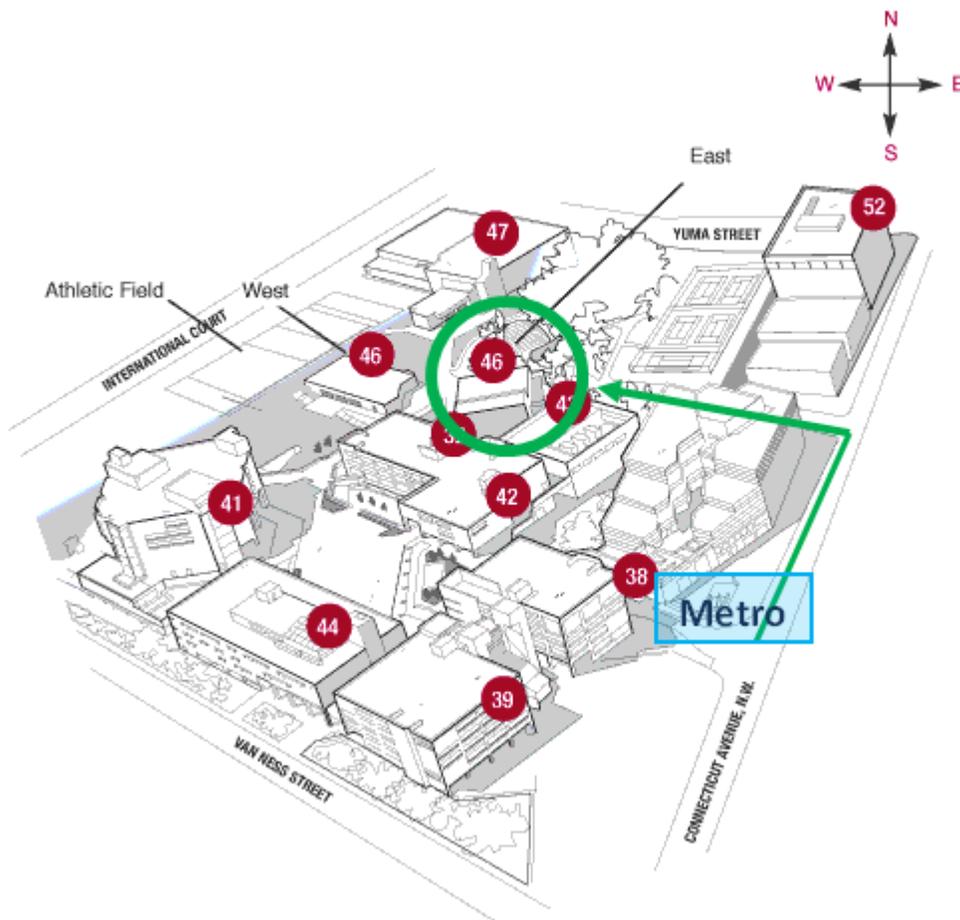


Please review the background information provided on the Sustainable DC Working Group Resource Center (<http://sustainable.dc.gov/page/nature-working-group-background-documents>) prior to the next meeting.

Date for next meeting: Wednesday, February 8th, 2012, 6:30PM (Joint Meeting for All Working Groups)

Location for next meeting: Performing Arts Center of the University of the District of Columbia, Van Ness Campus - Building 46 East at Connecticut Avenue NW and Windom Place NW (please see map below)

MAP OF SUSTAINABLE DC JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING LOCATION (FEBRUARY 8TH MEETING)



To RSVP for the February 8th joint working group meeting, please click [here](#).

Questions? Email sustainable.nature@dc.gov