

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT | 2020 UPDATE

THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD, WASHINGTON, DC

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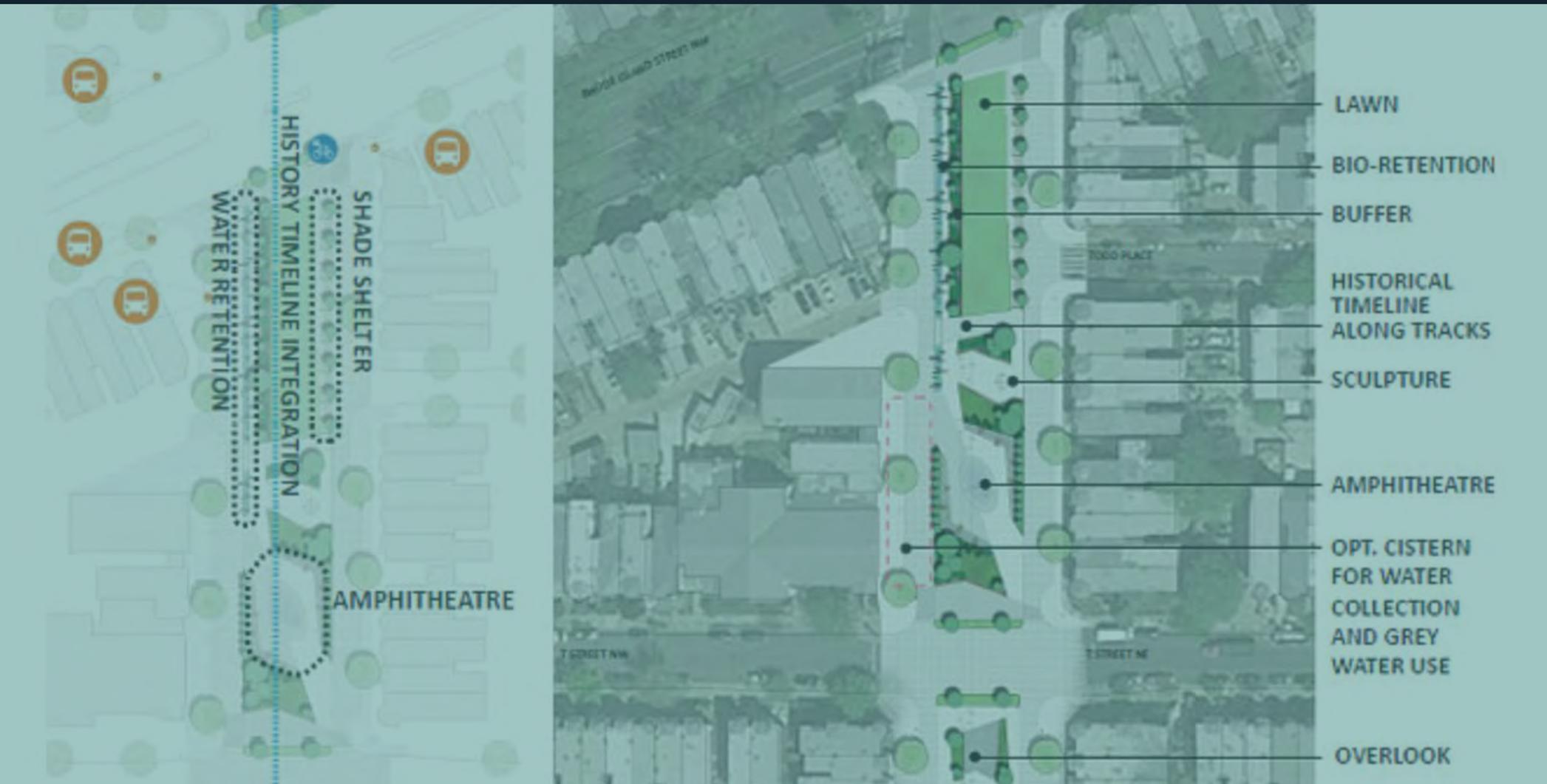


Diagram of Proposed Features of the North Capitol Street Deck-Over
"The 2020 Best Plan to Deck Over a Street in DC" – Urban Turf, 12/24/20
Diagram Conceptualized and Developed by ZGF Architects, LLP
in Collaboration with BCA's BVS Deck-Over Group

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Prepared by the Bloomingdale Village Square (BVS) Initiative
of the Bloomingdale Civic Association (BCA)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the BVS Architecture & Design Group Effort	5
Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Assets	6
Historic Landmarks and Heritage Trails	7
Residential Architecture & Historic District Status	8
Parks	9
Street Grid	9
Neighborhood Businesses	10
Community Diversity	11
Bloomingtondale Architecture & Design Issues	12
Urban Redevelopment (North Capitol Deck-Over).....	13
Bloomingtondale Urban Design	
Street Furniture.....	15
LID Tree Pits	16
Permeable Pavers	17
Street Lights	18
Signage	19
Bike Parking.....	20
Sidewalk Pavers	21
Community Bulletin Board	22
Clock.....	23
Bloomingtondale Landscape	24
Parks	24
Plantings.....	25
Bloomingtondale Art	26
Murals	26
Alley Art Walks	27
Crosswalks	28
Lights	29
Projections.....	30
Sculpture	31
Street Art	32
2020 Status of A & D Recommendations	33
Short-Term (3 - 4 years)	34
Mid-Term (4 - 6 years).....	35
Long-Term (7 – 10 years)	37
BVS Background & Funding Sources	39

About the BVS Architecture & Design Group Effort

- BVS consists of five work groups – all comprised by volunteer Bloomingdale residents:
 - a) Oral History Group
 - b) Written History Group
 - c) Architecture & Design Group
 - d) North Capitol Deck-Over Group
 - e) Youth Engagement Group
- Architecture & Design group is comprised by volunteer architects, designers, urban planners and other Bloomingdale residents.
- Major procedures used: Brainstorming; neighborhood walks to assess and photograph; assignment of design elements for research and identification of appropriate precedent images; discussion and vetting of proposed design recommendations; and preparation of a report of the Group's efforts.
- Efforts were informed by DC's *Mid-City East Small Area Plan* and the *Mid-City East Livability Study*.

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS



View of McMillan Park, looking North on First Street, NW

BLOOMINGDALE ASSETS

Historic Landmarks & Heritage Trails

Sources: *Listing of DC Historic Landmarks* (DC Historic Preservation Office, 2019)
Ward 5 Heritage Guide (DC Office of Planning, 2014)

African American Trail Sites

(per DC Historic Preservation Office [2014])

American (aka Sylvan) Theater

104-108 Rhode Island NW

Built in 1913 by Jesse Sherman

Reflects a distinctive 'neighborhood theater' genre of its time period; during the 1970's -- home for the Black American Theater, which significantly contributed to the 'Golden Age' of black theater in DC

Architect: Nicholas T. Haller

Barnett-Aden Gallery

127 Randolph Place NW

First privately owned African American art gallery in the US

Dorothy Boulding Ferebee Residence

1809 Second Street NW

African-American obstetrician and Howard University Medical School faculty renowned for her efforts related to neighborhood social services, civil rights, and public health services.

Nathaniel Parker Gage School

(now Parker Flats Condos)

2035 2nd Street NW

Built in 1904-05 in high Colonial Revival style

Architects: Lemuel W. Norris & Snowden Ashford

Samuel Gompers House

2122 First Street NW

Built in 1902

Home of founder and president of the American Federation of Labor, 1886 – 1924

Architect: F.A. Blundon

LeDroit Park/Bloomingdale Heritage Trail

Launched in 2015 by Cultural Tourism DC

McMillan Park Reservoir Historic District

First Street and Michigan Avenue, NW

Built in 1903-05

A major DC water reservoir and DC's first water treatment facility that is distinguished by its use of sand filtration technology

Grounds designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

Old Engine Company No. 12 Firehouse

1626 North Capitol Street NW

Built in 1896-97

Architect: Snowden Ashford

BLOOMINGDALE ASSETS

Residential Architecture & Historic District Status

Bloomington was established in 1889 as a suburban streetcar residential subdivision for the middle-class. By 1894, the subdivision had been divided into house lots and its street grid paved. By 1904, most of the lots had homes built on them. Thus, as a result of speculative developers, the neighborhood was nearly fully built during an approximate 20-to-25-year period. Consequently, Bloomington is distinguished by the uniformity of the architecture of its blocks, their row house stylistic compatibility, and the excellence of its residential construction.

Many of Bloomington's homes are designed by Thomas M. Haislip, Appleton P. Clark, George Schneider, Joseph Bohn Jr., William C. Blundon, N.R. Grimm, William C. Allard, A.H. Beers, Stanley Simons, Hunter & Bell, and others. Builders include Ray E. Middaugh, William Shannon, Lewis E. Bruening, A.B. Mullett & Company, and William Freeman. Major developers are Harry Wardman, Francis Blundon, Thomas Haislip and S. H. Meyers. The homes' architectural styles reflect variations of the French Academic row house, Queen Anne, Georgian, Colonial Revival and other styles, which serve to create what is described as an "architecturally vibrant" neighborhood.

Today, Bloomington is again challenged by speculative developers, many of whom have brought modifications of historic architecture in the form of popups, popbacks, and conversions of single-family homes into multi-unit condos or apartments. In 2019, it was not unusual for well-renovated Bloomington single-family homes to sell for \$1.2 million or more.

Bloomington residents and organizations pursued Historic District Designation, which was awarded in 2018, with all but 8 of Bloomington's 1704 homes/buildings determined to be 'contributing historic resources' with their locations listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.



BLOOMINGDALE ASSETS

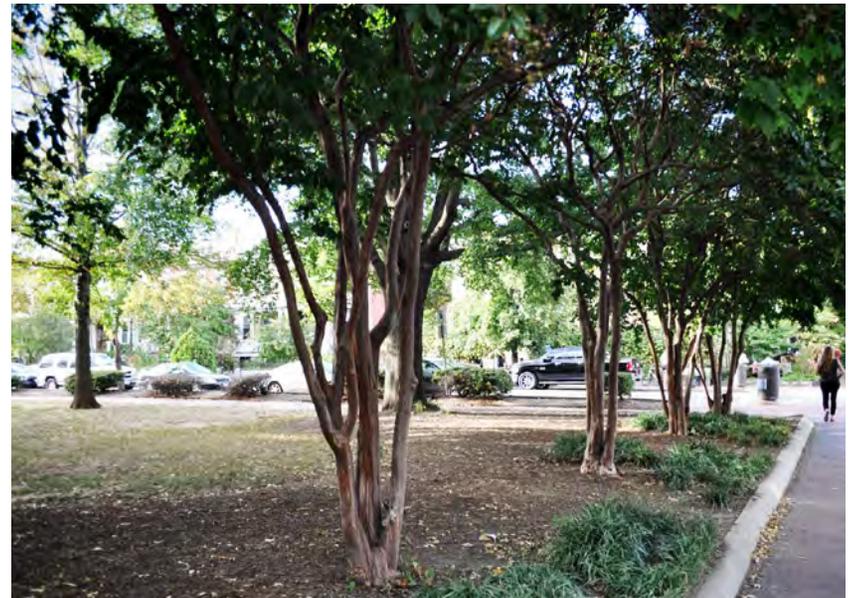
Parks

The only major park in Bloomingdale is the McMillan Park designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. Up until 1952, this Park included contemplative spaces, playgrounds, tennis courts and other recreational facilities and hosted numerous types of public events. However, the park was fenced and closed to public during WWII, re-opened after the war, and permanently closed in 1952. The proposed McMillan Sand Filtration Site Development is to include 8 to 10 acres of 'green space', of which approximately 6 acres are designated as a public park. However, as currently proposed, aside from the Olmsted Walk, an indoor swimming pool in a community center with lockers, showers, and a 'multipurpose room', and modest-sized outdoor amphitheater and splash park/playground, there are somewhat limited provisions for programmed active public use.

The only other Bloomingdale park of any significant size is the 1-acre Crispus Attucks Park. The remaining parks in Bloomingdale are 'pocket parks', whose functions and public use might be maximized.

Street Grid

Built as a suburban neighborhood with access primarily by streetcar, Bloomingdale includes few major traffic corridors – namely, Rhode Island Avenue, Florida Avenue, and North Capitol Street. All other streets are either 'neighborhood collectors' (e.g. 1st Street NW) or narrow residential streets. The increased volume of traffic from the Maryland suburbs into DC was the justification for the widening of Rhode Island Avenue and North Capitol Street in the early 1960s, resulting in an amputated streetscape (especially on North Capitol Street). It also resulted in almost no connection between residential and commercial areas on the east and west sides of North Capitol.



BLOOMINGDALE ASSETS

Bloomingtondale Businesses

Bloomingtondale has two relatively small commercial areas. One centers on the First and Rhode Island NW area; the other is on North Capitol Street from Florida Avenue NW to Randolph Place. Both are interspersed with residential dwellings. Below is a 2019 listing of Bloomingtondale's businesses, according to the business inventory of the North Capitol Main Street Program.

- 1st Street Barber
- Amax Cleaners
- ANXO Cidery & Pintxos Bar
- Aroi Thai Restaurant
- B & J Carryout
- Bacio Pizzeria
- Best Braids by FeFe
- Big Bear Café (coffee bar & food)
- Bloomingtondale Wine & Spirits
- Boundary Stone Public House (Bar & restaurant)
- Chinese Dragon (carryout)
- City Cleaners
- Cookie's Corner (market)
- Creative Grounds DC (Coffee bar; child/adult arts venue)
- DC Mini Mart
- DC Smokehouse
- Fiddleheads Salon
- Flagler Market
- Fresh Dry Cleaners
- Full Yum Carryout
- Hopscotch (Bar & restaurant)
- Jam Doung Style Cuisine (carryout; soon to add restaurant)
- Nazarene Outpost Ministries Center
- Nest DC Property Management
- New Reservoir Market
- Meats & Foods (Carryout & delivery)
- Pub & the People (Bar & Restaurant)
- Rafael Grocery Deli
- Red Hen (Restaurant)
- Showtime Lounge
- Sun Beam Market
- Sylvan Café
- Truxton Inn
- Wong People Kung Fu Association (Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Dance lessons & events)
- Yeung Fong (carryout)
- Yoga District



Big Bear Cafe



Boundary Stone



Red Hen



City Cleaners



Tyber Creek



Bloomingtondale Wine & Spirits

BLOOMINGDALE ASSETS

Community Diversity

Bloomingtondale is a growing and thriving neighborhood that is dramatically increasing its diversity – especially in terms of race/ethnicity, nation of origin, age, heterosexual/LGBTQ status, education, and income. According to the U.S. Census, Bloomingtondale witnessed the following demographic changes between 2000 and 2016:

1. Bloomingtondale's population increased 35.2 % from 4537 to 6136, with the percentage of Black residents declining from 59% to 44% while White population increased from 30% to 42.4%.
2. Its number of occupied housing units increased 48.2% from 1673 to 2435.
3. Its average annual family income increased 77.3% from \$86,000 to \$152,500.

The potential divisiveness that often accompanies such rapid demographic change has been buffered by the neighborhood's tradition of civic engagement, the continued growth of many of its organizations and block clubs and the establishment of new ones, and an ethos of respect for human differences. The diversity of Bloomingtondale residents and the collective breadth of their life experiences, talents, and skills are Bloomingtondale's most valuable asset.



Bloomingtondale Farmers Market happens every Sunday in the summer and fall.



Yard Sale at Crispus Attucks Park



Art All Night



Community BBQ at Crispus Attucks Park



Bloomingtondale Beautification Day

BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES



View of the US Capitol, looking South on North Capitol Street at Rhode Island Ave.

BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

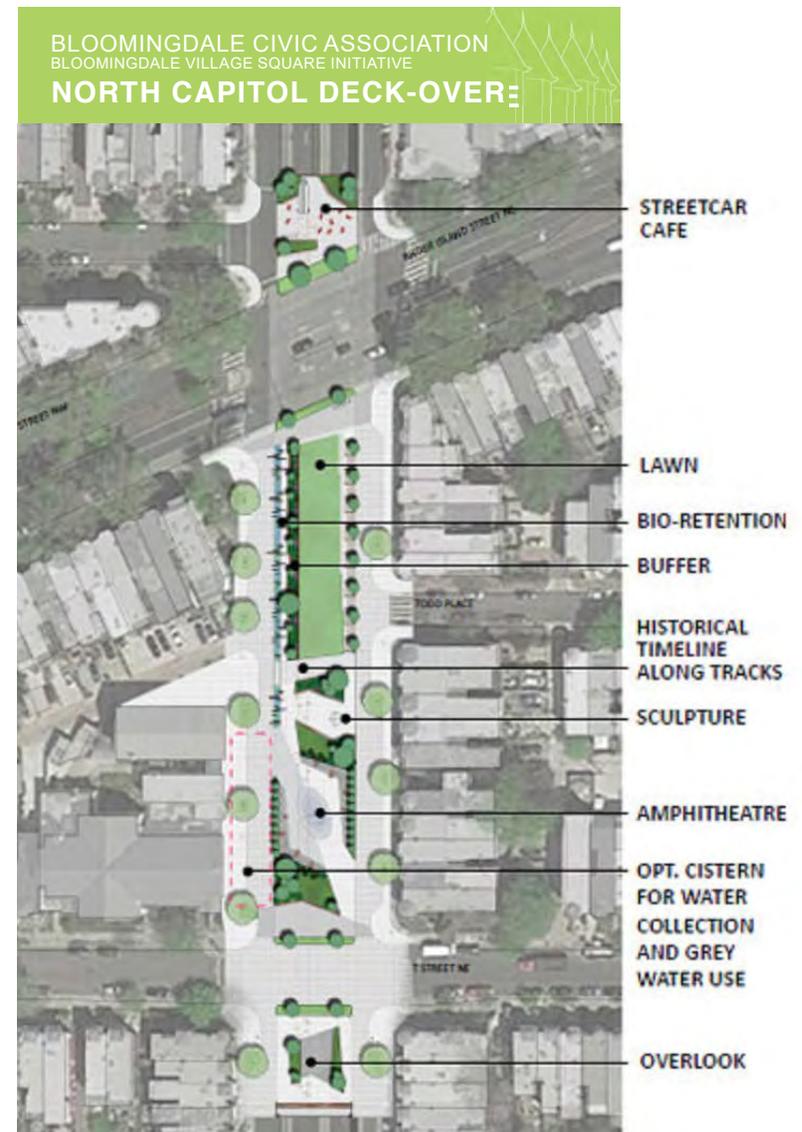
Urban Redevelopment – Installation of Decking & Park Space above North Capitol Street between V Street and Seaton Place

The building of interstate and other U.S. highways was a major federal activity in the 1950s and 1960s. The routing of these highways was the responsibility of States, and in urban areas, frequently linked with then popular urban planning goals of slum clearance and urban renewal. In Washington DC, a huge proposed interstate system that would cut through the heart of DC's mid-city residential neighborhoods was vigorously opposed by residents (with the slogan of "White men's roads through Black men's homes"). This resulted in the re-allocation of most of the DC federal interstate funds to Metro (subway) construction.

Nevertheless, the underpasses of North Capitol Street were constructed to enhance the commuting experience of Maryland suburban residents. To the disadvantage of residents, these changes have eroded walkability and connection between neighborhoods on the east and west sides of the street, added noise and pollution, encouraged disinvestment in the North Capitol small business community, and scarred the street's iconic view of the nation's Capitol.



Precedent image(s) of park's integrated history timeline pavers



Major proposed features of North Capitol Deck Over.
Provided by ZGF Architects, LLP

BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Our goal is to re-connect and restore the urban fabric of Bloomingdale, Eckington and other neighborhoods abutting North Capitol Street. We advocate (using the slogan of “Cap the Gap”) for the building of a deck over North Capitol Street underpasses topped by a public neighborhood history-themed park. We envision that over time, the deck-over park could be extended to H St., with use of the historical theme changing to reflect each neighborhood it passes through. Such a deck-over would create much needed green space, significantly improve the North Capitol streetscape, provide the corridor a unique identity and sense of place, reduce auto-related pollution and noise, increase social connections among residents of area neighborhoods, and catalyze the development and growth of small business on North Capitol Street.

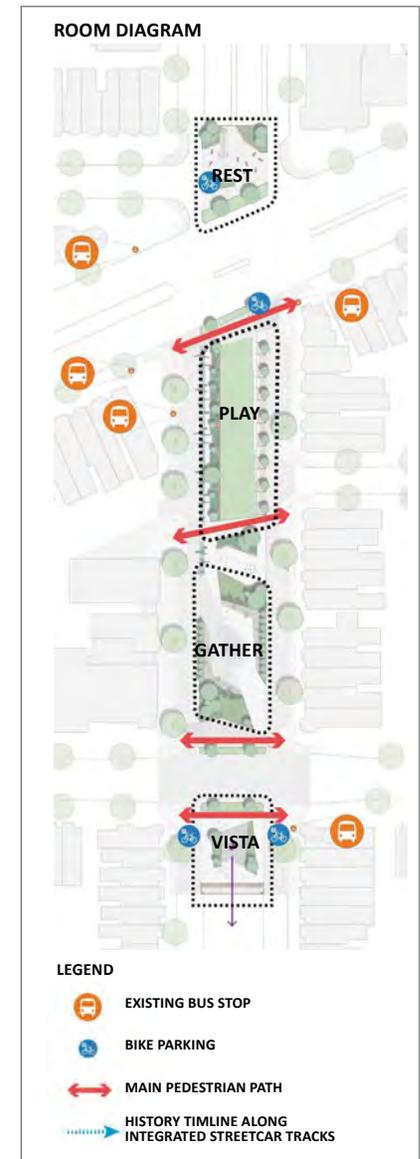
In 2018, the BCA signed a contract with ZGF Architects, LLP for pro bono preliminary engineering and design services. Bloomingdale resident Christopher Somma served as ZGF’s lead project architect, and actively collaborated with the BVS Deck-Over Group and members of the Deck-Over Steering Committee. We include on the prior page, here, and on this Report’s Cover, some of the ZGF’s design concepts, which envision a deck-over park between approximately V Street and Seaton Place.



*Proposed splash fountain & amphitheater near T St. NW
Provided by ZGF Architects, LLP*



*Promenade with lawn & pergolas looking south
Provided by ZGF Architects, LLP*



Proposed North Capitol Deck-Over Room Diagram; provided by ZGF Architects, LLP

BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Urban Design – Street Furniture

Street furniture is fundamental to creating a sense of space, gathering and identity for Bloomingdale. It is where the community rests, sits, eats and socializes. Young children use furniture in very creative ways, as places to play and imagine. The elderly use it to rest, interact and enjoy the outdoors.

Properly placed pieces for seating and gathering can help propel a sense of community, while fortifying relationships. For the proper and successful placement of furniture, an analysis of the site's current and desired patterns of use should be conducted. Selections for planters and trash recitcles should complement the seating. Proper selection of low maintenance, native plantings for the planters will help secure their success.

Furniture should be located in places of high activity, such as along First Street, adjacent to retail and restaurants, and in a few larger pocket parks.

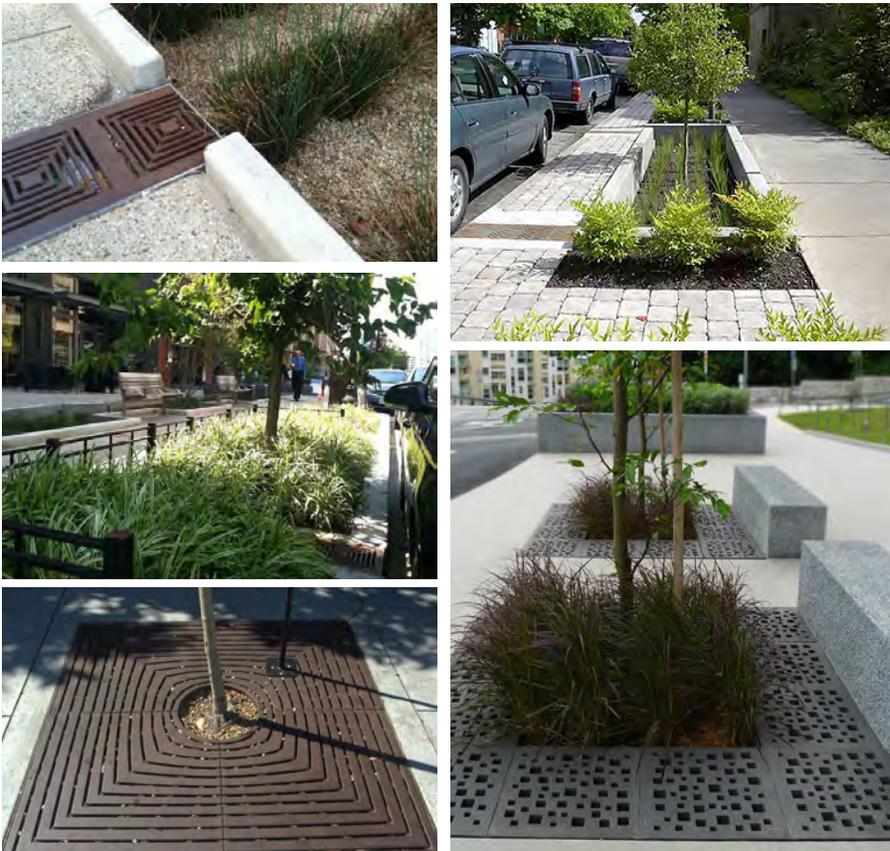


BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Urban Design – LID Tree Pits

Flooding in Bloomingdale has raised awareness with regard to storm water management. While an immediate solution to resolve flooding concerns are underway by DC Water through the construction of the 1st Street Tunnel and the Northeast Boundary Tunnel, the introduction of water absorbing vegetative systems, such as LID tree pits and permeable pavers will help alleviate surface runoff from the neighborhood and the greater Chesapeake watershed.

Precedent Images



LEGEND

- TREE BOXES WITH NO TREES
- TREE BOXES WITH YOUNG OR SICK TREES

BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Urban Design – Permeable Pavers

In order to further reduce surface runoff, installation of permeable pavers in alleys and sidewalks would greatly decrease such runoff. Currently, during heavy rainfall, the alleys become rivers of water. While permeable pavers will not completely eliminate the surface flow, they will contribute to the reduction of surface water.

There are a variety of solutions for pervious pavers, but a coherent master plan for the neighborhood will help create a complementary palette unique to Bloomingdale.

Precedent Images



BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

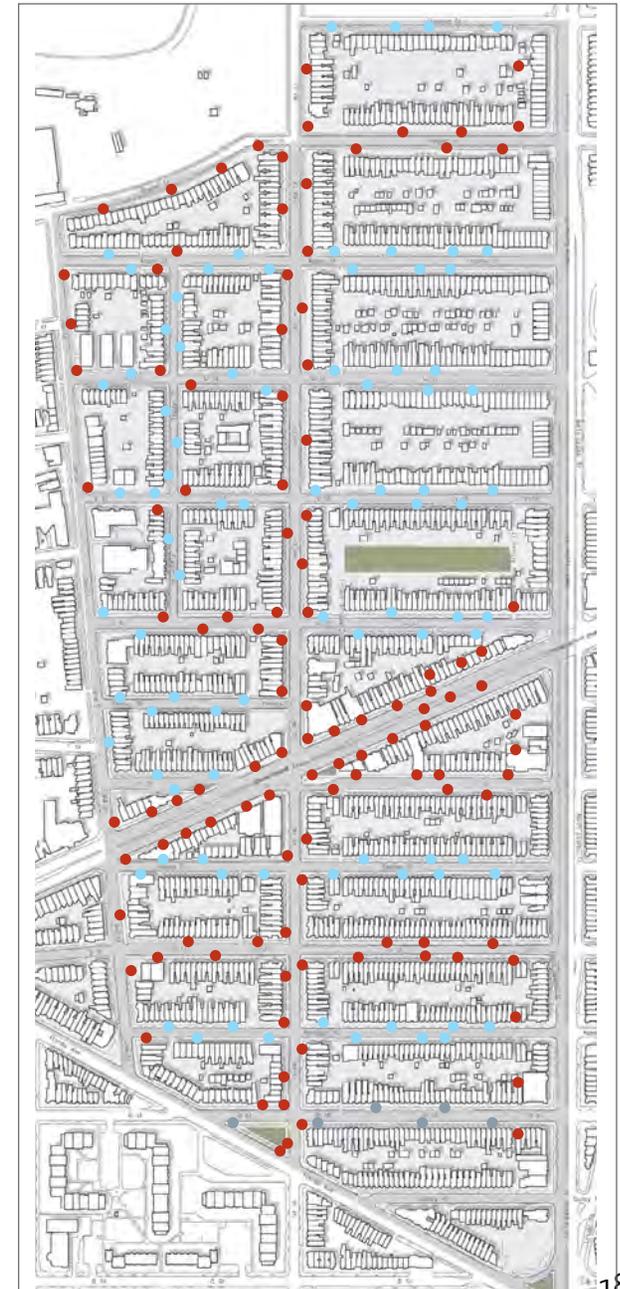
Urban Design – Street Lights

There is a need for consistency in lighting design throughout Bloomingdale. We propose replacing all of the existing Cobra style lights with the traditional 'Washington Globe' style similar to the prototype shown below. In consideration of Bloomingdale's Historic District character and designation, we urge that all 5G Cell Technology be installed ONLY on light or utility poles in alleys.



LEGEND

-   Cobra head street light
-   Black globe light
-   Gray globe light



BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Urban Design – Bike Parking

We are advocating for increased bike parking at the following locations shown in the map below.

Precedent Images



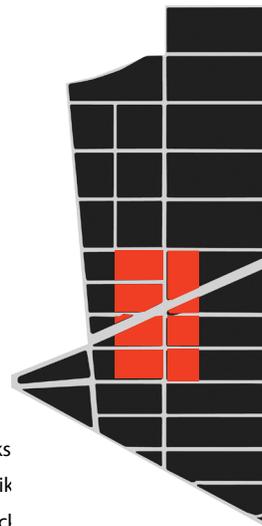
BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY

Existing Images



LEGEND

- Existing Bike Racks
- Existing Capitol Bik
- Proposed Bike Rack



BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Urban Design – Sidewalk Pavers

There is a need for consistency in sidewalk pavers throughout Bloomingdale. We propose replacing all of the existing concrete sidewalks with the brick pavers, unifying the streetscape.

Existing Sidewalk Images

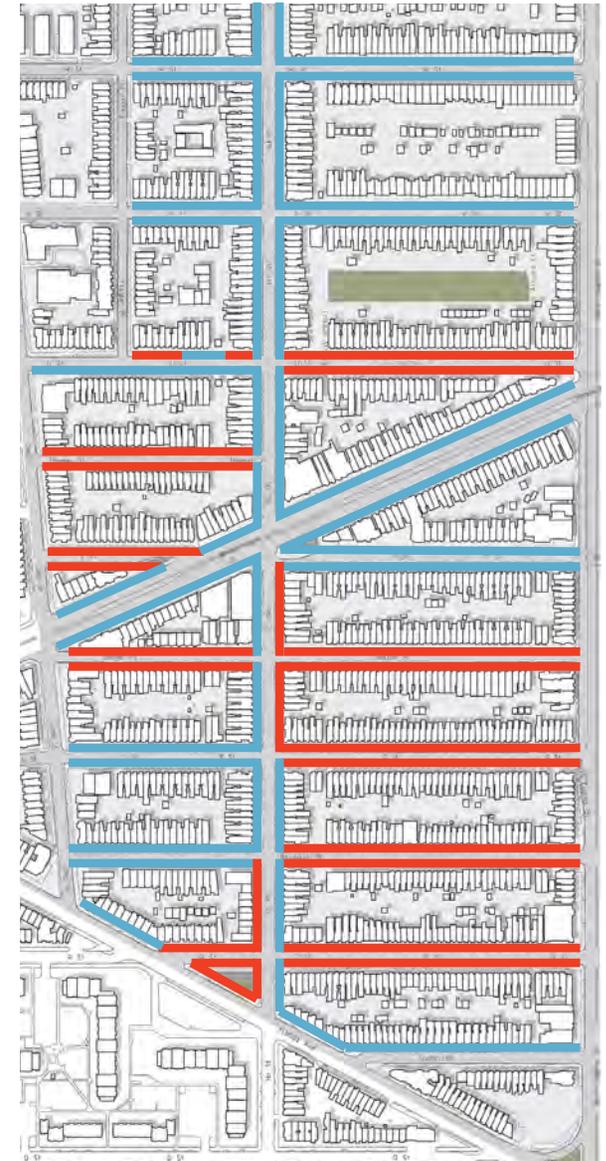
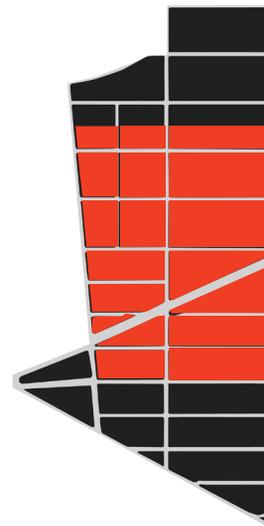


LEGEND OF EXISTING SIDEWALKS

— Brick Sidewalks

— Concrete Sidewalks

BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY



BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

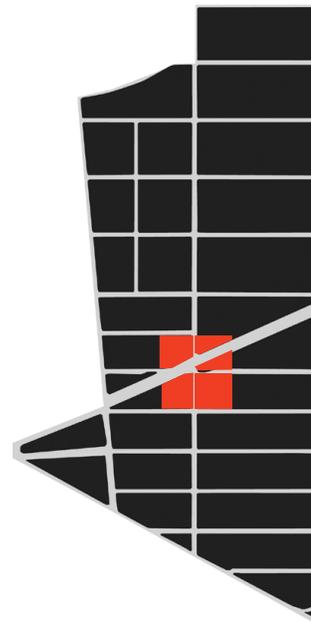
Urban Design – Community Board

We propose the installation of a 21st century community bulletin board (near the intersection of 1st Street and Rhode Island Avenue, NW) integrating digital signage technology to create a point of access for all residents and visitors to community news and events.

Precedent Images

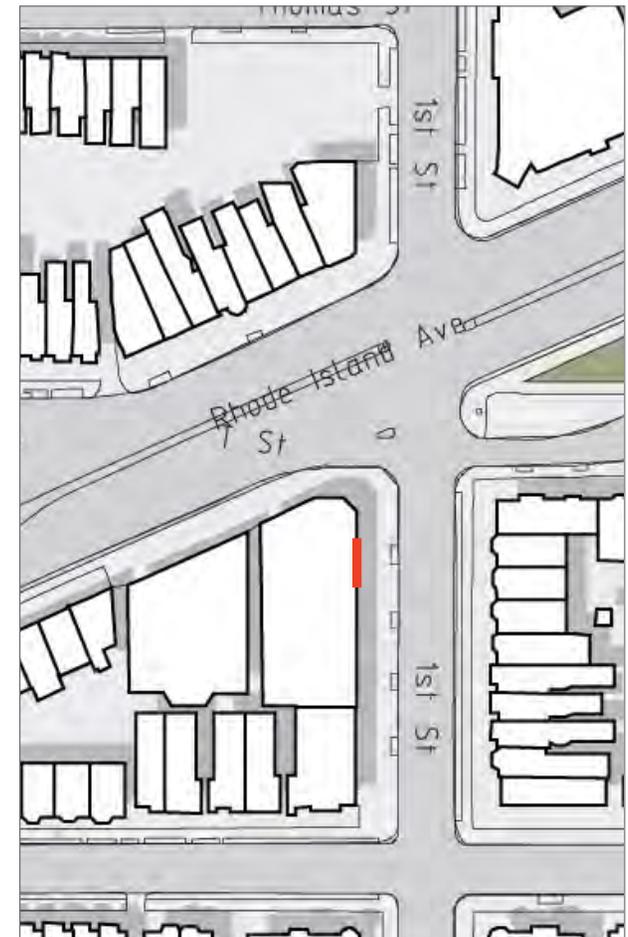


BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY



LEGEND

Community Board



BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Urban Design – Monumental Clock

We propose the installation of a monumental street clock at one of the locations noted in the map below. This will become a central landmark and beacon welcoming all to the Bloomingdale neighborhood.

Precedent Images



BLOOMINGDALE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN ISSUES

Urban Design – Signage

We propose two large monumental welcoming signs at the main intersections into the neighborhood indicated by the red marks on the map below. Additionally, we propose the replacement of the branding banner style signs throughout the major corridors as noted in blue. Unlike the existing banners, the material should be high quality and weather proof similar to the H Street banners below.

Precedent Images



Cologne Dome Christmas Market, Germany



LEGEND

— Monument Signage

□ Banner Signage



Existing Faded Signage



BLOOMINGDALE LANDSCAPE

Parks

We propose implementing a comprehensive landscaping scheme in our public greenspaces. A sustainability program will be implemented to create a public/private partnership to coordinate upkeep and ongoing maintenance. As noted by photos, some pocket parks have been adopted, landscaped, and maintained by Bloomingdale residents and organizations.

Underutilized triangular green spaces could be improved and contribute to stormwater management efforts through community involvement.

Precedent Images



Pocket park adopted, planted and maintained by Zach Sherif & Paul Cerruti; T Street near 1st St. NW



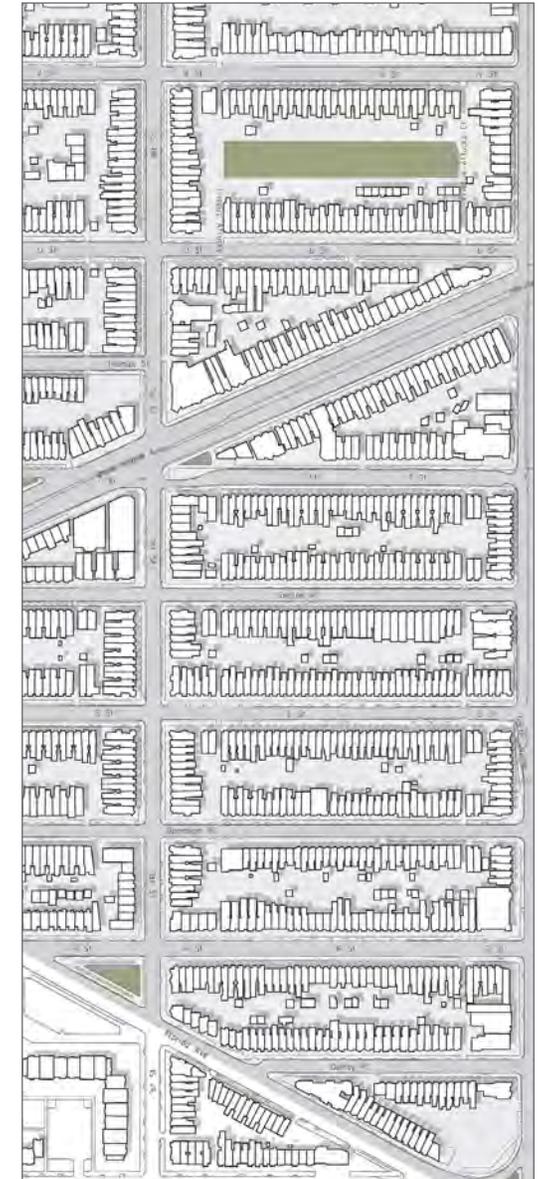
T Street at Rhode Island Avenue, NW



'The Bicycle Park' – a favorite of toddlers! Adopted, planted, installed, and maintained with changing seasonal displays by landscaper Tom Noll; Rhode Island Avenue at 1st St. NW



Crispus Attucks Park from the U Street Alley



BLOOMINGDALE LANDSCAPE

Plantings

We propose that plantings in public spaces be consistent throughout, utilizing low maintenance native species to create a cohesive language.



IteaFlowers



IteaFallColor



iris cristata



Little Bluestem



Dwarf Fothergilla

Native Plants



CoreopsisMoonbeam



Echinacea



Winterberry 2



Sweet fern



Grasses



Doublefile Viburnum flowers



Sumac Gro Low



Hardy Hibiscus



Milkweed



Heuchera green spice

BLOOMINGDALE ART

Murals

We feel there is an incredible opportunity to support and celebrate the arts in Bloomingdale. We propose building onto this heritage and legacy by supplementing the existing murals in our neighborhood with new ones. This expansion would occur through bi-annual competitions to ensure commissioned works are reflective of the diverse community.

Existing Neighborhood Precedent Images



1st St. at Seaton Place NW



W St. near 1st St. NW



BLOOMINGDALE ART

Alley Art Walks

To increase public access and utilization of Crispus Attucks Park, we propose engaging the immediate neighbors in creating an Alley Art-Walk as noted on the page's map.

Existing Alley along Crispus Attucks Park



Colorful murals appear on roads when it is raining.



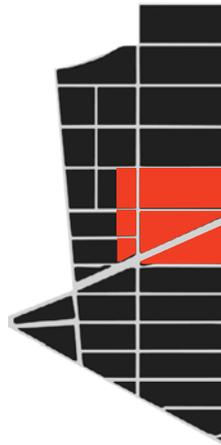
Precedent Images



Muralist Molly Rose Freeman
BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY



Clarion Alley is an unofficial, longstanding street-art scene in San Francisco. Fences, garage doors, buildings and even the pavement are splashed with bright colorful, constantly changing paintings.



BLOOMINGDALE ART

Crosswalks

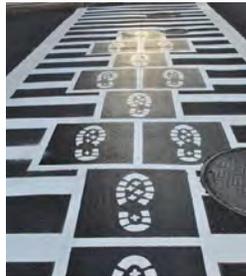
Dynamic crosswalks can create a sense of place as well be effective traffic calming measures, through the use of high contrast colors. Traffic calming and safety are consistent with the recommendations of the *Mid City Small Area Plan*. Bloomingdale is particularly in need of safe crosswalks due to its changing demographics, reflecting increased numbers of seniors and children.

Crosswalks can also be a type of public art in the community, and inspire the imagination.

Precedent Images



Hopscotch crosswalk in Baltimore



Diamond intersection in Petworth, DC



Painting an intersection in Portland, OR

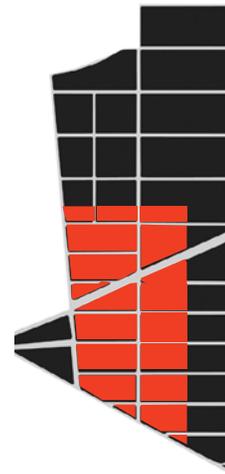


Checker board crosswalk in Collioure France

LEGEND

-  Painted intersection
-  Painted crosswalk

BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY



BLOOMINGDALE ART

Lights

Lighting can create an effective sense of place at night, with the benefits of public safety. Lighting will help to define and illuminate the commercial corridor at 1st and Rhode Island. Lighting can also bring activity, a unique sense of place, and increased safety to the neighborhood's alleys during evening hours.

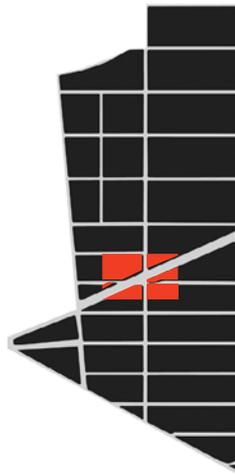
Precedent Images



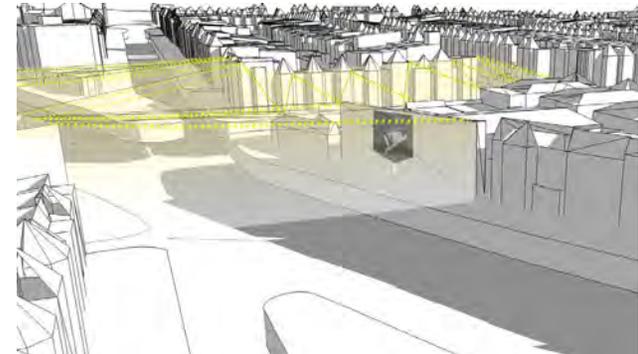
Cologne Dome Christmas Market, Germany



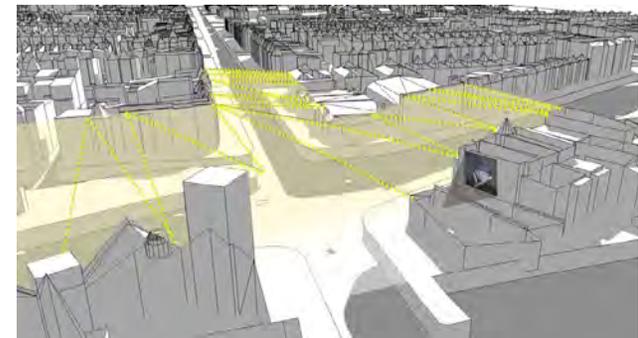
BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY



View of Lighting Feature at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and First Street, looking Northwest



View of Lighting Feature and Projection on Sylvan Theater, looking Southeast across Rhode Island Avenue



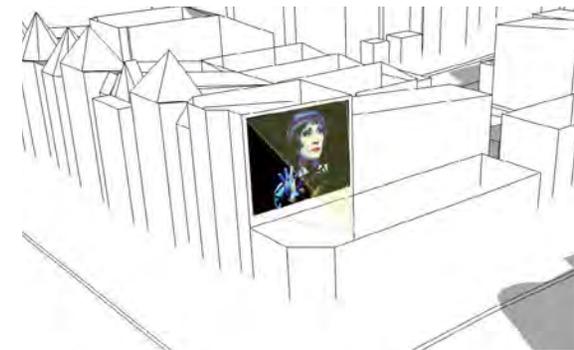
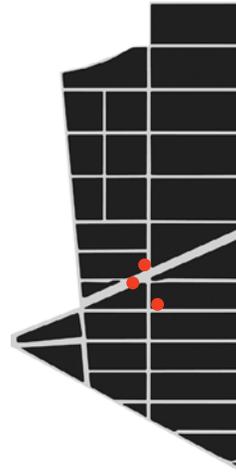
View of Lighting Feature and Projection above Windows Market, looking Southwest at corner of Rhode Island Avenue and First Street

BLOOMINGDALE ART

Projections

Projections could be an additional way to celebrate community heritage, honor achievements of current residents, and feature works of contemporary artists at night.

BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY



Projection at City Cleaners

Precedent Images



Projection artist Ross Ashton at Gateshead's Saltwell Park for the Enchanted Parks 2012 event, with a large format show "Glass House" celebrating the work of Victorian stained glass artist, William Wailes.



Giant projection specialists Urbanscreen at Rice University for the 100th Anniversary spectacle that splashed across 3 campus buildings.



NuFormer is a Dutch 3D video company who project on buildings.



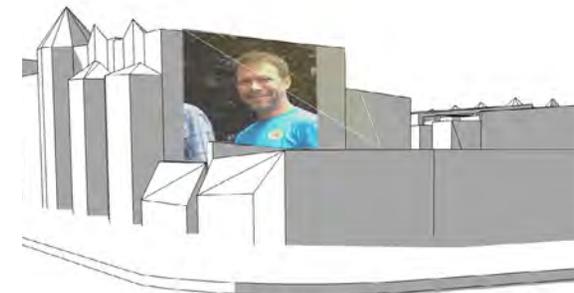
Projection at Sylvan Theater



Multimedia artist Doug Aitken projection on the Hirshhorn Museum.



Potential to project Bloomingdale residents from the past and present



Projection at Windows Market

BLOOMINGDALE ART

Sculpture

Our proposal is to build upon the legacy of sculpture in Bloomingdale front yards, by adding public sculpture in prominent locations throughout the neighborhood, especially in pocket parks.

Precedent Images



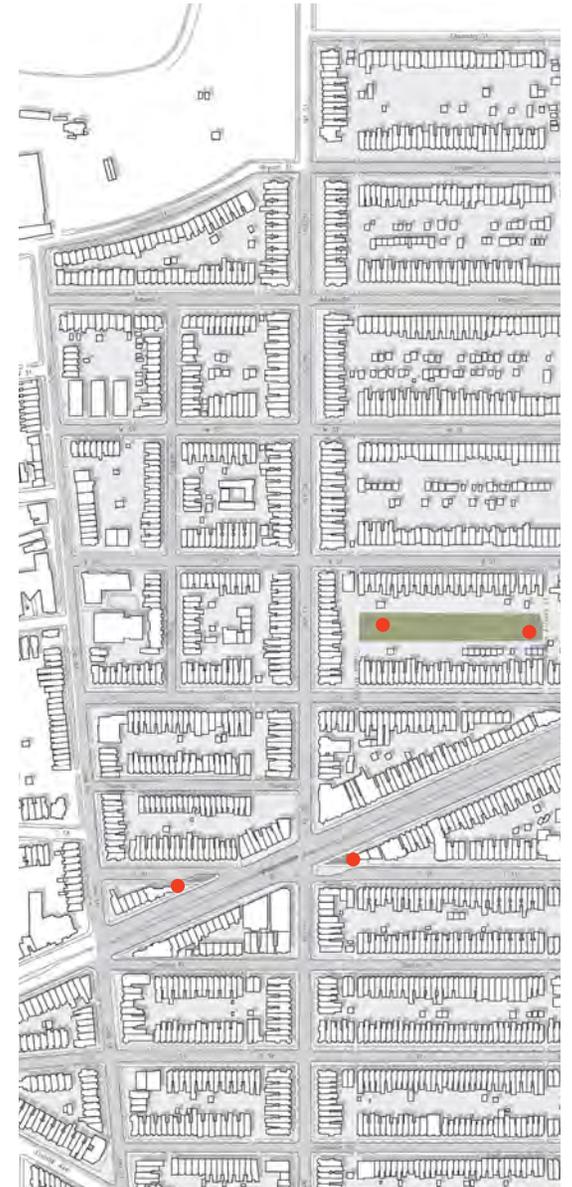
Dennis Heimback Sculpture



David Harber Sculpture



TerraSculpture Embrace



BLOOMINGDALE ART

Street Art

The 100 block of R Street NW is the current home of the weekly Bloomingdale Farmers Market, a valuable community asset located in between the popular Big Bear coffee shop and the Florida Ave Pocket Park. We propose that the street on this block could become the canvas for an art installation similar to those shown in the images below. This will add energy to the streetscape and reinforce the extended pedestrian friendly zone during the seasonal markets.



In 1972 Davis created Franklin's Footpath, which was at the time the world's largest artwork, by painting colorful stripes on the street in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



The Swiss artist duo Lang/Baumann makes oversized street murals that often run the length of entire city blocks.

Precedent Images



In May 1987, the Corcoran School of Art, Washington Project for the Arts, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum collaborated to paint a giant color stripe scheme on 8th Street NW between D and E in honor of Gene Davis, an important artist of the color field movement and former Corcoran faculty member. Mokha Laget, long time studio assistant to Gene Davis, designed the project

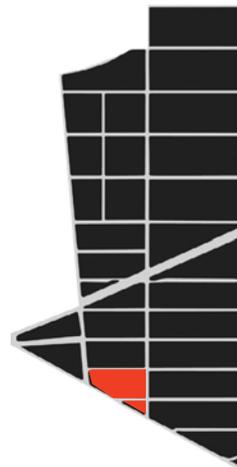


Artist Cecilia Lueza, a team of volunteers and staff with the city of Fort Lauderdale painted the intersection and crosswalks at E. Las Olas Boulevard and S.E. 1st Avenue.



Using road marking paint, the striking 59 x 3.7m artwork boldly introduces frenetic, disrupting geometries into Rennes' streets.

BLOOMINGDALE MAP KEY



2020 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF A & D RECOMMENDATIONS



American (aka Sylvan) Theater on Rhode Island at First St. NW – Designated as a Historic Landmark in April 2019

2020 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF A & D RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term Recommendations (3 – 4 years):

2015 Recommended Focus: Improvement of the core First Street & Rhode Island Avenue NW commercial area, its nearby major access routes, and other Bloomingdale commercial areas.

Status as of March 2020:



2020 NEBT construction at 1st & Rhode Island Avenue

Several pocket parks near commercial areas have been adopted informally by residents who plant and maintain them. Several alleys in or near the core 1st and Rhode Island area have been repaved at the tenacious request of residents.

Improvements of the 1st and Rhode Island NW area have been hampered by DC Water construction of the 1st Street Tunnel, and now by the construction of the Northeast Boundary Tunnel – both of which involved extensive and major construction at 1st and Rhode Island, NW. However, BCA negotiated an agreement with DC Water that ensures replacement of trees and sidewalks damaged or removed due to NEBT construction. More recently, access and commercial activity in these areas have been further aggravated by the impact of COVID-19. Many of the neighborhood’s businesses are restaurants and bars, and some have closed, while most of the remaining have experienced reduced business revenues.

Several delightful murals have been painted on buildings in the core commercial areas and their major access routes.



Wrap-around mural on NEST building– Florida Ave. at 1st St. NW & 1st St. at Florida Ave. NW

2020 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF A & D RECOMMENDATIONS

Mid-Term Recommendations (4 – 6 years)

2015 Recommended Focus: Improvements of Bloomingdale's Residential Areas

Status as of March, 2020

1. Recommended improvements have been significantly and positively impacted by the 2018 designation of Bloomingdale as a Historic District (supported by BCA) with all but 8 of its 1704 buildings listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Consequently, the neighborhood is progressively witnessing a reduction in the number of out-sized building additions (e.g., pop-ups, pop-backs) and other façade changes that are incompatible with the historic character of the neighborhood. Designation should lend support and legitimacy to requests for DC government financial assistance with such recommended items as monumental welcoming signs, neighborhood branding banners, historic street lights, and brick pavers.
2. The BVS and the BCA Beautification Committee are considering advocacy campaigns, grant proposals, and/or public-private partnerships strategies in support of such efforts.
3. BCA Beautification Committee has:
 - a) Catalogued the location of trees in need of removal, planting, or trimming



BCA votes on Bloomingdale Historic Designation



1st & Florida Avenue NW Park

2020 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF A & D RECOMMENDATIONS

- b) Developed ongoing collaboration with both the DC Urban Forestry Division of DDOT and Casey Trees and gained their cooperation in attending to the needs of trees throughout the neighborhood.
 - c) Developed a plan with DC Urban Forestry for collaborative rejuvenation and redesign in Spring 2020 of the pocket park at the 1st and Florida NW commercial area (delayed due to COVIDS-19).
 - d) Conducted annual Spring Beautification Days (with funding provided primarily by ANC 5E) where residents receive free plants for use in residential public space, while committee members plant shrubs and flowers throughout the neighborhood's commercial areas.
4. In 2019/20 at the request of the Bloomingdale Civic Association, the DC Department of Transportation initiated a Traffic Calming Study installation on First Street NW between Bryant and R Streets NW, featuring curb bump-outs marked by flex-posts, street painting, flowering planters, and boldly white-striped crosswalks. BCA is responsible for securing and maintaining plants in the 32 planters that DDOT will provide and place in bump-outs.

2020 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF A & D RECOMMENDATIONS

Long-Term Recommendations (7 – 10 years)

2015 Recommended Focus: High-Cost Neighborhood Improvements that will significantly enhance community identity, sense of place, and quality of life.

Status as of March, 2020

1. In 2015, BVS proposed a single long-term recommendation: “Design and construction of a park decked over the North Capitol Street underpasses that would feature a neighborhood history theme”.
2. In 2019, BCA entered into a pro bono contract with ZGF Architects, LLP for preliminary engineering and design of a North Capitol Deck-Over Park; Chris Somma (architect and Bloomingdale resident) was the lead ZGF project architect.
3. After BVS conducted a 2018 forum for BCA members on BVS’ vision of, and rationale and strategy for developing the deck-over park, BCA endorsed the effort and its collaboration with abutting neighborhoods. In 2018-2020, three related multi-neighborhood forums were conducted: a) the first forum, held prior to ZGF initiating design efforts, focused on residents’ visions of how such a deck-over might function, be used, and its desired amenities; b) the second forum, conducted after ZGF had completed engineering studies and initial drafts of deck-over conceptual and design plans, emphasized presentation of these plans and related considerations, and residents’ associated questions and their positive and negative feedback on the plans; c) the third forum showcased ZGF’s final concepts, designs, and renderings, and in small group round-table discussions, residents charted related implications/considerations/concerns on the topics of environmental issues, park amenities, design elements, and ensuring diversity and inclusion in the park’s welcomeness and use. The issues raised during these discussions will be incorporated in future deck-over design discussions with DDOT.
4. Deck-over civic engagement efforts emphasized the strengthening of relationships among the civic associations of abutting neighborhoods (Bates/Truxton Circle, Bloomingdale, Eckington, Edgewood, Hanover Area, LeDroit Park and Stronghold). BVS representatives requested and were placed on agendas

2020 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF A & D RECOMMENDATIONS

of meeting(s) of most of these neighborhoods' civic associations to discuss visions for a deck-over park and need for collaboration; residents of all of these neighborhoods were invited to, and in attendance at all of the BVS deck-over community forums.

5. In 2019, Ward 5 Councilman Kenyan McDuffie lent his support to the deck-over effort and placed \$40 million in his Ward 5 FY20 budget recommendations for the deck-over, and supported the deck-over again in his FY21 budget recommendations. Advocacy is targeted to DC Council Members, Department/ Agency Directors, and their senior staff, residents of nearby neighborhoods, and others. His FY22 recommendations include \$10 million for "feasibility analysis, concept planning, and initial capital expenses related to the construction" of a North Capitol Deck Over.
6. BVS has developed a Deck-Over Project Steering Committee (to guide Deck-Over advocacy efforts) comprised of persons designated by each of the collaborating civic associations and other volunteers. In addition, to further increase advocacy capacity and capability, the Steering Committee is also recruiting other neighborhood volunteers and developing materials for their use in an advocacy campaign targeted to DC Councilmembers, relevant DC department/agency officials, residents of the collaborating neighborhoods, and focused on benefits and approval of limited capital funding for a Deck Over/Streetscape Feasibility Study, as recommended by Ward 5 CM McDuffie. The Mayor's FY22 budget included \$1 million for a North Capitol Deck Over Feasibility Study, which was approved by the DC Council.
7. In 2020, The Deck Over Steering Committee added a Streetscape component to the project that will involve improvements suggested in part by this *A & D Recommendations Report, 2020 Update*. The goals of the Streetscape component are to: 1) create streetscape and deck over areas with a consistent 'look and feel' that will ensure visible tangible improvements and benefits on both sides of North Capitol Street; 2) attract increased numbers of residents, visitors, and businesses to an expanded and catalyzed mid-city east North Capitol Street small business corridor, and 3) increase safety. We propose the streetscape effort focus on the area bordered (north to south) by V Street to Florida Avenue, and (east to west) by Lincoln Road NE to 1st or 2nd Street NW.

8. The North Capitol Deck Over is a community-led effort distinguished by its intentional focus on multi-neighborhood discussion, collaboration, and civic engagement. The excellence of the results to date of the Deck Over effort is increasingly recognized city-wide. For example, in 2020, *Urban Turf* identified the North Capitol Deck Over as the '2020 Best Plan to Deck Over a Street in DC'.
9. As of April 2021, the membership of the North Capitol Deck Over Steering Committee and the neighborhoods represented were as follows:
 - **BVS/Bloomingdale:** Abigail Arterburn, Paul Cerruti (Co- Chair Steering Committee), Bertha Holliday (1st VP BCA, Co-Director BVS, Commissioner ANC 5E07), Teri Janine Quinn (President BCA), Alex Schaefer (Chief Lobbyist at The Public Land Trust & former Legislative Director of Natural Resources, National Governors Association), Zach Sherif (Co-Chair Steering Committee, Co-Director, BVS), Thaddeus Thaler (Steering Committee Director of Government Affairs)
 - **Eckington:** Sandrine Boukerche (Steering Committee Director of Community Outreach & Engagement), Mark Galvan (Vice President Eckington Parks & Arts)
 - **Stronghold:** Kirby Vining (Past President Stronghold Civic Association, Chair McMillan Advisory Group)

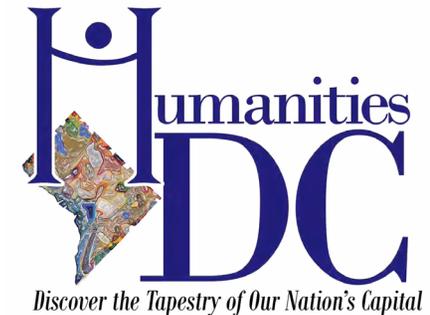
BVS BACKGROUND AND FUNDING SOURCES

The DC Office of Planning's *Mid-City East Small Area Plan* recommended that Bloomingdale seek to increase its community identity and sense of 'place'. The Bloomingdale Village Square (BVS) Initiative was established by the Bloomingdale Civic Association (BCA) both to address this challenge and encourage our demographically changing neighborhood to intentionally pursue increased stability, diversity, and inclusiveness. BVS' primary tools for doing so are neighborhood history, architecture and design, and civic engagement.

Initial BVS research and planning activities were funded in 2015 primarily by a Community Heritage grant awarded to BCA by the DC Humanities Council (aka HumanitiesDC - an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities) in partnership with the DC Office of Historic Preservation, with additional funding provided by Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 5E and BCA. The initial activities included development of the *BVS Architecture & Design Recommendations Report*, which due to limited funding, was prepared as a power point presentation. Other products were 22 videotaped oral histories and a composite 35-minute videotape of selected oral histories, a written *Bloomingdale Timeline History*, and two project promotional brochures.

In 2019, BCA/BVS received a larger Vision Partnership grant. This grant was funded by the DC Commission on the Humanities and the Arts and administered by HumanitiesDC, with additional funding provided by ANC 5E. This grant enabled BVS and the Deck Over effort to implement the project *Taking Village History to Our Youth*, which seeks to:

- a) Develop curricula and teacher and student guides (for use in middle schools and high schools in Bloomingdale and nearby neighborhoods) that incorporate use of previously developed BVS materials



BVS BACKGROUND AND FUNDING SOURCES

b) Provide these students experiential and collaborative learning experiences emphasizing knowledge, skills, and resources related to neighborhood history, urban planning, community development, civic engagement, and research

c) Enable youth to demonstrate neighborhood leadership – especially related to the impact of neighborhood change on youth

Consequently, the Vision Partnership grant also included funding for revising, updating and printing of the *BVS Architecture & Design Recommendations Report, 2020 Update* and other prior BVS publications.

The contents of *Architecture & Design Recommendations Report, 2020 Update* do not necessarily reflect the views of the DC Humanities Council, the DC Commission on the Arts and the Humanities, ANC 5E, or BCA.

Teri Janine Quinn, Esq. is the President of the Bloomingdale Civic Association. Bertha Holliday, PhD and Zach Sherif Co-Chair the BCA Bloomingdale Village Square Initiative. More information on BVS and the Deck Over effort is available at www.bloomingdalecivicassociation.org/villagecenter and www.northcapitoldeckover.org



Bloomingtondale **Village Square** Initiative

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

Bloomingtondale 
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

BVS Co-Directors: Bertha Holliday & Zach Sherif
BCA President: Teri Janine Quinn