

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

a brief analysis of existing conditions and potential improvements



Prepared for the
DC Downtown Business Improvement District

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National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Overview

The following document provides a summary of current site conditions at 12 of the 34 National Park Service Reservations within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District. A brief description, table of current conditions, and a graphic plan showing the park location and immediate surroundings are included for each site. A summary of estimated improvement costs is included at the end.

The National Park Service sites included are as follows:

- Reservation 8 – Mount Vernon Square
- Reservation 9 – Franklin Square
- Reservation 11 – McPherson Square
- Reservation 36A – Indiana Plaza
- Reservation 65
- Reservation 66 – Thomas Circle
- Reservation 68
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Reservation 8 - Mount Vernon Square

- Mount Vernon Square is formed at the diagonal crossing of Massachusetts Avenue, NW and New York Avenue. K Street meets the square at the mid-point and turns to form the southern edge. 7th Street, NW and 9th Street NW form the east and west boundaries. Mount Vernon Place on the north connects traffic moving between Massachusetts Avenue and New York Avenue



Figure 1 – View north to Mount Vernon Square

History and Background

- Reservation 8 or Mount Vernon Square was originally a large open space as shown on the L'Enfant Plan. A large market was constructed at the site in 1846. After the market was demolished due to poor and unhealthy conditions, the District Board of Public Works created concrete roadways and landscaping through the square extending Massachusetts Avenue and New York Avenue in 1877. This effort was not successful and in 1882, the carriage roadways were closed and became footpaths. The Central Library of the District of Columbia known as the Carnegie Library located at Mount Vernon Square today was completed in December 1902. (date retrieved January 7, 2009 from http://planning.dc.gov/planning/lib/planning/preservation/brochures/mt_vernon.pdf.)
- The Shaw Neighborhood and Shaw Heritage Trail are directly north of Mount Vernon Square overlapping with the Mount Vernon Square Historic District. The Mount Vernon Historic District is defined by New York Avenue, 7th Street, NW, N Street, NW and 1st Street, NW. (date retrieved December 16, 2008 from http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/usr_doc/SHT_Trail_Map.pdf.)
- The Mount Vernon Square Neighborhood Association includes Mount Vernon Square, the Mount Vernon Square Historic District and Mount Vernon Triangle. (date retrieved December 16, 2008 from <http://mvsna.org/history>.)

Topography

- The Carnegie Library sits on an elevated position in the center of the square. Stairs and a ramp on the southern side lead up to the building entrances. The walkways on the east and west portions of the site allow for at-grade access through the site and to the main front plaza on the southern side.

Land Use

- The green spaces and plaza of the site are designed to provide seating arrangements and access to the historical Carnegie Library building.
- The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. housed in the Carnegie Library building has ongoing functions and programming open to the public.

Vegetation

- The vegetation is composed of lawn and large specimen trees that create a park like setting for the Carnegie Library building.
- Ornamental planting has been installed at the base of the building and northern entrance. The planting design and maintenance are not strong in design and affect.

Views and Vista

- Mount Vernon Square has a strong axial relationship with the National Portrait Gallery to the south and the convention center to the north. The axis is strengthened by an open view corridor through the buildings to the south.
- Views along the broad avenues of New York Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue are visible from the perimeter.

Circulation

- Walks primarily provide access to the building entrances from the corners of the site. Some pedestrian movement through the site occurs as people move diagonally east to west and from the convention center to the north.
- Footpaths have been worn through the lawn.

Major Park Structures and Features

- **Carnegie Library**
 - The Carnegie Library sited at Mount Vernon Square was originally the main public library of Washington, DC. The Beaux-Arts style building, completed in 1902 and dedicated in 1903, originated from a sizable donation made by Andrew Carnegie. The building served as the central library until 1970 when the library services moved to the Martin Luther King Library. In 2003, the building and site were renovated with the intention of operating the library as the City Museum of Washington. The City Museum of Washington existed for only a short time period until April of 2005. The Historical Society of Washington, DC is the main occupant of the building at this time. (date retrieved December 16, 2008 from http://www.historydc.org/media/library_history.asp.)



Figure 2 - View west to the Carnegie Library building at Mount Vernon Square



Figure 3 – View to northern entrance

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 8 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving				x	The exposed aggregate scored concrete paths are in good condition. The perimeter sidewalks are brick and in good condition.
Edging, or Curb			x		The original half round concrete curbing is intact at the perimeter and has been transitioned to a flat wide exposed aggregate curb at the interior or a flat wide granite curb at the upper plaza. The new curbing does not match the existing in color or texture.
Metal Rail				x	Handrails on ramps/stairs are in good condition.
Light Fixtures				x	New Washington Globe light fixtures are located through the site.
Benches				x	The mid-arm wooden slat benches on cast iron frame are in good condition. Placement and amount of seating provided is adequate.
Trash Receptacle				x	Trash receptacles are in good condition.
Drinking Fountain				x	One drinking fountain is provided at the south-east corner of the square and is in good condition.
Lawn		x			A lawn area on the south-west quadrant of the site should be re-graded and re-sodded.
Plantings		x			Planting urns add detail and seasonal color, but should be enlarged to respond better to the scale of the building. The design and intent of the ornamental plantings at the base of the building should be revisited and strengthened in affect.
Tree Maintenance				x	Continued evaluation of the large specimen trees should be a priority.
Signage			x		Colorful banners mounted on the light posts within the site are effective in adding vibrancy, but are mounted low. The board signs announcing the Historical Society of Washington appear temporary and not fully integrated into the site design. Improved means of communicating the building use or more appropriate larger signs should be considered.
Programming			x		The site is used as a passive green space and setting for the former Carnegie Library. The site is also used as a pedestrian link between Chinatown, Massachusetts Avenue and the convention center. Utilizing the front plaza for mid-day concerts or events could broaden the outreach of the historical society.

Summary

Most of the site features are in fair condition as the site was renovated in 2003. Continued maintenance and evaluation of improved planting would benefit the appearance of the site. Increased programming and improved signage could help to further engage the site with the community.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 9 – Franklin Square

- Franklin Square is a public park owned by the National Park Service and located within the downtown business district of Washington, DC. The park is a large rectangular green space of 4.79 acres bordered by K Street on the north, 13th Street on the east, I Street on the south, and 14th Street on the west.



Figure 1 – view east through center of Franklin Square

History and Background

- Franklin Square is shown on the L'Enfant Plan of 1791 as a city square, but not identified as a park or green space.
- Franklin Square, originally known as Fountain Square, was officially set aside by Congress in 1819 to protect natural springs that surfaced at the site.
- The current layout of Franklin Park closely represents the redesign of 1936. Prior to this renovation, the park at one time contained a lodge, had a more irregular path system, and layered plantings

Topography

- Franklin Square slopes north to south with a more pronounced grade from the north-east corner to the central plaza. A low stone retaining wall holds back the grade on the north-east corner of the plaza.
- Drainage issues are a concern on the southern edge of the plaza and at certain points through the park where erosion and pavement failure are evident.

- Handicapped accessibility and movement through the park are limited to the perimeter of the park. The at-grade entrance to the central plaza is located on the west side. Broad shallow stairs mark the entrance to the plaza on the north and east side and transition the grade further on the south side.

Land Use

- Franklin Square is a passive green space surrounded by 12 story office buildings.
- The park is used predominantly by nearby office workers during the mid-day lunch hour and a number of homeless people throughout the day and night.

Vegetation

- The current landscape of large lawn panels and canopy trees is a simplified arrangement of earlier plantings. Historically, the park contained layered ornamental plantings and denser tree arrangements that have been removed through time.
- The mature tree canopy defines the central space but also creates large areas of shade making lawn difficult to maintain. Lower tree branching has been raised to reduce shade and allow more visibility through the park.

Views and Vista

- The major axial view within Franklin Square is north to south looking toward the central fountain.
- The view across the park east to west is open to the statue of Commodore Barry but not marked in a formal manner.
- The curving pathways and dense planting of canopy trees and low branching of the cedars do not create long framed views within the park.

Circulation

- The current path layout is somewhat symmetrical centering on the elliptical plaza in the middle of the park. Broad arching paths connect the four corners of the park with minor paths connecting the midblock entrances along I and K Streets, the plaza at Commodore Barry's statue on 14th Street and the entrance on 13th Street.
- Paths are worn through the grass on south-west side of the central plaza where people cross the lawn to make a more direct path to the central plaza. This does not occur on the northern side of the plaza and may be due to the greater change in grade in the lawn area.
- Original paths were constructed of gravel and then changed to concrete and bituminous material. The central plaza is constructed of square bluestone.

Major Park Structures and Features

- **Commodore Barry Statue**
 - The bronze statue of Revolutionary War hero Commodore John Barry standing atop a marble pedestal is located at the mid-point of the 14th Street sidewalk.
 - The statue was cast by the Irish-American sculptor John J. Boyle and dedicated on May 16, 1914. (Goode, James M. The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C. n.p. Smithsonian Institution Press Publication Number 4829, 1974. 280)
 - The plaque at the base of the statue reads "John Barry/Commodore U.S. Navy/Born County Wexford Ireland 1745/Died in Philadelphia 1803."



Figure 2 – View to statue of Commodore John Barry

- **Fountain in central plaza**
 - During the 1936 rehabilitation of Franklin Square, the original round granite fountain was replaced with the present oval sandstone fountain.
 - The two 'french jets' mounted above water level were installed during the 1936 reconstruction. The central jets were added during the 1991 renovation.



Figure 2 – View to central fountain at Franklin Square

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 9 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Fountain			x		The central fountain is operational. There are three groupings of jet sprays which are low and rather subtle. Continued maintenance should be a priority to remove debris and keep the appearance of the fountain optimal. Deterioration is evident in the sandstone coping around the base of the fountain. Future repair or replacement of the coping could be considered.
Path Paving		x			Deterioration of the existing bituminous path pavement over concrete is extensive. An attempt to patch with asphalt has not been successful. The uneven pavement presents a safety concern and also results in drainage problems as pavement does not direct water into drains. Path improvements should be a priority.
Plaza Paving				x	The square flagstone paving in the central plaza is in good condition. Limited settlement has occurred and should be corrected to eliminate low spots in paving.
Edging, or Curb		x			Repair and replacement of the concrete curbing edging the outer perimeter of the lawn panels does not adequately replicate the original quarter-round curb detail of the exposed aggregate curbing. Metal edging surrounds all lawn and planting areas within the park. In some areas, the edging protrudes above grade and should be adjusted to remove potential trip hazard.
Metal Rail	x				There are no ornamental metal rails present.
Light Fixtures		x			All light fixtures within the park should be consistent 'Saratoga' style and fully operational. Two Washington Globe fixtures located near the central plaza should be replaced with the Saratoga fixtures. One light fixture pole on the mid-western side does not have a fixture and should be repaired. Streetlights located around the park include Washington Globe and cobra-head street lights.
Benches		x			Bench seating throughout the park is a National Park Service standard painted wooden slat bench with cast iron legs. Chipping and wear on the painted slats is evident and reduces longevity. Consideration should be given to a bench with natural wood seating for reduced maintenance.
Trash Receptacle			x		Trash receptacles are adequate, but could be upgraded.

Drinking Fountain			x		There are two metal operational drinking fountains in the park. One additional drinking fountain appears to be missing at north-west corner and should be replaced or base removed.
Lawn		x			Fine grading and resodding the large open lawn areas should be considered to create a more consistent slope. Erosion is evident adjacent to the bus shelter on K Street in the north-east corner of the park and along the southern edge. Some lawn areas are bare under the cedars and willow oaks where it may be too shady for grass. Tree stumps should be removed and ground out where trees have been cut down.
Plantings			x		The mature tree plantings are a highlight of Reservation 9. The area surrounding the central plaza could be planted with groundcover or seasonal plantings where it is too shady for grass to thrive. Adding seasonal plantings within the park would add color and interest.
Tree Maintenance		x			Several trees are in need of pruning or removal. Evaluation of the trees should be continued.
Signage				x	An identification sign is located at the north-west corner announcing the name of Franklin Square. A plaque located at the base of the Commodore Barry statue identifies the statue and date of installation.
Programming	x	x			The park is used primarily as a passive open space. It is also used as remote location for community organizations to deliver food and clothing services to those in need.

Summary

Franklin Square provides an open space amenity to the downtown business district of Washington DC that differs from McPherson Square, Farragut Square and Mount Vernon Square in size and character. The current physical condition of the park is fair aside from considerable paving failure, tree maintenance and programming issues to consider.

Franklin Square offers a large inward focused plaza covered by the high tree canopy and ample opportunities for seating and contemplation along the broad walkways and large open lawn panels. There is limited seating within the central plaza aside from the stone wall on the northern edge therefore the central space seems underutilized. Adding table and chair seating may be a consideration to activate and maximize the potential of the central plaza.

The park does not offer any or perhaps few programmed activities to the general public. Franklin Square appears to serve immediate office workers and homeless people with limited pull from other areas of the city. Enhancing the programming to include an approved food vendor or occasional musical performance oriented toward the noon hour or evening when pedestrians are most present would enhance the role of the park within the neighborhood.

*Background information summarized from the National Park Service Cultural Resources Inventory

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Reservation 11 – McPherson Square

- McPherson Square is a public square located along the major business corridor of K Street within the downtown business district of Washington, DC. The rectangular site is bounded by K Street, NW to the north, Vermont Avenue, NW to the east, I Street, NW on the south and 15th Street, NW on the west.



Figure 1 – View north to McPherson Square

History and Background

- McPherson Square was identified as a park on the 1791 L'Enfant Plan of Washington, DC.
- McPherson Square is named for Major General James B. McPherson, a leader of the Union Army during the American Civil War. An equestrian statue honoring him is the focal point of the square.

Topography

- McPherson Square is level with only a minor slope to the south.
- All entrances and walkways are accessible.

Land Use

- McPherson Square is an urban square and green space surrounded by modern office buildings, hotels and restaurants.

- The square is used by people eating lunch or reading and a number of homeless people throughout the day and night. The spacing of park benches does not promote large congregations of people in one location.
- Pedestrians walk through the park making diagonal connections to surrounding streets.
- The McPherson Square metro station serving the blue and orange lines of the DC metro system has two entrances on I Street at Vermont Avenue and 14th Street, NW.

Vegetation

- The landscape of McPherson Square is a simple arrangement of lawn and canopy trees with panels of seasonal plantings on the north and south sides of the center statue.
- There are several large specimen canopy trees on the southern edge. The informal arrangement of canopy trees is concentrated on the east and west perimeter of the square opening to the central lawn and walks.

Views and Vista

- McPherson Square is an important segment in the diagonal axis of Vermont Avenue linking Lafayette Park, McPherson Square and Thomas Circle as represented on the L-Enfant Plan.
- Views are open through the center of the square and punctuated by the statue of Major General James B. McPherson and axial view along Vermont Avenue to the statue of General George Henry Thomas to the north-east.

Circulation

- The circulation is organized on walks crossing the site diagonally from north-west to south-east and south-west to north-east parallel to Vermont Avenue. These intersect at the central space surrounding the McPherson statue. Minor walks connect the central radial paving to mid-block entrances. The layout is a mirror of the circulation and arrangement of Farragut Square.
- The sidewalks on the north side along K Street are not wide enough for more than one to two pedestrians to walk side-by-side. Paths have been worn where pedestrian must walk into the lawn along the K Street side. Bollards prevent people from crossing the lawn at the corners.

Major Park Structures and Features

- **Major General James B. McPherson Statue**
 - The bronze statue of Major General James Birdseye McPherson is located at the center of McPherson Square.
 - The bronze statue was cast by Louis Thomas Rebisso, an Italian born American sculptor, out of a captured cannon and rests on a granite pedestal. The statue was dedicated on October 18, 1876. (Goode, James M. The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C. n.p. Smithsonian Institution Press Publication Number 4829, 1974. 381.)



Figure 2 – View to statue of Major General James B. McPherson



Figure 3 – View to statue from walkway.

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 11 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving		x			Paving within McPherson Square is exposed aggregate concrete scored in square pattern. Several paving locations have settled or lifted making handicapped movement difficult. Repair may impact large tree roots.
Edging, or Curb			x		The concrete curb delineating the outside perimeter of the planting areas is in fair condition. New metal edging delineates the seasonal planting beds at the north and south edge of the central space.
Metal Rail			x		The ornamental metal railing surrounding the McPherson statue is in need of resanding and repainting. Metal bollard and chains direct pedestrians to path on southern side of park.
Light Fixtures			x		Washington Globe light fixtures are located within the park.
Benches			x		Seating provided at McPherson Square is a National Park Service standard bench of painted wooden slats mounted to a cast iron base. Consideration should be given to a bench with natural wood seating for reduced maintenance.
Trash Receptacle		x			Two styles of trash receptacles are present at McPherson Square. Replacement site furnishings should be consistent in style and color.
Drinking Fountain			x		One drinking fountain near the central space is operational. One older concrete drinking fountain is not operational and should be restored or removed.
Lawn				x	The lawn was resodded in the fall of 2008.
Plantings			x		Seasonal flower beds add color at the center lawn spaces. Additional planting at the base of the statue should be considered to add more detail and visual character to the park.
Tree Maintenance				x	There are several large specimen trees at McPherson Square which should be monitored for continued good health.
Signage			x		One identification sign is located on the southern I Street side of the square. The McPherson Statue is identified on the marble base.
Programming	x				Limited paved areas within McPherson square reduce the opportunity for large programmed gatherings. Activities could occur on the large lawn space but care and condition of the lawn would be a priority.

Summary

McPherson Square is in fair condition and heavily used by office workers and homeless people. The park would benefit from improved paving and widening of the sidewalk along K Street, new site furnishings, and more detail in seasonal color or ornamental plantings near the central space. Strengthening the axial relationship and view corridor through Vermont Avenue should be considered in all planting.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 36A - Indiana Plaza

- Indiana Plaza is a public monumental space accenting the corner intersection of 7th Street, NW, Indiana Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW near the national Mall.



Figure 1 – View east to Indiana Plaza

History and Background

- Indiana Plaza is named after the state of Indiana.
- The Indiana Society of Washington is participating in renovation plans for the plaza site (retrieved January 3, 2009 from <http://indianasociety.org/about>.)

Topography

- The site is at grade from Indiana Avenue and around the perimeter of the site. A formal set of stairs at the circular space transition the slope toward Pennsylvania Avenue.

Land Use

- The corner site is a large plaza subdivided effectively into smaller spaces by differing paving patterns, tree plantings and seating arrangements.
- Most users appear to be homeless people, bus and vendor patrons.
- The US Navy Memorial site and metro access are located on the east side of 7th Street.

Vegetation

- Planting is minimal at Indiana Plaza. Two seating spaces are defined by groves of honeylocust trees creating a canopy over a grouping of benches. The main space is defined by a granite seat wall and planting beds surrounding a large monument.
- Saucer Magnolias encircle the main space with a simple groundcover planting of ivy.

Views and Vista

- Views within the site focus on the Grand Army of the Republic monument.
- The most prominent view is at the perimeter along Pennsylvania Avenue to the United States Capitol building.
- A view corridor is maintained through neighboring buildings to C Street, NW

Circulation

- Pedestrians move along the perimeter and less through the circular monument space. Pedestrians congregate at the north-west corner of Indiana Plaza awaiting the metro bus and vendor area.

Major Park Structures and Features

- **Grand Army of the Republic**
 - A 25' tall granite monument dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic is the central focal element of the main space. Three bronze relief sculptures honoring Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty and a small bas relief bust of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson adorn the granite monument created by John Massey Rind. The monument was dedicated in 1909. (Goode, James M. The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C. n.p. Smithsonian Institution Press Publication Number 4829, 1974. 360.)



Figure 2 – View to Grand Army of the Republic statue

- **Cogswell Temperance Fountain**

- The bronze and granite fountain created by Henry D. Cogswell and donated in 1880 was intended to provide fresh drinking water as an alternative to alcoholic spirits. The fountain is no longer operational. (Goode, James M. The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C., n.p. Smithsonian Institution Press Publication Number 4829, 1974. 358-359.)



Figure 3 – View to Cogswell Temperance Fountain



Figure 4 – View to Entrance of Indiana Plaza from Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 36A - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving			x		The brown paver palette is consistent with the palette of Pennsylvania Avenue streetscape. It appears dated, but has held up well in most locations. The paving patterns successfully define the different spaces of the plaza.
Edging, or Curb		x			There is no concrete curbing. Ex. granite seat walls are in good condition.
Metal Rail / Grates		x			Metal tree grates along Indiana Avenue have lifted and are a tripping hazard.
Light Fixtures		x			Light fixtures should be consistent and not intermixed within a defined space.
Benches			x		Benches are back to back wooden slatted benches that are in fair condition. These are not consistent with other NPS benches, but are consistent with the streetscape benches along Pennsylvania Avenue.
Trash Receptacle			x		Trash receptacles are adequate.
Drinking Fountain	x				The Temperance Fountain was intended to be a public drinking fountain, but now functions only as an ornament. Since this is an area close to the national mall with many tourists and pedestrians, a drinking fountain would be an asset.
Lawn	x				There is no lawn.
Plantings		x			Ivy provides a simple evergreen ground plane, but the ivy planting is bare around the outside perimeter of the planter wall. Supplementing the ivy planting or installing a new low maintenance groundcover should be considered.
Tree Maintenance				x	The existing magnolias and honeylocust trees appear to be in good condition.
Signage			x		Indiana Plaza is indentified by a simple engraving in the granite wall at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue. The center statue and fountain are identified with engravings. Additional signage identifying the importance of the fountain or when the overall space was created is not evident.
Programming	x				The site is not highly used except for the northwest corner. Seasonal plantings would enliven and add detail to the planting around the central monument space.

Summary

Indiana Plaza is well integrated into the streetscape of Pennsylvania Avenue. The design of the plaza successfully creates distinct spaces within the large plaza. The materials have endured fairly well, but are beginning to show wear, especially in areas of pavement settlement. Attention to maintenance, adding seasonal plantings for detail, and monitoring homeless use of the seating areas should be considered.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 65

- Reservation 65 occupies a triangular portion of property formed by the intersection of M Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The site is owned by the National Park Service and maintained by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) whose headquarters occupy the parcel to the west.



Figure 1 – *View west to Reservation 65*

History and Background

- The site was reconfigured during the renovation and expansion of the NAHB headquarters building in 2002 (The National Housing Center. (2002) retrieved December 15, 2008 from <http://www.nahb.org>)
- NAHB began to manage and maintain the site in 2000.

Topography

- Reservation 65 is at sidewalk level. A portion of the planted area has been designed to collect rainwater internally and been integrated into the drainage design of the NAHB building.

Land Use

- The site is a planted green space defined by perimeter sidewalks and divided by a small walk for pedestrian access between M Street and Massachusetts Avenue.
- Pedestrians walking along M Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW are the only users. Seating and gathering areas are not provided.

- The green space is a visual amenity to the NAHB and surrounding buildings.

Vegetation

- Reservation 65 has been heavily planted with layered native and ornamental plantings. The planting within the reservation complements the streetscape planting on the north side of the NAHB building.
- The site planting is well maintained.

Views and Vista

- The planting of Reservation 65 provides foreground to the NAHB headquarters building.
- Primary views are across to Thomas Circle and down Massachusetts Avenue or across to M Street. The visual clutter of street lights, crossing lights and several lanes of traffic does not promote long vistas through these corridors.

Circulation

- Scored concrete sidewalks and 2'x3' concrete pavers outline the planting beds of Reservation 65 and link pedestrian flow to Thomas Circle, M Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

Major Park Structures and Features

- A large bronze statue of an elk is placed within the planting bed adjacent to the NAHB building. It is understood that the elk was donation by the state of Montana.



Figure 2 – View to statue at Reservation 65

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations – Reservation 65

Table 1: Reservation 65 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving				x	Scored concrete is in good condition to north. 2'x3' concrete pavers to the south and in park are in good condition.
Edging, or Curb	x				
Metal Rail	x				
Light Fixtures	x				Light fixtures are not located within the reservation. Washington Globes are located along perimeter sidewalk.
Benches	x				
Trash Receptacle				x	
Drinking Fountain	x				
Lawn	x				
Plantings				x	Layered plantings are effective and in good condition.
Tree Maintenance				x	Maintenance is covered by NAHB.
Signage	x				
Programming	x				Park size and orientation limit programming opportunities.

Summary

Reservation 65 is an attractive planting area installed and maintained by NAHB. It is a positive example of an adjacent property owner improving the appearance and maintaining neighboring NPS green spaces such as Reservation 65. The current maintenance arrangement with continued observation by NPS should be encouraged.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 66 – Thomas Circle

- Thomas Circle is a traffic circle at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, Vermont Avenue, 14th Street, and M Street, NW.



Figure 1 – View north-east to Thomas Circle

History and Background

- In the L'Enfant Plan of Washington DC, traffic circles mark the intersection of diagonal streets radiating from major focal points in the city such as the White House, and Capitol building. Thomas Circle is one of the main traffic circles punctuating Vermont Avenue along the focal axis to Lafayette Park and the White House.
- Thomas Circle was reconstructed in 2006 to repair the historic alignment destroyed in the early 1940s and improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular movement around the circle. (retrieved on December 15, 2008 from [www. DDOT.dc.gov http://www.ddot.dc.gov/ddot/lib/ddot/information/pdf/Thomas_Circle.pdf](http://www.ddot.dc.gov/ddot/lib/ddot/information/pdf/Thomas_Circle.pdf))

Topography

- Thomas Circle is level and accessible from all entrances. Four lanes of Massachusetts Avenue travel underground below the circle.

Land Use

- The green space created by Thomas Circle is intended to link green space and parks through the downtown core as shown on the L'Enfant Plan. The primary intention of Thomas Circle is to transition traffic intersecting at this location and as a visual accent of the monumental core along Massachusetts Avenue and Vermont Avenue.

- Pedestrian use is limited primarily to a crossing point for pedestrians connecting the residential areas to the north and business district to the south. Thomas Circle does not appear to support other uses since seating is not provided and the paved spaces are adequate for pedestrian traffic but not large enough for gatherings.

Vegetation

- The landscape of Thomas Circle is a very simple planting of lawn and few new and existing ornamental trees located around the perimeter.

Views and Vista

- Thomas Circle is central to long views along Massachusetts Avenue and Vermont Avenue NW.

Circulation

- Red paver crosswalks connect pedestrian traffic to the circle from 4 sides. Differentiating the pavement calls attention to the crossing points.
- New scored concrete walks radiate from the center circular walk connecting 4 connection points to adjacent areas.

Major Park Structures and Features

- **General George Henry Thomas Statue**
 - The 16' high equestrian statue of General George Henry Thomas atop a granite pedestal is the main focal element of Thomas Circle.
 - The bronze statue cast by John Quincy Adams Ward was placed by the Society of the Army of the Cumberland and dedicated on November 9, 1879. (Goode, James M. The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C. n.p. Smithsonian Institution Press Publication Number 482



Figure 2 – View to General Henry Thomas statue at Thomas Circle

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 66 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving				x	The scored concrete paving and red paver crosswalks are in good condition.
Edging, or Curb	x				There is no curbing.
Metal Rail				x	The low ornamental railing around the statue is in good condition, but the railing limits pedestrian access to the stair seating.
Light Fixtures				x	All pole lights are new Washington globe fixtures. They are adequate and in good condition.
Benches			x		Seating is not provided at Thomas Circle. Steps at the statue base could be used for seating, but the intention of this as a seating element is muted by the fencing segments surrounding the statue.
Trash Receptacle				x	All trash receptacles are in good condition
Drinking Fountain	x				A drinking fountain is not provided or needed.
Lawn		x			The lawn is showing bare spots in locations on the south west side and should be repaired.
Plantings		x			Additional planting of ornamental trees to complete the circular planting would strengthen the design intent and impact of the plantings. Seasonal plantings would add color and detail.
Tree Maintenance		x			The older ornamental trees should be monitored for replacement.
Signage			x		Signage is not provided at Thomas Circle aside from the identification of General Thomas on the base of the statue. Additional signage is not necessary.
Programming	x				Thomas Circle is less appropriate as a gathering space or destination for planned activities. The limited paved area and surrounding traffic make the space less conducive to quiet seating or activity. Too much activity may prove a distraction to surrounding traffic. The space is frequently used by pedestrians crossing Massachusetts Avenue.

Summary

Thomas Circle was a successful renovation to complete the original intention of the traffic circle and green space and to improve pedestrian, bicycle and auto flow. Additional understory tree planting to complete the encircling of the walk and seasonal plantings in the center should be considered to strengthen the effect of the planting design and add detail.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 68

- Reservation 68 is bordered by Massachusetts Avenue to the north, L Street to the south, 12th Street NW to the west and 11th Street NW to the east. The site is located at the edge of the downtown business district and just below the Logan Circle residential area north of Massachusetts Avenue.



Figure 1 – View west to Reservation 68 from 11th Street, NW

History and Background

- As with several of the reservation parcels, Reservation 68 is formed at the crossing of a diagonal avenue with the city grid. The spaces remaining were designated as open spaces or parks to line the broad avenue.

Topography

- Reservation 68 is accessible along all walkways. The site slopes from north to south more noticeably on the eastern side of the park.

Land Use

- Reservation 68 is a green space and quiet park surrounded by apartment and office buildings, and the busy Massachusetts Avenue corridor.
- Several cars have been improperly parked on the sidewalks along the Massachusetts Avenue and L Street, NW lending a feeling of neglect to the site.

Vegetation

- The park is primarily an open lawn accented by a large canopy tree to the north-west, street trees along the surrounding sidewalks and a few mature crabapples and shrubs near the statue.

Views and Vista

- There are no framed or remarkable views from the park. The seating provided does not orient toward a view or the statue of Edmund Burke.

Circulation

- The park is asymmetrically arranged with paths converging to a circular walk on the western side and a minor walk bisecting the park to the east.
- The brick sidewalks define the north and south perimeter of the park. The perimeter sidewalk along the 11th Street and internal walks are scored exposed aggregate paving.

Major Park Structures and Features

- **Edmund Burke Statue**
 - Edmund Burke (1729-1797) was an English statesmen and philosopher who supported the American colonies during the revolution. The bronze sculpture created by J. Harvard Thomas was placed at this site in 1922. (Goode, James M. The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C. n.p. Smithsonian Institution Press Publication Number 4829, 1974. 277)
 - The statue is located in an informal lawn setting and faces east with the rear of the statue toward the main space of the park.



Figure 2 – View west to Edmund Burke statue at Reservation 68

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 68 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving		x		x	Exposed aggregate paving within park is in good condition. Brick paving at southern edge is in poor condition and needs repair. Brick paving along Massachusetts Avenue is in fair condition.
Edging, or Curb			x		Half round concrete curbing defines the outside edge of all lawn spaces. The curbing is in fair condition and should remain.
Metal Rail	x	x			Metal railing surrounds a circular grass area. Railing is in need of repainting and possibly removal.
Light Fixtures	x				Light fixtures are not located within the reservation. Washington Globes are located along perimeter. If programming is adjusted, lighting levels may need to be evaluated.
Benches			x		Existing benches are in adequate condition. However, the current arrangement of benches lining the walks could be rearranged to create a nicer seating area in the center circular space.
Trash Receptacle			x		Trash receptacles are functional but could be upgraded to new model.
Drinking Fountain	x				A drinking fountain is not necessary unless more active programming is included at this site.
Lawn		x			Lawn is in poor condition and in need of repair. An empty circular green space may have held a park feature at one time but is vacant now and should be redefined.
Plantings		x			Many of the existing plantings are mature or overgrown. Abelia shrubs limit visibility.
Tree Maintenance		x			Several mature crabapples should be observed for replacement.
Signage	x	x			Signage is limited to identifying Edmund Burke statue. Additional signage and information on Edmund Burke and history could be beneficial.
Programming	x				Several electronic traffic signs and cars parked irregularly detract from park and discourage pedestrian use. Extended programming could enliven space and encourage positive use.

Summary

Reservation 68 appears to be an overlooked (forgotten) green space with underutilized potential as a community asset. The park would benefit from redesigning the central space and seating areas and strengthening the planting design and setting for the Burke statue.

Strengthening ties into the residential areas and upgrading the site features could create a desirable community park and green space. Exploring ways in which the site could be adopted or used by the immediate community more should be discussed. Thomas Elementary School is located diagonally to the south-west. A relationship for an open play area or community garden could be explored with the school.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 72

- Reservation 72 is defined by Massachusetts Avenue to the north, I Street NW to the south, 5th Street NW to the west and 4th Street NW on the east. The park sits at the edge of the Chinatown area of Washington, DC and just south of the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District.



Figure 1 – View west to Reservation 72

History and Background

- Reservation 72 links green space leading toward Mount Vernon Square along the Massachusetts Avenue corridor.
- A citizen's group from Chinatown has been working several years in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS) to raise funds and develop a plan to renovate Reservation 72.

Topography

- The site is at street level with only a modest slope. All walks and entrances are accessible.

Land Use

- Reservation 72 is a passive park used mainly by inhabitants of the Chinatown neighborhood. Several pedestrians travel through the park connecting Chinatown to the residential neighborhoods to the north.

Vegetation

- The park is similar to many National Park Service properties within the Downtown BID in its' simplicity. A large lawn panel is the main element. Street trees line the perimeter with few trees planted in the interior of the park.

Views and Vista

- Views from within the park are muted by street trees on 5th and Eye Streets NW. There is a long view along the perimeter of Massachusetts Avenue to Mount Vernon Square.

Circulation

- Broad walks line the west and south inner edges of the park defining areas for seating along the perimeter. Paths have been worn through the lawn crossing to Massachusetts and near the corner of 4th and Eye Streets.
- Brick sidewalks define the outside boundary of the park along the surrounding streets.



Figure 2 – View north-east to Reservation 72

Major Park Structures and Features

There are no major monuments or sculptures. The most notable element is an ornamental railing located on the south and west perimeter of the park similar in style to the railing located at the NPS park across Massachusetts Avenue.

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 72 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving		x			Interior path is a broken asphalt material with scored concrete at entrances. Replacement of path paving should be a priority. Perimeter sidewalks are brick.
Edging, or Curb		x			The half-round concrete curbing at the perimeter of the lawn is chipped in several locations. A new segment of curbing along the scored concrete paving does not match the material quality of the existing curbing. All concrete curbing should be re-constructed to match the existing exposed aggregate half-round profile.
Metal Rail			x		The low ornamental railing along the west and south perimeter is effective in defining an edge and lending character to the feel of the park. The railing should be retained and sanded and repainted as necessary.
Light Fixtures	x				Light fixtures are located only along the perimeter streetscape. If programming is adjusted, lighting levels will need to be evaluated.
Benches			x		Benches located at the west and south walks are the NPS standard bench with a cast iron frame supporting painted wooden slats. Consideration should be given to a replacement bench style with natural wood slats for reduced maintenance.
Trash Receptacle			x		Trash receptacles are adequate, but could be upgraded.
Drinking Fountain	x				Drinking fountains are not located at Reservation 72.
Lawn		x			Lawn is in poor condition and in need of repair. A large footpath has been worn through the center of the lawn and paths have been worn at the corners to the east.
Plantings		x			One ex. tree in center is leaning and could be replaced. One missing street tree on Eye Street should be replaced to complete street canopy.
Tree Maintenance		x			Ex. trees should be monitored for maintenance.
Signage	x				Signage is not present. Incorporation of signage would present an opportunity to inform park users of Chinatown and neighborhood history.
Programming	x				The evolving residential neighborhood to the north may produce more park users or interest in using the open space for more activities.

Summary

Reservation 72 provides an opportunity for a community focused green space with its' proximity to the remaining Chinatown residences and the emerging residential neighborhoods to the north. The current condition of the park is poor and not well maintained. The park does appear to be used in a passive manner and an improved appearance would be an asset to the neighborhood and may attract more users.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 78

- Reservation 78 is formed by the crossing of Massachusetts Avenue, NW and F, Street, NW at North Capital Street.



Figure 1 - View east to Reservation 78 and Union Station

Topography

- The site is relatively flat at street level.

Land Use

- Reservation 78 is a residual green space formed by the street intersection. The site is lawn defined by a half-round concrete curb and brick sidewalks lining Massachusetts Avenue and F Street.
- The site is adjacent to a Suntrust Bank with a large concrete paved area separating the two uses.

Vegetation

- Reservation 78 is lawn with a flagpole located near the eastern edge. There are 3 Maple street trees along F Street and one Linden on Massachusetts Avenue with two empty tree areas defined by the brick sidewalk.

Views and Vista

- Union Station is visible from Reservation 78.
- Reservation 78 if improved could provide an attractive foreground to the historic Suntrust building site.



Figure 2 – View west to Reservation 78

Circulation

- Since Reservation 78 is located near Union Station, there is heavy pedestrian movement at the point where North Capital Street and Massachusetts Avenue meet. Other circulation is limited to the perimeter of the site.

Major Park Structures and Features

- There are no major park features.

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 78 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving	x				There are no interior walkways. The perimeter sidewalks are brick.
Edging, or Curb		x			The concrete curb along Massachusetts Avenue has been covered by grass and is barely visible. A new segment of curb on the eastern side does not adequately match the existing. One curb segment is broken on the south side.
Metal Rail	x				Metal Rail or metal edging is not present.
Light Fixtures	x				Grey twin-20 globe light fixtures line Massachusetts Avenue and F Street. There are no light fixtures within the site.
Benches	x				Seating is not provided. The space would need to be redesigned to create a more conducive location for seating.
Trash Receptacle	x				There are no trash receptacles present or needed.
Drinking Fountain	x				Drinking fountains are not present or needed.
Lawn		x			Lawn is the predominant element of Reservation 78. The lawn is not evenly graded or lush. Resodding and regarding the lawn should be considered.
Plantings	x				Redesigning Reservation 78 to include more attractive and low maintenance layered plantings should be considered.
Tree Maintenance	x				There are no interior trees. The existing street trees are in fair condition. Two street tree spaces are vacant on Massachusetts Avenue.
Signage	x				Signage is not present.
Programming	x				Reservation 78 is small and is best suited as a planted area.

Summary

In its' current condition, Reservation 78 looks neglected and poorly maintained. The location and configuration present an opportunity to create an attractive planting area for a highly trafficked pedestrian area near Union Station and as foreground to the neighboring buildings.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 172

- Reservation 172 is a small triangular park at the corner of New York Avenue NW and H Streets NW.



Figure 1 – View west to Reservation 172

History and Background

- Reservation 172 sits at the eastern corner of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC) has played an important role in history as a community support center and as a house of worship for President Abraham Lincoln and other American leaders (<http://www.nyapc.org/history>.)

Topography

- The site is level and at-grade.

Land Use

- The park site is small in scale and conducive to seating and reflection.
- Reservation 172 is a destination rather than a pass-through space due to the perimeter definition and proximity to the church.
- Reservation 172a and 172b are residual spaces defined as paving or planting median and used to connect pedestrian movement along the New York Avenue and H Street corridor.



Figure 2 - View east into Reservation 172

Vegetation

- The plantings are mature evergreen shrubs, and a mixture of understory trees and mature holly. The plantings have been maintained but could be enhanced.

Views and Vista

- Reservation 172 is inwardly focused. Planting and a low railing create a buffer around the perimeter of the site limiting views to and from the park through tree branches.
- The visual and physical proximity of the Presbyterian Church is important to the character and use of the park.

Circulation

- Reservation 172 is a small paved plaza surrounded by planting. Pedestrians crossing New York Avenue and H Street pass by the park and not through the park.

Major Park Structures and Features

- This site does not feature a statue or large element but the presence of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church is an important feature.

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 172 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving		x			The brick paving within the park has settled and is very uneven. Brick paving is appropriate to the character of this site, but should be reinstalled to create a level even surface.
Edging, or Curb			x		The planting and seating area are defined by a concrete curb transitioning from half-round to flat at the entrance to the space. The curb is in fair condition.
Metal Rail			x		A metal rail defines the entrance on the west side and defines the park edge to the east. The rail is effective in directing pedestrian access and in creating a slight sense of enclosure. The railing should be sanded and repainted as necessary.
Light Fixtures	x				Street lighting is provided at the perimeter. Lighting is not provided within the park.
Benches		x			The benches provided within the park are wooden slats with concrete bases. The benches are in poor condition and should be replaced. The current arrangement of seating should be reconsidered to allow more space between the benches or groupings for conversation. The wooden slatted benches at the perimeter are in fair condition, but should be considered for replacement at appropriate time.
Trash Receptacle		x			Trash receptacles are functional, but should be upgraded
Drinking Fountain	x				A drinking fountain is not provided.
Lawn	x				There is no lawn at Reservation 172.
Plantings			x		The perimeter planting bed provides a sense of separation from the street. The current planting could be enhanced, but continued maintenance of existing material is most important. All enhancements should maintain visibility through the site.
Tree Maintenance			x		Evaluation of the trees should be continued.
Signage	x				A Heritage Corridor sign is located along H St. identifying the importance of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.
Programming	x				The inward focus of Reservation 172 could be appropriate for small mid-day performances.

Summary

Reservation 172 is in fair condition but would benefit from a renovation to the paving material, seating arrangements and enhancement to the plantings. The space is intimate, but large enough to accommodate small programmed activities as appropriate to the location adjacent to the church.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 173

- Reservation 173 is located at the edge of the downtown business district. The triangular parcel is defined by I (Eye) Street to the north, 12th Street NW to the west and New York Avenue NW to the south.



Figure 1 – View north to Reservation 173 from 12th Street, NW

History and Background

- Reservation 173 mirrors other triangular parcels along the diagonal avenue of Massachusetts Avenue and New York Avenue leading to the focal point of Mount Vernon Square.

Topography

- The site slopes from north to south. Handicapped access is limited to the perimeter of the space or to the north-west corner as both walks through the site transition the grade with stairs.

Land Use

- The width of New York Avenue and the central median isolate the park to an extent and limit pedestrian movement and use to the park.
- Homeless people are the primary users of the park.
- The park provides an open space foreground to the large office buildings to the north and west.

Vegetation

- A large lawn panel sloping to the south is the main element of the park.
- Street trees line the perimeter. Canopy tree plantings have recently been placed along the park paths.

Views and Vista

- Views are open to the surrounding office buildings and New York Avenue.

Circulation

- Sidewalks provide access along the perimeter and interior asphalt paths cross along the northern and western edge of the park.

Major Park Structures and Features

- There are no major park structures, statues or fountains at Reservation 173.



Figure 2 – View west to Reservation 173 from Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 173 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving		x			The interior asphalt paths are in poor condition and in need of repair. Redesign of the path system should accommodate handicapped movement through the park. The 2'x3' concrete paver perimeter sidewalk is in good condition.
Edging, or Curb			x		The half round concrete curbing along the perimeter is in fair condition with some minor chipping. The curb transitions to a flat curb that is not consistent with the half-round profile. The flat curb borders the interior walks and is intact but out of alignment in several locations.
Metal Rail			x		A bollard and metal chain railing defines the northern edge of the park. The rail is not attractive, but does control pedestrian access.
Light Fixtures	x				Street lighting is provided at the perimeter. Lighting is not provided within the park.
Benches			x		Existing benches within the park have a concrete base supporting painted wooden slats. The benches appear in fair condition, but future replacement to a natural wooden slat bench should be considered. Benches at the perimeter along New York Avenue are a curved wooden slat bench on metal frame.
Trash Receptacle			x		Trash receptacles are functional, but should be upgraded as possible.
Drinking Fountain	x				A drinking fountain is not provided or needed.
Lawn			x		The lawn is in fair condition, but resodding would improve appearance.
Plantings			x		The tree plantings within the park are young and will have more impact as they mature.
Tree Maintenance		x	x		Evaluation of the interior trees should be continued. Street trees cut down along New York Avenue should be completely removed and replaced. The ginkgo trees along 12 th Street were not treated and produce smelly fruit which covers the sidewalk during the fall.
Signage	x				Signage is not present.
Programming	x				Reservation 173 is currently not programmed. This site may benefit from an approved vendor service to attract more park users and serve the surrounding office workers during the lunch hour.

Summary

Improvements to Reservation 173 should provide accessible movement through the site and improve paving materials. An overall review of the design intent to bring more interest, activity and detail should also be considered.

National Park Service properties within the Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Reservation 187

- Reservation 187 is a small triangular parcel formed by the diagonal crossing of Indiana Avenue, NW, with D Street, NW to the north, and 6th Street, NW to the west.



Figure 1 – View east to Reservation 187

Topography

- Reservation 187 slopes considerably to the south-west.
- All perimeter sidewalks are accessible at street level.

Land Use

- Reservation 187 is a planted median defined by perimeter sidewalks.
- The site is in close proximity to the District of Columbia courthouse buildings and is used frequently as a pedestrian crossing connecting the courthouse site to D Street. D Street vehicular traffic has been closed.
- The site is currently surrounded by concrete jersey barriers placed as a temporary but now long-standing security measure.
- There are no seating areas and limited pedestrian movement along the site due to the jersey barriers except for the small point where pedestrians cross to D Street.

Vegetation

- Reservation 187 appears to have been planted with design intent. A cluster of crabapples defines an understory height canopy. Liriope, hostas, azaleas and other plantings are arranged at the ground level. The bed is defined by lawn and all surrounded by a half-round concrete curb typical of NPS reservations.

Views and Vista

- The site is within visual proximity of the Moultrie Courthouse and the future National Law Enforcement Museum. The visual clutter of the jersey barriers and security do not promote attractive views to or from the site.



Figure 2 – View west to Reservation 187

Circulation

- Sidewalks surround the site, but few pedestrians access the site unless they are crossing north-south at the eastern narrow point of the site. The security presence does not promote access to the site.

Major Park Structures and Features

- There are no major park structures.

Maintenance Concerns and Recommendations

Table 1: Reservation 187 - Current Condition of Park Elements

<i>Park Elements</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Path Paving	x				There is no interior pavement or walk. The perimeter 2'x3' concrete paver sidewalk is in good condition.
Edging, or Curb			x		The existing concrete curbing is in fair condition.
Metal Rail			x		A metal rail defines the entrance on the west side and defines the park edge to the east. The rail is effective in directing pedestrian access and in creating a slight sense of enclosure. The railing should be sanded and repainted as necessary.
Light Fixtures	x				Lighting is not provided within the park. Twin-20 Washington Globes are located along Indiana Avenue.
Benches	x				Seating is not provided or needed at Reservation 187.
Trash Receptacle	x				There are no interior trash receptacles
Drinking Fountain	x				A drinking fountain is not provided or needed.
Lawn				x	There are small areas of lawn bordered by plantings.
Plantings				x	The planting is more detailed than other reservations and is appropriate to this site location. Maintenance of the plantings and installation of seasonal plant material should be continued.
Tree Maintenance			x		The mature crabapple trees should be evaluated and pruned as appropriate.
Signage	x				Signage is not present.
Programming	x				The site is too small for active programming and is best suited as a planted area. Seasonal annual and bulb plantings should be continued and enhanced as possible.

Summary

The intent of Reservation 187 as a planted median is appropriate to its' size and location. The site is in a heavily trafficked pedestrian area near the DC courthouses therefore enhancing the seasonal plantings to add more detail and color would be beneficial to the overall appearance of the intersection. Most importantly, removing the jersey barriers from the site to improve the site appearance and improve pedestrian movement should be considered.