

## Public engagement summary

The NoMA BID hosted a public open house on September 12, 2012 to discuss the future of public spaces throughout the neighborhood. The open house was part of the Public Realm Design Planning effort that continued from earlier this year. During that planning process, community input was used to develop a public realm framework. The framework identified a system of signature open space opportunities and streetscape enhancements needed to connect and support the rapidly changing community.

The public open house was held to increase awareness of the Public Realm Design Plan and to solicit community input regarding identified opportunity sites and priority activities to accommodate throughout the community at the next level of planning and design. The open house took place from 5:30 to 8:30 PM in the lobby of 1100 First Street, NE.

### *Open house agenda:*

#### *5:30-6:30 Open house/reception*

Attendees checked-in, circulated through a series of facilitated stations which described the Public Realm Design Plan recommendations and signature public space opportunities. At each station participants then provided input on the priority activities to accommodate at key locations and throughout the neighborhood. There were stations for the overall neighborhood and individual signature spaces including, L Street Plaza, N Street Park, Pepco Park; and a station to collect other suggestions that did not fall into one of the previous categories. The public was also able to review initial public space ideas created by the development community for portions of the neighborhood.

#### *6:30-7:15 Presentation*

The BID Board Chairman, Bruce Bashuk, The BID President Robin-Eve Jasper, Councilman Tommy Wells and AECOM Project Manager Ryan Bouma gave a short presentation describing the recent evolution of the NoMA and the critical need for high quality public spaces. As part of the presentation, a letter from Mayor Vincent Gray was read detailing the appropriation of \$490,000 toward future public space planning and design in NoMA.

#### *7:15-8:15 Open house/reception*

Attendees continued to circulate through the stations, learn about signature public space opportunities and provide input.

#### *8:15-8:30 Summary of feedback*

Facilitators from each station briefly summarized common thoughts they heard throughout the evening.

## *Summary of public comments and suggestions at each station:*

### Check-in:

At the check-in station, after signing the attendance list, participants placed colored thumb tacks on an aerial photograph of NoMa and the surrounding neighborhoods to show where they live (Yellow) and where they work (Blue). There were also boxes for NW, NE, SW and SE quadrants of the District as well as boxes for Virginia and Maryland.

- 56 individuals responded at this station.
- 32 lived within the BID boundary or in the adjacent neighborhoods.
- 28 worked the BID boundary or in the adjacent neighborhoods.
- The next highest concentration of residents and workers was located in Northwest Washington DC.

### Overall neighborhood:

At this station, participants were able to review the proposed Public realm framework Diagram and see imagery of potential signature open space opportunities and concepts envisioned by the development community. Participants also were asked "What would you most like to do in NoMa's public spaces?". Participants selected their two highest preferences by placing two adhesive green dots adjacent to labeled images of potential activities. There were also boxes where participants could write in their own suggested activities.

- Eating, going out on the town, and visiting a dog park were the most preferred activities.
- Playing on a playground, visiting a farmers market, playing field sports, bicycling, listening to music, sitting in the shade, playing in a fountain, and interacting with art also received strong responses.
- An additional suggestion was made to incorporate an exercise trail.

### L Street Plaza:

At this station, participants were able to learn about the L Street Plaza opportunity site along L Street from First Street to second Street NE. The station included initial concept imagery developed during the Public Realm Design Plan intended to depict possibilities and begin a public conversation about the opportunity. Participants were asked "What would you most like to do here?" Participants selected their two highest preferences by placing two adhesive green dots adjacent to labeled images of potential activities. There were also boxes where participants could write in their own suggested activities.

- Going out on the town, visiting the farmer's market and eating were the most preferred activities.
- Shopping, sitting in the shade, listening to music and watching movies also received strong responses.
- Participants suggested doing all of the potential activities in a flexible space as well as including trees and vegetation.

## N Street Park:

At this station, participants were able to learn about the N Street Park opportunity located south of Florida Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets NE. The station included initial concept imagery developed during the Public Realm Design Plan intended to depict possibilities and begin a public conversation about the opportunity. Participants were asked “What would you most like to do here?” Participants selected their two highest preferences by placing two adhesive green dots adjacent to labeled images of potential activities. There were also boxes where participants could write in their own suggested activities.

- Visiting a dog park, playing games, playing on a playground, and walking through a meadow were the most preferred activities.
- Sitting in the shade and Interacting with art also received strong responses.
- Participants also suggested creating a direct connection under the railroad to the metro station as well enhanced vegetation to soften the impact of Florida Avenue.

## Pepco Park:

At this station, participants were able to learn about the Pepco Park opportunity located on Pepco property between North of New York Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE and the Metropolitan Branch Trail. The station included initial concept imagery developed during the Public Realm Design Plan intended to depict possibilities and begin a public conversation about the opportunity. Participants were asked “What would you most like to do here?” Participants selected their two highest preferences by placing two adhesive green dots adjacent to labeled images of potential activities. There were also boxes where participants could write in their own suggested activities.

- Visiting a dog park, playing court sports and playing field sports were the most preferred activities.
- Tending a garden and walking through a meadow also received strong responses.
- Participants also suggested amphitheaters, connections to the Met. Branch trail and public grilling facilities as important considerations.

Other suggestions:

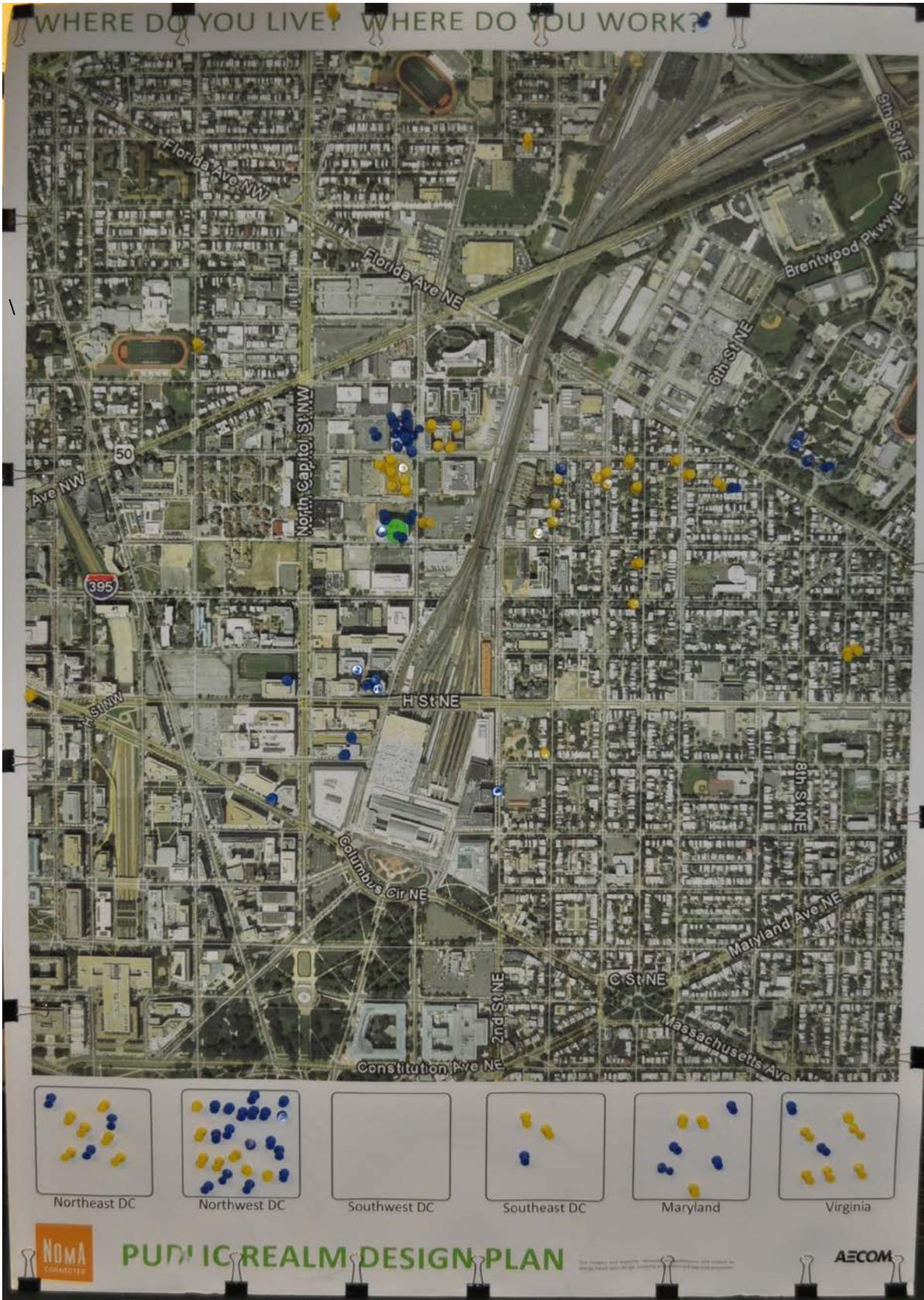
At this station, participants were able place hand written notes on a board describing ideas they would like to see considered during the future planning and design of NoMA's public spaces. This station was intended to obtain broad input on a variety of locations and issues. The received suggestions can be summarized into the following objectives.

- Link future spaces to the history of NoMa, including the Uline Arena and the Beatles.
- Create urban agriculture systems like community bee-keeping and community gardens.
- Provide more and better lighting.
- Enhance connections and amenities for bicyclists including maintenance facilities.
- Improve Florida Ave and New York Ave crossings for pedestrian safety.
- Encourage small businesses to locate in the community.
- Utilize the public realm enhancements to create jobs.
- Provide a neighborhood gym.
- Increase dining options.
- Consider water features, native plants, Greenwalls and free Wi-Fi in the public realm.
- Enhance branding of NoMa's public spaces and establish wayfinding systems to orient visitors to them.
- Embrace the railroad and create viewing opportunities.
- Infuse art, and artistic experiences throughout the community.
- Incorporate visual arts and other design elements that improve comfort and convenience for the deaf.
- Consider an ice rink.

A common theme heard at each station was the need to have flexible spaces that can accommodate a variety of activities as the needs of the neighborhood change over time.

Participants were recommended to follow the BID's website [www.nomabid.org](http://www.nomabid.org) for next steps in the public realm planning and design process.

The following pages include the graphics from each station and scans of the boards used to capture the selected preferences of the participants. The green dots represent the participant's preferences.





N Street Park



The Gateway



Pepco Park



The Breezeway



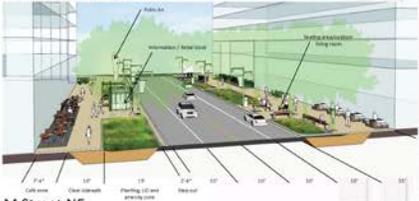
L Street Plaza



The Tracks Park



Railroad Crossings



M Street NE



M, L, and N Streets NE

**Public Realm Framework Plan**



- Center of Activity
- Enhanced Public Space Connections

- A. N Street Park
- B. Metropolitan Branch Trail
- C. The Gateway
- D. New York and N Street Public Art
- E. Pepco Park
- F. Mid Block Alley
- G. The Breezeway
- H. M Street Rail Crossing
- I. M Street Park
- J. Second Street Pedestrian Priority Area
- K. Highpoint Park
- L. Congress Street
- M. L Street Plaza
- N. Loree Grand Park
- O. The Tracks Park
- P. K Street Rail Crossing
- Q. Burnham Place Development Over Railyard
- R. First Street Pedestrian Priority Area



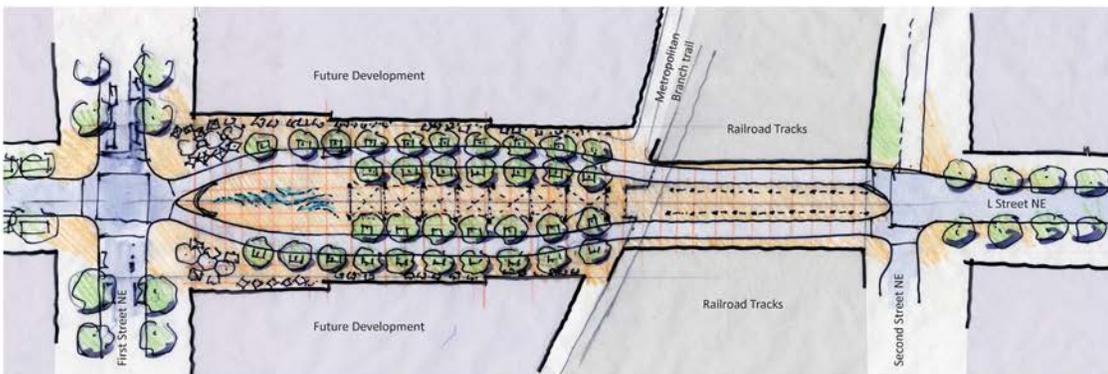
## L Street Plaza



EXISTING CONDITION



INITIAL CONCEPT RENDERING



INITIAL CONCEPT PLAN

# L Street Plaza

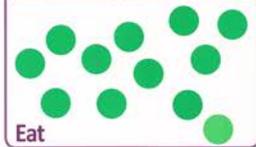
WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO DO HERE ?




Sit in the Shade




Exercise

Eat




Take a Walk




Play in a Fountain




Go out on the Town




Visit a Farmer's Market




Attend a Festival




Ride Your Bike




Relax with Friends & Family




Listen to Music




Enjoy Entertainment




Shop




Interact with Art




Watch Movies

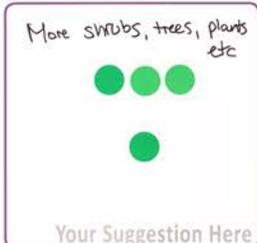



Appreciate Arts/Crafts

*Do it All!*  
Plaza with Water Feature

Your Suggestion Here

*More shrubs, trees, plants etc*



Your Suggestion Here

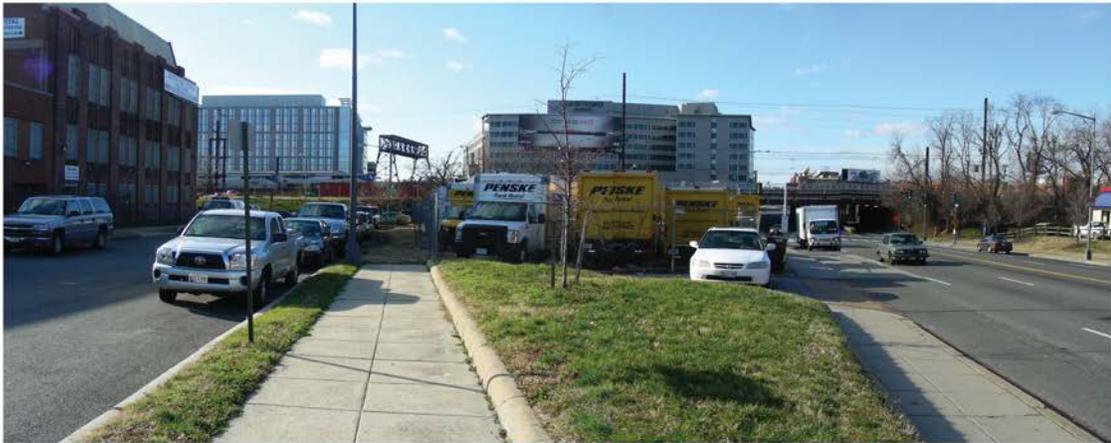
Your Suggestion Here

Your Suggestion Here

## N Street Park



EXISTING CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION



INITIAL CONCEPT RENDERING

# N Street Park

## WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO DO HERE ?

 <p>Sit in the Shade</p>	 <p>Go for a Run</p>	 <p>Attend Exercise Class</p>	 <p>Play Games</p>
 <p>Tend a Garden</p>	 <p>Learn about History</p>	 <p>Play on a Playground</p>	 <p>Individual Exercise</p>
 <p>Relax with Friends &amp; Family</p>	 <p>Eat</p>	 <p>Visit a Farmer's Market</p>	 <p>Walk Through a Meadow</p>
 <p>Play in a Fountain</p>	 <p>Interact with Art</p>	 <p>Have a Picnic</p>	 <p>Visit a Dog Park</p>
<p>pedestrian Direct connection to Metro station and Met Branch Trail</p> <p>Green screen blocking Florida traffic &amp; sound</p> <p>Your Suggestion Here</p>	<p>Since it's such a small space, planning for kids would be good along with benches &amp; shade!</p> <p>More access to adults more than public transportation</p> <p>NOMA noma.com</p> <p>Your Suggestion Here</p>	<p>Your Suggestion Here</p>	<p>Your Suggestion Here</p>

# Pepco Park



EXISTING CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION



AERIAL PHOTO



EXISTING CONDITION

# Pepco Park

## WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO DO HERE ?



Sit in the Shade



Go for a Run



Attend Exercise Class



Play Court Sports



Play Field Sports



Tend a Garden



Play on a Playground



Individual Exercise



Watch Movies



Eat



Attend a Festival



Walk Through a Meadow



Play in the Water



Interact with Art



Have a Picnic



Visit a Dog Park

PUBLIC GRILLS

Your Suggestion Here

Pool connection to Met Branch Trail at or near Q Street

Your Suggestion Here

Ampitheater (Atrium, Grand)

Your Suggestion Here

Your Suggestion Here

