



Frequently Asked Questions About the Florida/New York Avenue Intersection Project

Q. What is the NoMa Parks Foundation's role in the design of the public spaces surrounding the Florida and New York Ave. NE intersection?

The NoMa Parks Foundation (NPF) has been working in partnership with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the community to develop potential designs for the three new public spaces that will result from DDOT's larger Florida and New York Avenue NE Intersection Project.

This intersection, often referred to as the "Virtual Circle" or "Dave Thomas Circle" because of the Wendy's which sits at its center, features a combination of unusual geometry, turning movements, closely spaced intersections, and high traffic volumes, all of which have contributed to safety and comfort issues for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. After several years of study, DDOT concluded that a full reconfiguration of the intersection, including removal of the Wendy's, would make the intersection safer. The result will create three new parcels of public open space totaling more than 43,000 square feet.

NPF, in partnership with DDOT, focused specifically on the design of these three new public spaces, and engaged the architectural firm of SWA/Balsley to present to the community two design options: Concept A ("circles") and Concept B ("hillocks"). Both concepts provide a mix of active and passive spaces to attract users of all ages to what will be a safe, vibrant, urban oasis and location that is adaptable for a variety of uses.

Q. What is the timeline for this project?

A. NPF held a virtual community meeting the evening of May 18, 2020, to share the two new design concepts for the three new public spaces with the community and answer questions. Through May 27, 2020, NPF invites the community to take our survey to share feedback specifically on the two design options, Concept A and Concept B. Click here to take the survey: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5604606/NYFL-AVE-COMMUNITY-SURVEY>

During the summer of 2020, NPF will review all community feedback and share suggestions with project architects, SWA/Balsley, who will refine the two concept designs into a single, unified design that reflects community input and meets DDOT requirements.

The schematic design, which comes after the concept design, will be incorporated into the overall redesigned intersection, which DDOT plans to begin construction of in 2021.

A. What is the funding status for this project?

Q. The DC Government provided \$35 million dollars in its Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Budget for roadway reconfiguration and development of the public spaces, including acquisition of the Wendy's site.



Q. Are there opportunities for input from the community?

Yes, through May 27, 2020, NPF is seeking community feedback through a survey (<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5604606/NYFL-AVE-COMMUNITY-SURVEY>). SWA/Balsley will refine one unified concept design into a schematic design that reflects community input and meets DDOT requirements.

Q. Are there ways for those who don't have internet access to take the survey and share feedback?

Yes, anyone not able to access the survey and view the two design concepts online can call 202-810-0091 or email info@nomaparks.org and provide a name, phone number, and address, to request that the presentation packet and survey be sent via mail.

Q. Who should I reach out to with questions about the roadway, travel lane, bike facility, and pedestrian crossing designs?

A. Any questions related to overall traffic patterns, roadway reconfiguration, bike lanes, crosswalks, scooter usage, etc. are outside the scope of the new public space designs discussed here and should be directed to [DDOT](#). The NoMa Parks Foundation is seeking community feedback solely on the design concepts for the three new public spaces that will be created from DDOT's larger Florida and New York Avenue NE Intersection Project.

Q. How will traffic noise be minimized for people in the public spaces?

A. Both Concept A and Concept B include a variety of earth forms and berms, both of which are effective features for mitigating noise.

Q. How will the new public space design help protect people from vehicular traffic?

A. The landscape architects included significant physical barriers, including earth forms and berms, which in addition to helping with noise reduction, also will help with providing a barrier between people and vehicular traffic.

Q. How much new green space will this project provide?

A. The three new spaces total more than 43,000 square feet, which is five times the size of the nearby Swampoodle Park. Parcel 1, which includes the public space at 1st St. NE, will be approximately 13,410 SF; Parcel 2 will be approximately 11,500 SF; and Parcel 3, which is adjacent to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) headquarters building, will be approximately 18,450 SF. Well-designed, new public spaces of this size will provide significant, new community-use opportunities.

Q. What is the status of O Street between 1st Street NE and North Capitol Street?

A. That land, which is privately owned, is subject to an easement requiring the development of public sidewalks through the space. The same architects that NPF is working with on the public space design at Dave Thomas Circle, SWA/Balsley, will be providing ideas that would complement their public space designs for that location for consideration by the owner.



Q. How can I stay involved and up to date in the project?

A. NoMa Parks Foundation will continue to share updates about the project on our website at www.nomaparks.org. We also encourage you to sign up for our newsletter via our website.

If you are interested in staying up to date on the overall intersection project, DDOT also has a contact list and provides updates at <https://www.floridaaveproject.com/florida-avenew-york-ave-intersection>

Q. Who do I contact with additional questions?

A. If you have questions related to the redesign of the new public spaces, please email info@nomaparks.org. Any questions related to the traffic patterns or transportation infrastructure should be made directly to [DDOT](#).