History and Creation

- **1791** – Pierre L’Enfant designed layout of Washington DC.
- **1901** – James McMillan revisions L’Enfant’s plans
  - National Mall, public park system
- **1924** – National Capital Park Commission
  - Acquire parkland for capital, protect environment around DC
- **1952** – Capital Planning Act
  - Historic preservation and preservation of important natural sites
Role & Responsibilities

The federal government’s planning agency for the National Capital Region

- Provide advice on plans and projects that impact the nation’s capital and surrounding areas

- Protects and enhances the historic, cultural, and natural resources of the capital
  - Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital Region
  - Long range plans and planning policies
  - Review of federal and DC development projects
  - Annual Federal Capital Improvements Program (FCIP)
The Commission

- 12 members that meet monthly
  - Members represent federal and local constituencies with large stakes

Members:
- 3 citizens appointed by the President
  - 1 must be a resident of Virginia, 1 must be a resident of Maryland
- 2 DC residents appointed by the Mayor of DC
- Remaining members are ex officio:
  - Mayor of DC, Chair of DC City Council, Heads of Executive Branch with significant land holdings (ex. DOD, DOI)

Commission is supported by staff of planners, architects, urban designers, engineers and other professionals
Staff & Structure

Commission
Office of Executive Director
Planning Divisions
Office of Public Affairs
Office of Secretariat
Office of Administration
Office of Executive Director
Physical Planning
Urban Design & Plan Review
Intergovernmental Affairs
Policy & Research
Physical Planning

- Guides the design, visualization and implementation of Commission policies that are focused on physical features or specific geography
- Advances federal interest and enhances livability, human scale, and cultural treasures of the capital
- Issues can address transportation and security
- Supervisor: Bill Dowd, staff made up of planners and architects
“Southwest Ecodistrict” – 10th Street Corridor

- Visually and physically disconnected from the rest of the city
  - Lacks residential, retail, cultural uses of a dynamic community
- Goal: transform the area into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly destination
  - Sustainable development and infrastructure practices
  - Community input/involvement