

# Public Hearing

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	1
<b>Meeting Date</b>	April 20, 2016
<b>Prepared By</b>	Erkin Ozberk Senior Planner
<b>Approved By</b>	Suzanne R. Ludlow City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Streetscape Manual
<b>Background</b>	<p>The City maintains hundreds of pieces of furniture, lighting, wayfinding signs, bike racks, etc. on public rights-of-way in residential neighborhoods and commercial districts. Functional, accessible, and well maintained public spaces improve quality of life in Takoma Park by fostering community, enhancing business vitality, and supporting environmental and economic sustainability.</p> <p>Initiated in 2014, and building on the guidelines and recommendations from these earlier documents, the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual was developed by the Housing and Community Development and Public Works departments. The Streetscape Manual documents existing policies, practices, and decisions to ensure consistency of future installations and replacement in correct locations. It provides both a mapped inventory of all streetscape elements in public right-of-way installed by the City and an overview of each element that includes product name and manufacturer, dimensions, colors, installation instructions and locations, and applicable customization details.</p> <p>The manual is to be used by all City staff, City contractors, and Council-appointed boards and committees engaged in installing, replacing, and maintaining streetscape elements. Examples of times the manual would be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City staff is reviewing a Site Plan application and requests a developer install street lights along a public right-of-way.</li> <li>• City staff is directing a utility contractor to repair/resurface a road with pavement markings for bicycle facilities or a sidewalk that had a special finishing detail in a commercial district.</li> <li>• City staff is reviewing a community grant application that involves streetscape elements like seating or signage in the public right-of-way.</li> <li>• Council-appointed board/committee is recommending a project that involves streetscape elements (seating, lighting, signage, bicycle facilities, etc.) in the public right-of-way.</li> </ul> <p>The Streetscape Manual is divided into five discrete Planning Districts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Citywide</u>: Includes signage for streets, wayfinding, and bicycle route wayfinding, as well as ADA ramp colors and crosswalk striping.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <u>Flower Avenue</u>: Identifies distinct products used in the Flower Avenue Green Street project.</li> <li>3. <u>Historic District</u>: Identifies specific products to be used in the Historic District, including both the residential and commercial areas (Old Town and Takoma Junction).</li> <li>4. <u>The New Ave</u>: Includes elements in the New Ave Streetscape Standards, as well as some products specific to Holton Lane.</li> <li>5. <u>Residential</u>: Includes elements such as seating and receptacles that are different from those to be used in the residential areas in the Historic District, on Flower Avenue, or on The New Ave.</li> </ol> <p>The Streetscape Manual will be on the City’s website and is to be updated annually by the Housing and Community Development and Public Works Departments to reflect new plans, policies, and decisions.</p> <p>The City Council discussed the Streetscape Manual at a Work Session on February 17. A Public Hearing notice was posted in the April Takoma Park Newsletter and email notifications were sent to groups and individuals that expressed interest in the Streetscape Manual. The City Council is scheduled to review a Resolution adopting the Streetscape Manual on May 11.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	<p><i>Sustainable Community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand and enhance existing infrastructure to provide access to, and promote increased use of, alternative modes of transportation and walking.</li> </ul> <p><i>Livable Community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all City facilities are well maintained and negative visual and environmental impacts on adjoining neighborhoods are minimized.</li> </ul> <p><i>Engaged, Responsive, and Service-Oriented Government</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop synergistic and collaborative relationships among all City employees and across departmental lines.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>- Takoma Park Strategic Plan FY2010 – FY2015</i></p>
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Attachments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Streetscape Manual (<a href="http://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/20160321-takoma-park-streetscape-manual.pdf">http://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/20160321-takoma-park-streetscape-manual.pdf</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation</b>	Consider the public comments on the Streetscape Manual.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	