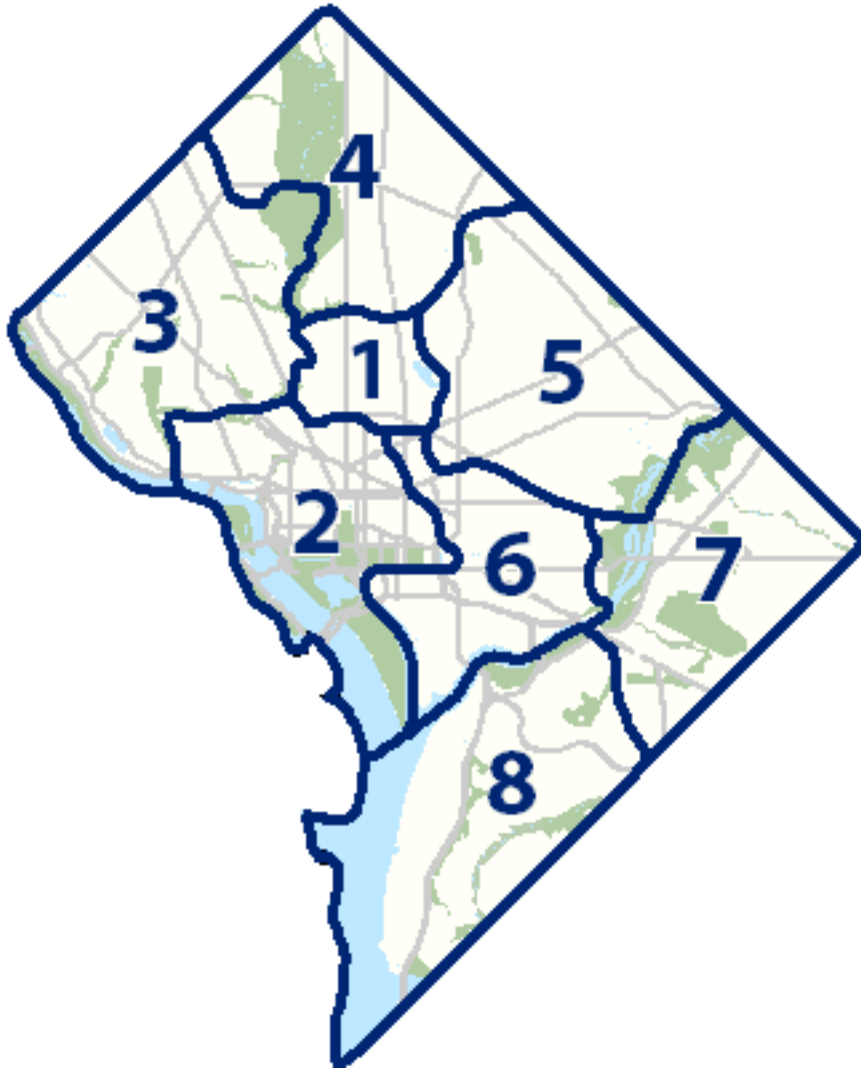


About Ward 8



Much of what is now Ward 8 was farmland during the early history of Washington, DC, and a rural character is still sometimes evident among the houses, apartment buildings and institutions of the ward. The historic Anacostia neighborhood is the oldest in the ward, having been founded as Uniontown, one of Washington's first suburbs, in 1854. It has a variety of wood frame and brick houses and townhouses, as well as grander homes such as Cedar Hill, the Frederick Douglass House (pictured at right). Further south is the neighborhood of Congress Heights, which has the largest commercial area in the ward, which runs along Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X Avenues, as well as a number of garden apartments and single-family bungalows. Washington Highlands is located further south, and is home to many apartment complexes, as well as new single-family homes at Walter Washington Estates.

The neighborhood of Bellevue sits at the far southern end of the District, and has many garden apartments, one high-rise apartment building and some 1940's era detached homes with yards. Ward 8 also has several large federal and local institutions. Bolling Air Force Base, for example, is in many ways a small town of its own, stretching along the Anacostia riverfront. Saint Elizabeths Hospital is a large campus with sweeping views of the city. The Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant and DC Village both take up significant acreage at the southern tip of the city.

For more information on the planning, development review, and historic preservations initiatives in the ward, please visit the links below or contact:

Evelyn Kasongo
Ward 8 Neighborhood Planner
(202) 442-7600

Far Southeast/Southwest is a community of surprising contrasts. It includes the 19th century row houses of Historic Anacostia as well as brand new communities like Henson Ridge and Wheeler Creek. Its housing ranges from single family homes in neighborhoods like Congress Heights, to garden apartments in neighborhoods like Washington Highlands and Fort Stanton, to high-rise apartments such as the Wyngates and Faircliff Plaza.

Anacostia and the surrounding Far Southeast/Southwest neighborhoods that surround it have stayed strong through difficult times. Many middleclass residents left the area in the 1970's, 80's and 90's, affecting the stability of the area's neighborhoods. Between 1990 and 2000 population in this Planning Area declined by nine percent and the poverty rate increased from 28 percent to 38 percent. The crime rate and unemployment rate remain chronically high and are well above the city and regional average. The average resident must go outside their neighborhood to shop, enjoy a restaurant, and even find basic services like groceries. 1800.4 Today, the priorities are clear: safer streets, better schools, more jobs, and improved housing choices. The Comprehensive Plan reflects these priorities in its policies and maps. Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, crime, and other social issues must be addressed to improve the quality of life for residents in the Far Southeast/Southwest. For revitalization to truly succeed, all residents must be given opportunities to advance.