

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8726 .....	40:71i.	June 6, 1924, ch. 270, §10, as added July 19, 1952, ch. 949, §1, 66 Stat. 791.

The words “any existing provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding” are omitted as unnecessary.

SUBCHAPTER IV—ACQUIRING AND  
DISPOSING OF LAND

**§ 8731. Acquiring land for park, parkway, or playground purposes**

(a) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE LAND.**—The National Capitol Planning Commission shall acquire land the Planning Commission believes is necessary and desirable in the District of Columbia and adjacent areas in Maryland and Virginia for suitable development of the National Capital park, parkway, and playground system. The acquisition must be within the limits of the appropriations made for those purposes. The Planning Commission shall request the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in selecting land to be acquired.

(b) **HOW LAND MAY BE ACQUIRED.**—

(1) **PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION PROCEEDING.**—The National Capitol Planning Commission may buy land when the land can be acquired at a price the Planning Commission considers reasonable or by a condemnation proceeding when the land cannot be bought at a reasonable price.

(2) **LAND IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**—A condemnation proceeding to acquire land in the District of Columbia shall be conducted in accordance with section 1 of the Act of December 23, 1963 (Public Law 88–241, 77 Stat. 571).

(3) **LAND IN MARYLAND OR VIRGINIA.**—The Planning Commission may acquire land in Maryland or Virginia under arrangements agreed to by the Commission and the proper officials of Maryland or Virginia.

(c) **CONTROL OF LAND.**—

(1) **LAND IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**—Land acquired in the District of Columbia shall be a part of the park system of the District of Columbia and be under the control of the Director of the National Park Service. The National Capitol Planning Commission may assign areas suitable for playground purposes to the control of the Mayor of the District of Columbia for playground purposes.

(2) **LAND IN MARYLAND OR VIRGINIA.**—Land acquired in Maryland or Virginia shall be controlled as determined by agreement between the Planning Commission and the proper officials of Maryland or Virginia.

(d) **PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.**—The designation of all land to be acquired by condemnation, all contracts to purchase land, and all agreements between the National Capitol Planning Commission and the officials of Maryland and Virginia are subject to the approval of the President.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1224.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8731(a) .....	40:72 (1st, 4th sentences).	June 6, 1924, ch. 270, §11, formerly §2, 43 Stat. 463; renumbered §11, July 19, 1952, ch. 949, §2 (1st sentence), 66 Stat. 791.
8731(b) .....	40:72 (2d, 3d sentence).	
8731(c) .....	40:73 (3d–last sentences).	June 6, 1924, ch. 270, §12 (3d–last sentences), formerly §3 (3d–last sentences), 43 Stat. 463; renumbered §12, July 19, 1952, ch. 949, §2 (1st sentence), 66 Stat. 791.
8731(d) .....	40:72 (last sentence).	

In subsection (a), the words “or a majority thereof” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b)(2), the words “section 1 of the Act of December 23, 1963 (Public Law 88–241, 77 Stat. 572)” are substituted for 40:72 (2d sentence words after “in accordance with”) because provisions in section 3 of the Act of August 30, 1890 (ch. 837, 26 Stat. 412), established the act as permanent and general. The act therefore was classified to 40:120, which was superseded by the Act of March 1, 1929 (ch. 416, 45 Stat. 1415), which was classified to 40:361 et seq. That law was repealed by section 21(b) of the Act of December 23, 1963 (Public Law 88–241, 77 Stat. 627), with the subject matter of those sections being restated in section 1 of that Act.

In subsection (b)(3), the words “either by purchase or condemnation proceedings” and “as to acquisition and payment for the lands as it shall determine upon” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (c)(1), the words “Director of the National Park Service” are substituted for “Chief of Engineers of the United States Army” [subsequently changed to “Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks” by section 3 of the Act of February 26, 1925 (ch. 339, 43 Stat. 983)] because of section 1(words before 3d comma in 2d complete par. on p. 389) of the Act of March 2, 1934 (ch. 38, 48 Stat. 389).

In subsection (c)(2), the words “in Maryland or Virginia” are substituted for “outside the District of Columbia” for clarity and for consistency in this section. The words “such agreements to be subject to the approval of the President” are omitted because of 40:72 (last sentence), restated as subsection (d).

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1 of the Act of December 23, 1963, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is section 1 of Pub. L. 88–241, Dec. 23, 1963, 77 Stat. 478, which enacted general and permanent laws relating to judiciary and judicial procedure in the District of Columbia, and which is not classified to the Code.

**§ 8732. Acquiring land subject to limited rights reserved to grantor and limited permanent rights in land adjoining park property**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Capitol Planning Commission in accordance with this chapter may acquire, for and on behalf of the Federal Government, by gift, devise, purchase, or condemnation—

(1) fee title to land subject to limited rights, but not for business purposes, reserved to the grantor; and

(2) permanent rights in land adjoining park property sufficient to prevent the use of the land in certain specified ways which would essentially impair the value of the park property for its purposes.

(b) **PREREQUISITES TO ACQUISITION.**—

(1) **FEE TITLE TO LAND SUBJECT TO LIMITED RIGHTS.**—The reservation of rights to the

grantor shall not continue beyond the life of the grantor of the fee. The Commission must decide that the permanent public park purposes for which control over the land is needed are not essentially impaired by the reserved rights and that there is a substantial saving in cost by acquiring the land subject to the limited rights as compared with the cost of acquiring unencumbered title to the land.

(2) PERMANENT RIGHTS IN LAND ADJOINING PARK PROPERTY.—The Commission must decide that the protection and maintenance of the essential public values of the park can be secured more economically by acquiring the permanent rights than by acquiring the land.

(c) PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.—All contracts to acquire land or rights under this section are subject to the approval of the President.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1225.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8732(a) .....	40:72a (1st par., last par. less provisos)	Dec. 22, 1928, ch. 48, § 1, 45 Stat. 1070.
8732(b) .....	40:72a (last par. 1st–3d provisos).	
8732(c) .....	40:72a (last par. last proviso).	

In subsection (a), the text of 40:72a (1st par.) is omitted as unnecessary.

**§ 8733. Lease of land acquired for park, parkway, or playground purposes**

The Secretary of the Interior may lease, for not more than five years, land or an existing building or structure on land acquired for park, parkway, or playground purposes, and may renew the lease for an additional five years. A lease or renewal under this section is—

- (1) subject to the approval of the National Capital Planning Commission;
- (2) subject to the need for the immediate use of the land, building, or structure in other ways by the public; and
- (3) on terms the Administrator decides.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1225.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8733 .....	40:72b.	Dec. 22, 1928, ch. 48, § 2, 45 Stat. 1070.

The words “Administrator of General Services” are substituted for “Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital” [subsequently changed to “Director of the National Park Service” because of section 2 of Executive Order No. 6166 (eff. June 10, 1933) and the Act of March 2, 1934 (ch. 38, 48 Stat. 389), and “Public Buildings Administrator” because of sections 301 and 303 of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1939 (eff. July 1, 1939, 53 Stat. 1426, 1427)] because of section 103(a) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (ch. 288, 63 Stat. 380), which is restated as section 303(c) [303(b)] of the revised title. The words “National Capital Planning Commission” are substituted for “National Capital Park and Planning Commission” because of section 9 of the Act of June 6, 1924 (ch. 270), as added by section 1 of the Act of July 19, 1952 (ch. 949, 66 Stat. 790). See section 8711(f) of the revised title.

**§ 8734. Sale of land by Mayor**

(a) AUTHORITY TO SELL.—With the approval of the National Capital Planning Commission, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, for the best interests of the District of Columbia, may sell to the highest bidder at public or private sale real estate in the District of Columbia owned in fee simple by the District of Columbia for municipal use that the Council of the District of Columbia and the Commission find to be no longer required for public purposes.

(b) PAYING EXPENSES AND DEPOSITING PROCEEDS.—The Mayor—

- (1) may pay the reasonable and necessary expenses of the sale of each parcel of land sold; and
- (2) shall deposit the net proceeds of each sale in the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1226.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8734(a) .....	40:72c.	Aug. 5, 1939, ch. 449, §§ 1, 2, 53 Stat. 1211.
8734(b) .....	40:72d.	

In subsection (a), the words “in his discretion”, “and convey, in whole or in part”, and “now or hereafter” are omitted as unnecessary.

**§ 8735. Sale of land by Secretary of the Interior**

(a) AUTHORITY TO SELL.—With the approval of the National Capital Planning Commission, the Secretary of the Interior, for the best interests of the Federal Government, may sell, by deed or instrument, real estate held by the Government in the District of Columbia and under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service which may be no longer needed for public purposes. The land may be sold for cash or on a deferred-payment plan the Secretary approves, at a price not less than the Government paid for it and not less than its present appraised value as determined by the Secretary.

(b) SALE TO HIGHEST BIDDER.—In selling any parcel of land under this section, the Secretary shall have public or private solicitation for bids or offers be made as the Secretary considers appropriate. The Secretary shall sell the parcel to the party agreeing to pay the highest price if the price is otherwise satisfactory. If the price offered or bid by the owner of land abutting the land to be sold equals the highest price offered or bid by any other party, the parcel may be sold to the owner of the abutting land.

(c) PAYING EXPENSES AND DEPOSITING PROCEEDS.—The Secretary—

- (1) may pay the reasonable and necessary expenses of the sale of each parcel of land sold; and
- (2) shall deposit the net proceeds of each sale in the Treasury to the credit of the Government and the District of Columbia in the proportion that each—

- (A) paid the appropriations used to acquire the parcels; or
- (B) was obligated to pay the appropriations, at the time of acquisition, by reimbursement.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1226.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8735(a) .....	40:74a.	Aug. 5, 1939, ch. 449, §§ 4–6, 53 Stat. 1211.
8735(b) .....	40:74b.	
8735(c) .....	40:74c.	

In subsection (a), the words “in his discretion”, “and convey, in whole or in part”, and “proper” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b), reference to sections 72c to 72e is omitted as unnecessary because the Secretary of the Interior does not have authority to sell land under those sections.

**§ 8736. Execution of deeds**

The Mayor of the District of Columbia may execute deeds of conveyance for real estate sold under this subchapter. The deeds shall contain a full description of the land sold as required by law.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1227.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8736 .....	40:72e.	Aug. 5, 1939, ch. 449, § 3, 53 Stat. 1211.

The word “proper” is omitted as unnecessary. The words “as required by” are substituted for “either by metes and bounds, or otherwise according to” to eliminate unnecessary words.

**§ 8737. Authorization of appropriations**

An amount equal to not more than one cent for each inhabitant of the continental United States as determined by the last preceding decennial census may be appropriated each year in the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for the National Capital Planning Commission to use for the payment of its expenses and for the acquisition of land the Commission may acquire under section 8731 of this title for the purposes named, including compensation for the land, surveys, ascertainment of title, condemnation proceedings, and necessary conveyancing. The appropriated amounts shall be paid from the revenues of the District of Columbia and the general amounts of the Treasury in the same proportion as other expenses of the District of Columbia.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1227.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8737 .....	40:73 (1st, 2d sentences).	June 6, 1924, ch. 270, § 12 (1st, 2d sentences), formerly § 3 (1st, 2d sentences), 43 Stat. 463; renumbered § 12, July 19, 1952, ch. 949, § 2 (1st sentence), 66 Stat. 791.

**CHAPTER 89—NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIALS AND COMMEMORATIVE WORKS**

Sec.

8901. Purposes.  
8902. Definitions and nonapplication.

8903. Congressional authorization of commemorative works.  
8904. National Capital Memorial Commission.<sup>1</sup>  
8905. Site and design approval.  
8906. Criteria for issuance of construction permit.  
8907. Temporary site designation.  
8908. Areas I and II.  
8909. Administrative.

**§ 8901. Purposes**

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to preserve the integrity of the comprehensive design of the L’Enfant and McMillan plans for the Nation’s Capital;

(2) to ensure the continued public use and enjoyment of open space in the District of Columbia and its environs, and to encourage the location of commemorative works within the urban fabric of the District of Columbia;

(3) to preserve, protect and maintain the limited amount of open space available to residents of, and visitors to, the Nation’s Capital; and

(4) to ensure that future commemorative works in areas administered by the National Park Service and the Administrator of General Services in the District of Columbia and its environs—

(A) are appropriately designed, constructed, and located; and

(B) reflect a consensus of the lasting national significance of the subjects involved.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1227; Pub. L. 108–126, title II, § 203(a), Nov. 17, 2003, 117 Stat. 1349.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8901 .....	40:1001.	Pub. L. 99–652, § 1, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3650.

## AMENDMENTS

2003—Par. (2). Pub. L. 108–126 substituted “Columbia and its environs, and to encourage the location of commemorative works within the urban fabric of the District of Columbia;” for “Columbia;”.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108–126, title II, § 205, Nov. 17, 2003, 117 Stat. 1353, provided that: “Except for the provision in the amendment made by section 202(b) [amending section 8908 of this title] prohibiting a visitor center from being located in the Reserve (as defined in section 8902 of title 40, United States Code), nothing in this title [see Short Title of 2003 Amendment note set out under section 101 of this title] shall apply to a commemorative work for which a site was approved in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, prior to the date of enactment of this title [Nov. 17, 2003].”

## FINDINGS

Pub. L. 108–126, title II, § 202(a), Nov. 17, 2003, 117 Stat. 1349, provided that: “Congress finds that—

“(1) the great cross-axis of the Mall in the District of Columbia, which generally extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial, is a substantially completed work of civic art; and

“(2) to preserve the integrity of the Mall, a reserve area should be designated within the core of the great

<sup>1</sup> Section catchline amended by Pub. L. 108–126 without corresponding amendment of analysis.