

2.6 WILDLIFE, INCLUDING THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Connecticut Avenue NW and its surrounds are primarily developed land. Wildlife in the project area includes species that have adapted to urban/suburban conditions such as rabbits, whitetail deer, turtles, eastern grey squirrels, red fox, grey fox, and numerous common bird species. These species mostly congregate around park areas such as Soapstone Valley Park, Melvin C. Hazen Park, Klinge Valley Park, and the Smithsonian National Zoological Park, which abut Connecticut Avenue NW and could provide habitat for these types of species. Other green areas in the more residential and commercial portions of the corridor are segmented and consist of mainly turf grass with a few trees and are of minimal wildlife value.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 USC 1531 through 1544; 50 CFR 17) provides for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants and their associated habitats. US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for evaluating potential harm to endangered species.

Information regarding sensitive species and resources that may be impacted by the project was obtained from the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. As detailed in **Table 3**, IPaC indicates the presence of habitat for two threatened or endangered species in the Connecticut Avenue NW corridor: the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Hay’s Spring Amphipod (*Stygobromus hayi*), which is an endemic amphipod in springs and groundwater within the Rock Creek Park. A search of the USFWS IPaC database and the District’s Wildlife Application Plan (WAP) indicates that there are no reportings or critical habitats within the immediate project area. Additionally, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-712; 50 CFR 10.13) makes it illegal for anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit. IPaC identified 14 migratory birds, including the bald eagle, which are present in the project area.

Table 3 | Potential Threatened and Endangered Species within the Primary Study Area

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS	CONFIRMED
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened	No
Hay’s Spring Amphipod	<i>Stygobromus hayi</i>	Endangered	No



Habitat behind 3726 Connecticut Avenue NW (entrance to Melvin Hazen Trail).



Typical habitat in small parks along Connecticut Avenue NW

2.7 SOCIOECONOMICS

Table 4 presents total population, minority population, and persons in poverty information for the nine census tracts (CT) in the primary study area. The highest population is in CT 13.02, which is on the east side of Connecticut Avenue NW, generally between Albemarle Street NW and the National Zoo, and contains several of the larger apartment complexes in the study corridor. Census tracts can have data that vary widely from other tracts based on their unique locations. All of the CT boundaries are along existing roadways (i.e., sides of the same street are in separate census tracts); therefore, they may not give the most accurate picture of a community. Connecticut Avenue NW is a boundary for all of census tracts. The minority percentage of the population ranges from 21 to 38 percent. The percentage of persons in poverty ranges from 3 to 10 percent of the population.

Table 4 | Demographic and Income Data

CENSUS TRACT ALONG CONNECTICUT AVENUE	TOTAL POPULATION	MINORITY		PERSONS IN POVERTY	
		POPULATION	PERCENT	POPULATION	PERCENT
Census Tract 5.01	3,545	884	24.94%	166	4.71%
Census Tract 5.02	3,371	736	21.83%	114	3.38%
Census Tract 6	4,969	1,457	29.32%	252	5.30%
Census Tract 11	5,110	1,201	23.50%	230	4.56%
Census Tract 12	5,247	1,378	26.26%	223	4.25%
Census Tract 13.01	4,133	1,315	31.82%	179	4.43%
Census Tract 13.02	7,623	2,108	27.65%	777	10.19%
Census Tract 14.01	3,548	1,149	32.38%	171	4.82%
Census Tract 14.02	3,443	1,324	38.45%	220	6.49%

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires that each federal agency “shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” Minority persons include citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States that are African-American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian-American, American Indian, or Native Alaskan. Low-income persons are defined as those whose median household income is below the United States Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Title VI bars intentional discrimination, as well as disparate impact discrimination (i.e., a neutral policy or practice that has an unequal impact on protected groups). Title VI compliance is managed at DDOT through its Office of Civil Rights.

2.8 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The federal government and the District of Columbia, primarily through EPA and District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), respectively, regulate hazardous materials (HAZMAT) under multiple statutes. The two main statutes that regulate materials of primary concern include the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and their respective amendments. The RCRA regulates generators, transporters, and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities of hazardous materials. RCRA defines these materials as those that have ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity. The CERCLA was passed to provide an avenue to correct those sites already contaminated with hazardous substances. EPA and DOEE maintain databases of regulated sites and facilities. A review of the EPA online website indicates that there are 50 parcels within the study area with a potential for hazardous materials, which are summarized in Table 5 and Figure 7.

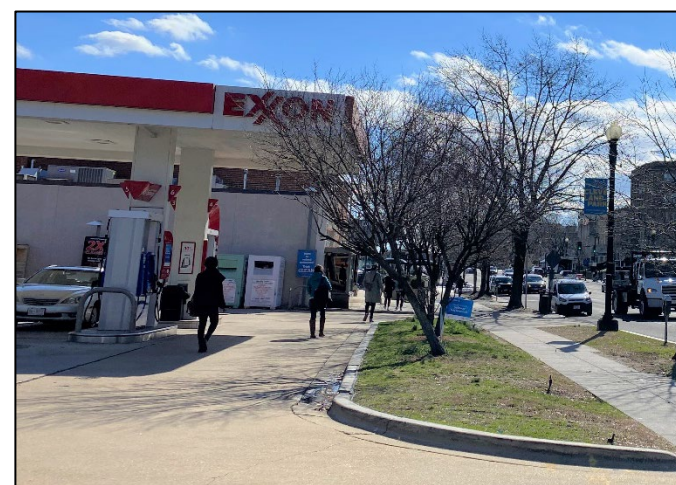
Table 5 | Potential Hazardous Materials Sites in the Project Area

TYPE OF SITE	NUMBER OF SITES ¹
RCRA Generator - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulated facility that generates, treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous wastes	33
AIRS - Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) contains compliance data on air pollution point sources regulated by federal, state, and/or local air regulatory agencies	19
Compliance/Enforcement Action - Integrated Compliance Information System, supports the information needs of the national enforcement and compliance program	15

¹: The total number of types of sites is greater than the number of actual facilities/parcels potentially affected because some of the sites have multiple attributes, e.g., they are both hazardous waste generators and have had compliance issues.



Potential HAZMAT site along Connecticut Avenue NW.



Potential HAZMAT site along Connecticut Avenue NW.

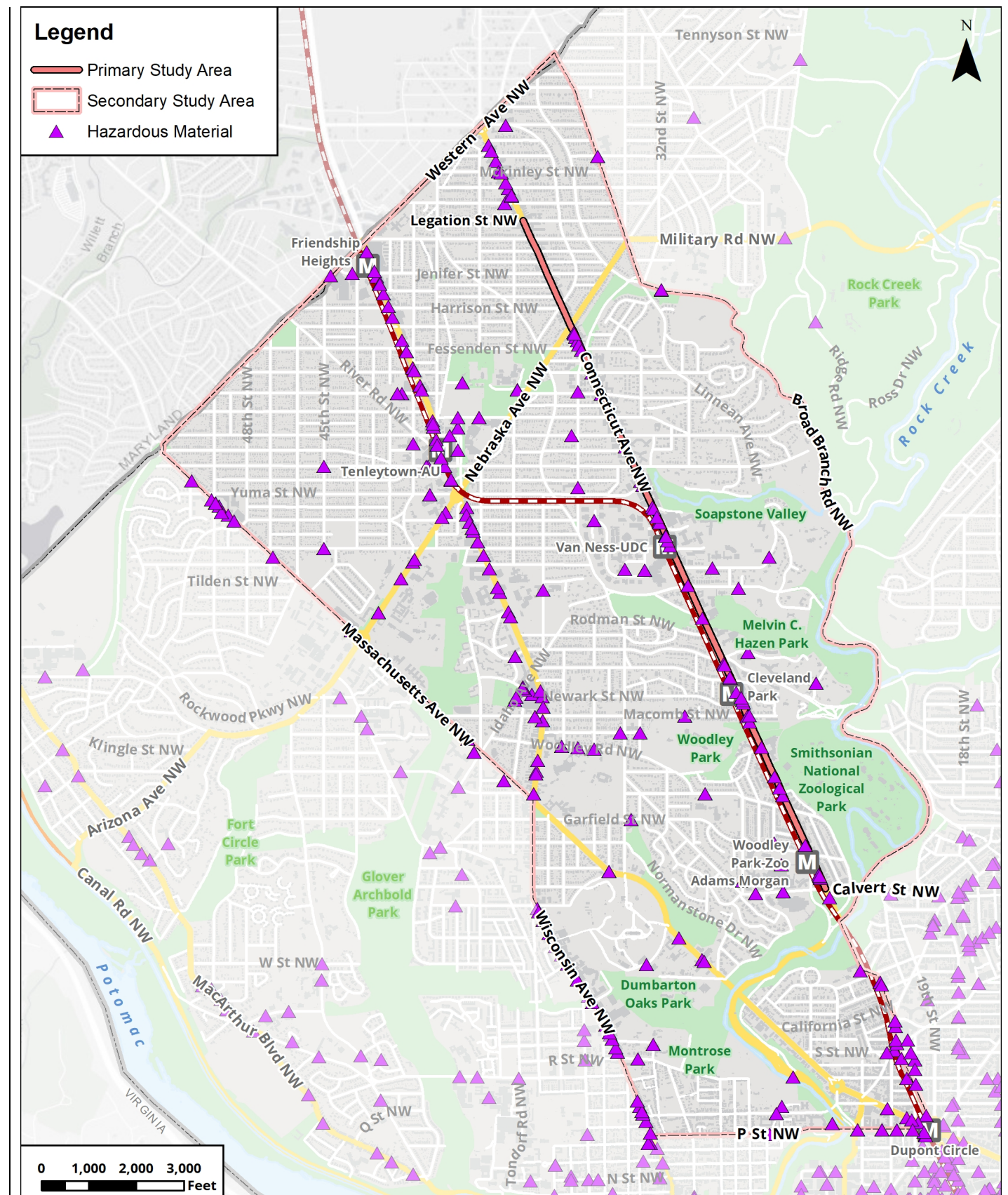


Figure 7 | Hazardous Material Sites