

2.9 NOISE

The existing noise environment is dominated by vehicle traffic on Connecticut Avenue NW.

Noise levels are important design parameters in the planning of transportation improvements and are subject to federal regulations. Noise criteria are set forth in 23 CFR 772 and Title 23 – Federal-Aid Highway Policy Guide, Section 772. The *District Department of Transportation Noise Policy* (January 10, 2011) states that a “sensitive receptor is a noise-sensitive location registering measurable sound levels as described in 23 CFR 772 – typically a residence or other use that would be negatively affected by noise.” FHWA’s Noise Abatement Criteria are detailed in **Table 6**, and based on these definitions, sensitive land uses located within the primary study area include:

- Numerous residences that can be categorized as Activity Category B
- Numerous historic sites, parks, and recreational trails, as previously detailed in Sections 2.5 and 2.6, that can be categorized as Activity Category C
- Numerous community facilities, as previously detailed in Section 2.2, that can be categorized as Activity Category D

Table 6 | FHWA Noise Criteria for Land Use / Activity Categories

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	Leq(H) (DBA)	DESCRIPTION OF LAND USE CATEGORY
A	57 (Exterior)	Lands on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose.
B	67 (Exterior)	Residential (including undeveloped lands permitted for this category).
C	67 (Exterior)	Active sport areas, amphitheatres, auditoriums, campgrounds, cemeteries, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, parks, picnic areas, places of worship, playgrounds, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, recreation areas, Section 4(f) sites, schools, television studios, trails, and trail crossings.
D	52 (Interior)	Auditoriums, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, places of worship, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, schools, and television studios.
E	72 (Exterior)	Hotels, motels, offices, restaurants/bars, and other developed lands, properties, or activities not included in A-D or F.
F	--	Agriculture, airports, bus yards, emergency services, industrial, logging, maintenance facilities, manufacturing, mining, rail yards, retail facilities, shipyards, utilities (water resources, water treatment, electrical), and warehousing.
G	--	Undeveloped lands that are not permitted (without building permits).

Note: Leq(h) activity criteria values are for impact determination only and are not design standards for noise abatement measures. All values are decibels (dBA).

2.10 AIR QUALITY

Air quality is regulated under the Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 USC 7401; 40 CFR 6, 51, 93) and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 and 1990. Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA set primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants: ozone (O3), particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and lead (Pb). Following the legislation, the Clean Air Act Amendments identified areas of the country as being in nonattainment of the NAAQS. States are required to submit State Implementation Plans (SIP) to bring these nonattainment areas into conformity with the NAAQS.

The District is classified nonattainment for the 2015 8-hour ozone standard and maintenance for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard and for CO (1971). The District is classified as attainment for all other criteria pollutants. Air quality data from the two air quality monitoring sites¹ closest to the study area were reviewed and no exceptions/exceedances of the ozone or CO NAAQS occurred during 2019.



View of Rock Creek Park from Klinge Valley Bridge.

¹ Air Monitoring Site ID 11-001-0050 Takoma Recreation Center at 301 Van Buren Street NW (Ozone only) and Air Monitoring Site ID 1-001-0043 McMillian Reservoir at 2500 First Street NW.

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