MARCH 2025

Anacostia Park
Washington, DC

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

REIMAGINE! ANACOSTIA PARK!

A Concept Plan for Sections D and E









REIMAGINE!
ANACOSTIA PARK!

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View of Anacostia Park wayfinding sign with the Anacostia River in the background.



REIMAGINE! ANACOSTIA PARK!

Executive Summary

Reimagine Anacostia Park! A Concept Plan for Sections D and E outlines potential improvements to address maintenance issues, increase access between activity hubs within the park and to nearby neighborhoods, restore and upgrade recreational amenities and community gathering spaces, enhance the visitor experience along the Anacostia River, and increase the resiliency of areas prone to flooding.

National Capital Parks—East (NACE) manages a diverse collection of urban park units across 98 locations and spanning more than 8,000 acres. Anacostia Park is a core component of NACE, encompassing approximately 1,100 acres of land along the Anacostia River. This plan provides an opportunity to advance efforts by the National Park Service (NPS) to manage NACE as a cohesive park and open space, and unlock the potential for areas that may be underused and under programmed. The plan is part of a larger ongoing effort to restore and protect the quality and resiliency of the river ecosystem and provide high quality naturalized spaces close to where people live that offer a wide range of recreational and educational programming.

The NPS initiated this planning effort to identify specific opportunities to meet the desired conditions articulated in the *2017 Anacostia Park Management Plan*. The NPS hopes that, in coordination with the public, the park can be revitalized. As such, the planning effort was named *Reimagine Anacostia Park! A Concept Plan for Sections D and E*, otherwise referred to as "the plan" in this document. Section D of Anacostia Park is located between the 11th Street Bridge and Pennsylvania Avenue SE, and Section E is located between Pennsylvania Avenue SE and the Anacostia Railroad Bridge (mapping is provided in the plan's introduction section). These two sections comprise the project area for this plan, and the plan aligns with the Small Area Plans by the District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP).

Anacostia Park is deeply connected to its surrounding communities and is integral to the quality of life of local residents. The NPS actively fosters partnerships that increase access to and the quality of recreational amenities and programs offered in this remarkable public space.

Concept Plan Recommendations

After the NPS established the vision statement and goals and analyzed existing conditions, the NPS developed preliminary, then revised design concepts and presented those to the stakeholders and community through a series of public meetings and outreach events. The community shared their preferences on recreational amenities and programs and voiced concerns about operations, maintenance, and sustainability. The resulting design concepts are presented in this plan.

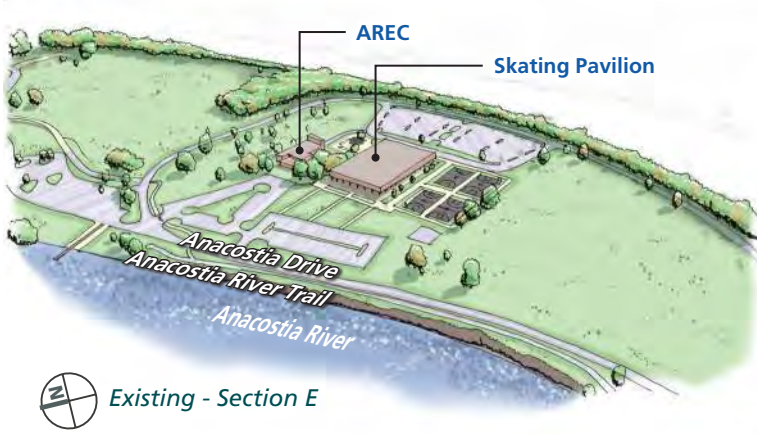
The concepts follow three different focuses for the park:

- **Concept 1: Building on a Strong Foundation**
  - Reinforces the park's existing activity nodes and structure by rehabilitating and upgrading recreational and community amenities.
- **Concept 2: Planning for Resilience**
  - Emphasizes the park's natural hydrology and allows some areas of the park to occasionally flood as a water management strategy. Key facilities such as new recreation fields and picnic areas are located on higher ground, where possible, to provide protection from flooding.
- **Concept 3: Enhancing Park Activities**
  - Increases water access and development of community and recreational amenities near the river while providing a framework of community spaces throughout the park.

While each concept is distinct from the others, there are many overlaps in ideas and programming among them. For example, all concepts provide additional passive recreation spaces such as picnic shelters, barbecues, and picnic tables. All concepts aim to support the ecological health of the park and the river while providing the community with a variety of recreational opportunities. The primary differences between the concepts are in the organization of space within the park and the balance of design elements that address each of the goal areas.

The bird's eye sketches on the next page highlight some of the similarities and differences between the three concepts. More detail is provided in the Recommendations chapter.

From here, the NPS can pursue partnerships and funding to implement desired elements of the three concepts. The NPS may choose a mix-and-match approach to implementing the concepts as there is no preferred alternative identified as part of this plan. Rather, the three concepts collectively represent the community's and the NPS's ideas, vision, and wishes for the future.

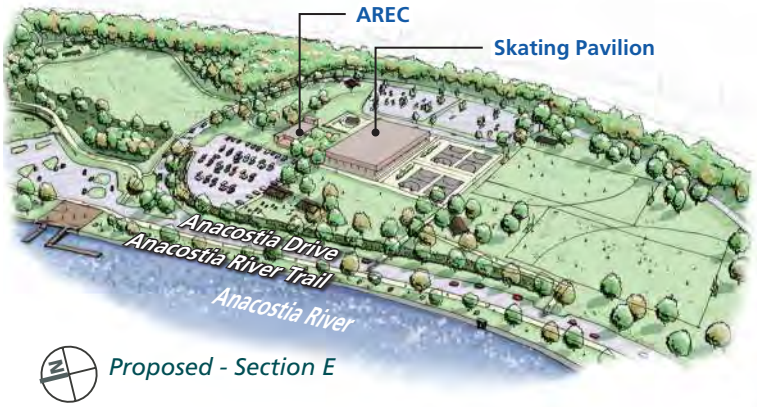


Existing - Section E

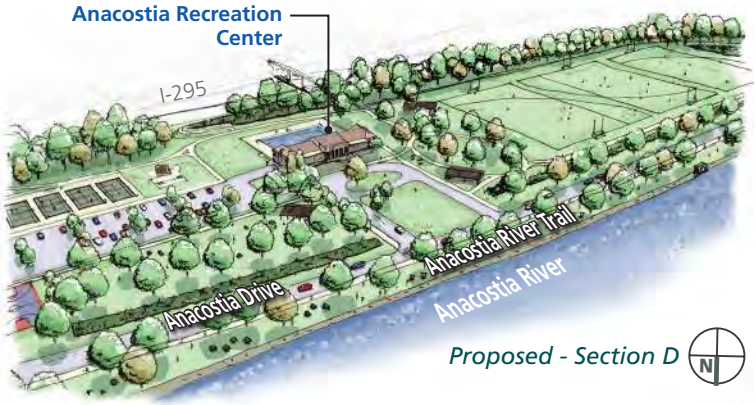


Existing - Section D

Concept 1 - Building on a Strong Foundation

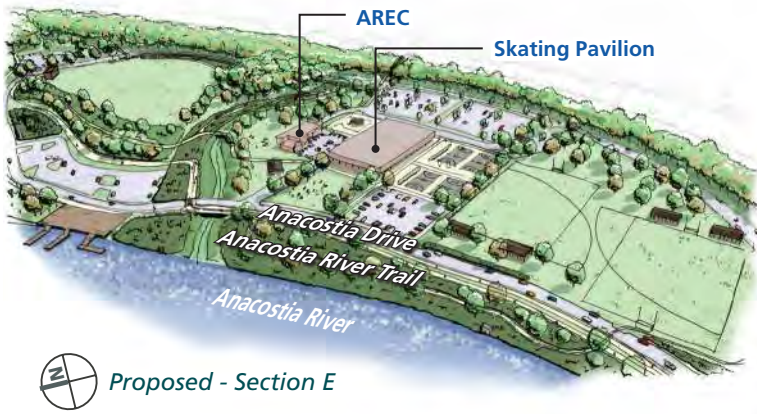


Proposed - Section E



Proposed - Section D

Concept 2 - Planning for Resilience

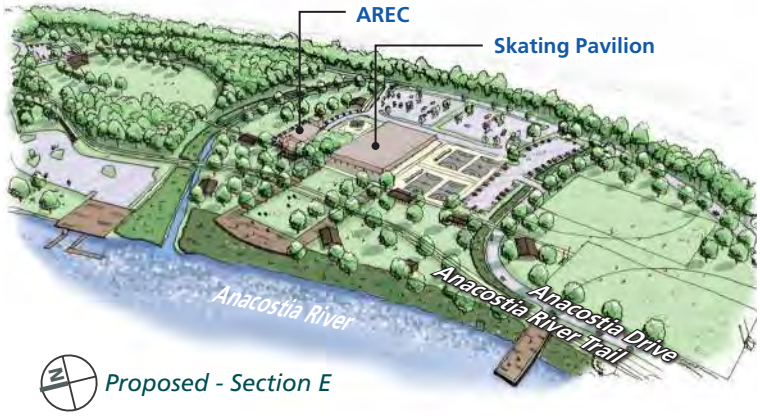


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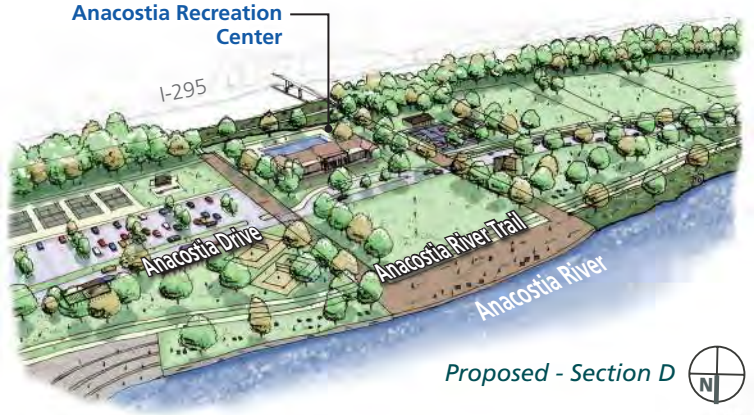


Proposed - Section D

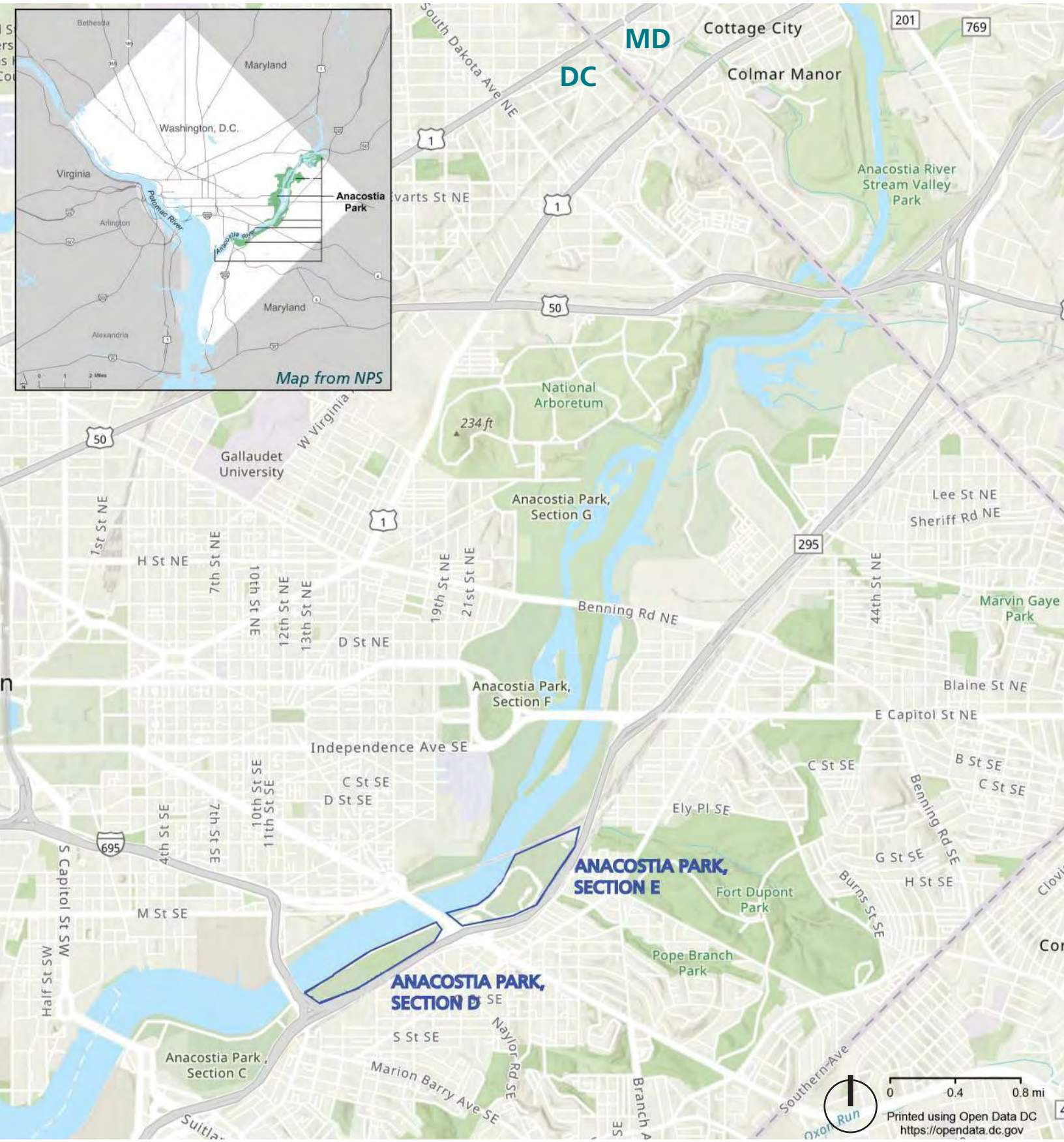
Concept 3 - Enhancing Park Activities



Proposed - Section E



Proposed - Section D



Project Area



REIMAGINE! ANACOSTIA PARK

Introduction

Anacostia Park (the park) extends from the District of Columbia and Maryland border south to the mouth of the Anacostia River at Poplar Point. The legislation that created the park identified the following purposes for the park, parkway, and playground system:

- Prevent pollution of the Anacostia River (as well as Rock Creek and the Potomac River)
- Preserve the forest and natural scenery in and about Washington, DC
- Meet the park and recreation needs of Washington, DC, residents

For this plan, the NPS focused on the portion of the park on the east side of the Anacostia River between the 11th Street Bridge and the Anacostia Railroad Bridge, known as Sections D and E of the park (see map on opposite page). Sections D and E (the project area) have most of the public facilities and permitted spaces managed by the NPS across the park.

Purpose of Planning Process

The purposes of the planning process are to evaluate the existing conditions of the project area and develop a set of recommendations that improve access from nearby neighborhoods and trails; support current and future community use, park programming, and special events; address maintenance issues; adapt infrastructure to support use and improve accessibility; and increase resiliency of facilities in areas of frequent flooding. These recommendations should:

» Be consistent with the legislative purpose for the park

» Be rooted in an appreciation for the culture of the surrounding neighborhoods and community desires for the future

» Advance the *2017 Anacostia Park Management Plan* preferred alternative:
  - Expand land- and water-based recreation to meet needs of communities; improve river landscape ecology
  - Consolidate infrastructure supporting sports play while maintaining or slightly expanding capacity; no major new additions
  - Enhance public access to the river

Throughout the planning process, the NPS sought the community's guidance and feedback on how to best develop and reimagine the project area; this included three comment periods and multiple in-park events during which they collected ideas and sought feedback from the community. The NPS also consulted numerous federal and local agencies and community-based partners.

Considering existing conditions, local context, and other related planning efforts (see appendix A), the NPS incorporated this feedback into a set of recommendations for park improvements that will enhance visitors' experience while protecting natural and cultural resources. This plan provides a framework for the future development and use of the project area by addressing existing issues within the park and opportunities for improvement.



NPS Ranger talks with a young park visitor at a Buddy Bison Program event

Scope of the Project

While the plan proposes substantial improvements to the project area, some elements in the project area are not included in the scope of this project. Namely, physical or programmatic changes to the Anacostia Field House, Pool, and Pavilion are not included as part of this plan; however, improvements to some of these facilities are planned as part of other projects, as described in the section on the Great American Outdoors Act below.

As described in the "Moving Forward" section, actions included in this plan will be reviewed holistically to determine and understand the potential implications of new uses or changes to facilities, programming, and operations and maintenance as a follow-up to the publication of this document.

Additionally, this plan is not a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document and no decisions regarding the future of the park have been made. This plan provides only recommendations for the project area and is meant to help determine future compliance requirements.

The Great American Outdoors Act Funded Projects

In 2020, The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) established the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) to address deferred maintenance across the Department of Interior's portfolio. While working on the plan, the NPS received GAOA funding to improve recreational facilities in NPS sites in northeast and southeast Washington, DC, including Anacostia Park. The funding supports efforts to update or replace in-kind the tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, picnic pavilions, restrooms, fencing, and lighting. Additional funding has been proposed to rehabilitate the Anacostia Skating Pavilion. Facilities that receive part of this funding will be rehabilitated and restored in-kind, and this has been factored into the concepts.

Because the following areas are to be improved through the GAOA funded project, no further changes are recommended in this plan:

- Existing tennis and pickleball courts near the Anacostia Field House and Pool
- Existing basketball courts near the skating pavilion
- Three existing playgrounds
- Picnic area near the pirate ship playground



Historic, black-and-white photo of the Anacostia mud flats

Project Background

Historical Context

A vibrant American Indian culture evolved around the abundance of fish, game, and other natural resources of the Anacostia River for at least 10,000 years. In the 17th century, the Nacotchtank were the primary residents along the eastern shore of the Anacostia. One of the main villages stood near the park's entrance at modern-day Marion Barry Avenue. Englishman John Smith explored the Anacostia in 1608. Smith's arrival heralded both the rapid settlement of the land east of the Anacostia River by English colonists and the rapid decline of the Nacotchtanks. The name "Anacostia" is a Latinization of the Algonquian name *Nacotchtank*, which means "the place at the water's edge to trade."

In the 200 years following European colonization, the river suffered. Clearcutting of forests to make way for tobacco farming led to erosion and silting of the river. The once-deep river became shallow and filled with mudflats. The river was seen as a backwater of the nation's capital. In 1880, most of the city's sewer lines ran to the Anacostia. Even so, much of the area was agrarian in use. Due to erosion and flooding, the shoreline changed over time. To keep the channel deep enough to service the Navy Yard, the federal government dredged the river. In the early 1900s, the Army Corps constructed a sea wall on the banks of the Anacostia, dredging the river bottom and using the sediment to fill in the wetlands behind the wall forming the shoreline and park lands that exist today. Park construction and landscaping projects continued throughout the 1920's and 1930's.

Most of the land known as Anacostia Park was created under the authority of the Anacostia River Flats Act of 1914 (Public Law 63-145, 38 Stat. 517, 549). This act called for the construction of a sea wall along the bank of the Anacostia River, the dredging of the waterway, and the use of river sediment to create "new" land that would meet the needs of Washington, DC's, growing population. Although it was first envisioned in 1902 in the McMillan Plan as part of a coordinated park system for the district, the park was not officially incorporated into the park, parkway, and playground system of the nation's capital until 1924 with the passing of Public Law 68-202, 43 Stat. 463. The park then came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service in 1933 under the authority of the Capper-Cramton Act (PL 71-284), which tasked the NPS with working to preserve the flow of water and prevent pollution in the Anacostia River, preserve forests and natural scenery in and about Washington, DC, and provide recreational opportunities for visitors and residents in the nation's capital.

The park opened as a segregated park with 11th Street Bridge as the dividing line. South of 11th Street were Black recreation areas with few amenities; north of 11th street were White recreation areas, which included a pool, recreation center, golf course, and sports fields. By the early 1950s, the park had become largely integrated. However, urban development including highway construction in the 1960s physically separated Anacostia Park from neighboring communities.

Anacostia Pool was built in 1936 as a New Deal project under the Public Works Administration. The pool was administered by DC government as a segregated pool. Civil rights advocates sought to integrate the pool, and a large riot occurred on June 29, 1949, which resulted in the closure of the pool for the summer. The pool reopened in 1950 as a fully integrated facility. This paved the way for the full integration of pools and recreational spaces in the nation's capital.

For a few decades, there were no large-scale infrastructure improvements in the park. To encourage people to come, the NPS built a large skating pavilion in the 1970s. Roller-skating had been popular in the park since the 1930s, and the idea for the pavilion came from the community.

In 1986, the old golf course headquarters was retrofitted to become the Aquatic Resources Education Center (AREC), intended to highlight the native fish species of the Anacostia River and combine an educational component with the recreational pavilion next door. These two buildings, together with the boat launch nearby, were designed to activate Section E of the park.

In 2007, the Anacostia River Trail connected segmented sections of the park as well as other regional trails—offering visitors hiking, jogging, and biking experiences along the water.

Over the past several decades, the NPS and its partners have expanded recreational facilities and programming throughout the park. The southeast quadrant of the District has been the subject of numerous studies and planning efforts, including the *Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan and Report*, the *Anacostia Park Management*

Plan, and the *Ready2Play DC Master Plan*, among others. These studies and plans consistently highlight opportunities to restore the Anacostia River, improve waterfront access, and preserve and enhance the quality of life for residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. During the planning process, the NPS reviewed these plans and studies to understand how the revitalization of Anacostia Park fits into a collective, long-range vision for the area. A summary of the key studies and plans is provided below. See appendix A for a list of local and regional planning efforts that interface with a portion of the park.

Related Plans and Studies

Foundation Document

In September 2016, the NPS released the *Foundation Document for the National Capital Parks—East*, the unit under which the park is administered. The enabling legislation that led to the development of the park and the NPS's mandate were the basis for the park's purpose statement. The purpose statement, which is derived from the 1924 enabling legislation, is as follows:

Anacostia Park, which includes the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, preserves forests and contributes to the protection of the water quality of the Anacostia River, protects historic, scenic, and natural resources and values, and provides high quality waterfront recreation opportunities for the local community and the visiting public.

Anacostia Park Management Plan

In 2017, the NPS released the *Anacostia Park Management Plan*, which was a programmatic planning document that identified a vision for the park and provided the framework for decision-making regarding the management of the park's natural and cultural resources and the types of visitor experiences that the park will offer. The framework established in the management plan was the foundation for the recommendations offered in this current plan regarding the revitalization of recreational opportunities in the park.

Ready2Play DC Initiative

Ready2Play is an ambitious, people-centered proposal for the DC parks and recreation system that charts a bold path forward for planning, design, programming, and operations over the next 20 years. It is focused on addressing existing inequities in the park system through future investment and operations and in meeting the needs of residents in every neighborhood now and into the future.

Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan

In 2024, the DC Department of Energy and Environment released the *Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan* that detailed restoration plans for the Anacostia River intended to dramatically reduce pollutant loads, protect and restore ecological integrity, improve fish passage, increase wetland acreage, expand forest cover, and increase public and private partnership.

11th Street Bridge Park

The 11th Street Bridge Park is a future public park proposed by a public-private partnership that will span the width of the Anacostia River atop the piers that held the original 11th Street bridge before it was replaced. This park will include pedestrian connections between both shores of the Anacostia River as well as green spaces, an open plaza, and areas for recreation.

Related Policies, Regulations, and Guidance

There are several related NPS and other federal, state, and local legal standards and regulatory requirements that are applicable to the plan for the project area. See appendix B for a list of these relevant policies, regulations, and guidelines for the plan.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement Process

The NPS provided multiple opportunities for public and stakeholder participation in the development of this project (see appendix D).

Vision and Goals

Stakeholder Meeting

The initial step in development of the goals for the plan and the vision for the project area was asking key stakeholders for early input. The NPS held a goals workshop on March 25, 2021 with 16 stakeholders from local agencies and community organizations including: National Capital Planning Commission; Commission of Fine Arts; District Departments of Transportation, Energy and Environment, and Parks and Recreation; Council of Governments; Friends of Oxon Run Park; Prince Charitable Trusts; Fairlawn Citizens Association; Anacostia Watershed Society; Anacostia Riverkeepers; and Anacostia Park and Community Collaboration; Clean Water Action; and Clean Water Fund. Additional workshop attendees included staff from NPS, Federal Highway Administration, VHB, and GWWO.

Workshop discussions focused on the following six topics and starter questions:

Access and Connections

- Does the park appropriately connect to adjacent communities, the Anacostia River, and the greater city?
- What single element of the park's connectivity and access do you think is the most challenging?

Community Relevancy

- What populations currently do not have access to the park?
- What is the park missing to better align with community needs?

Culture, History, and Interpretation

» How can this project and the park ensure authenticity in its recommendations and future implementation?

» The park has a storied and long history. How can we more actively engage visitors in this history while balancing the park's recreational uses?

Resiliency, Adaptability, Natural Resources, and Ecology

» Like the park, the Anacostia River is a critical and endangered regional resource. What elements of the park and great ecological system are critical to protect/enhance?

» How can this project help the park adapt to change and strive for resiliency in potentially unforeseen natural disaster events?

Health, Wellness, Sports, and Recreation

» There are a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the park, how can this project help confirm, organize, and support their use?

» Given the new sports fields located at RFK, where do Anacostia Park's fields fit in the greater recreation landscape?

» "Parks are cornerstones of people's physical, mental, spiritual health, and social well-being" – Diana B. Allen (NPS)

- How can we ensure that Anacostia Park becomes a health resource for the local community?

Tourism, Economy, Use, Program, and Education

» Is there an opportunity to expand/enhance the concessions on-site? If so, what would its mission be?

» Are there opportunities not realized at the park to enhance its reputation as a destination to visitors outside of local neighborhood and city residents? If so, what are they?

The NPS collected a wide range of input on these topics during the workshop. Workshop attendees reviewed a draft vision statement together, providing feedback on desired elements to be added, changed, or retained. The NPS used this input to consolidate key elements of the six topic areas above into four goals and to develop a revised vision statement for review by the public.

Vision Statement

"This reimagined portion of Anacostia Park welcomes and inspires a wide range of visitors while providing opportunities to connect with others and engage with the Anacostia River. The site's nationally significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources are part of daily life in Washington, DC; they promote community wellbeing. The park is resilient, safe, and well-maintained, with strong connections to communities, partners, and the river ecosystem. Park patrons feel a sense of belonging and therefore value the park, engage in its programming, and serve as active stewards of its future."

Goals

The following goals were developed for this planning effort:



Access & Connectivity

Improve the safety and accessibility of the park and increase connectivity between the park and the surrounding neighborhoods as well as between different nodes of activity within the park.



Community Fellowship

Increase the quality and quantity of passive recreation opportunities within the project area, focused on social, cultural, and community gathering spaces and hosting events.



Waterfront Activation

Enhance the visitor experience and connectivity to and from the Anacostia River by celebrating the site's history, ecology, and restoration efforts through educational and recreational opportunities.



Active Recreation

Restore and improve the active recreation fields and other organized sport amenities within the project area.

Public Meeting

During the first public touch point for the plan, the NPS shared the vision statement and goals for the project with the public during a 45-day comment period that was initially advertised for June 29, 2021, through July 29, 2021, and was later extended through August 15, 2021.

Prior to the end of the comment period, members of the public were invited to join a virtual public meeting on June 29, 2021, via Zoom. A total of 139 individuals attended the virtual public meeting.

More than 350 individual comments were identified out of 110 emails, letters, and entries in the NPS's Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) system, otherwise known as pieces of correspondence. Comments are individual ideas, issues, and suggestions that address a single subject within a correspondence.

Some comments focused on updates to the vision and goal statements, others were suggestions of what to include in the concepts. For **Access and Connectivity**, feedback focused on ways to improve and add to existing pedestrian access points into the project area from adjacent communities, as well as improving safety and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians. For **Active Recreation**, feedback focused on improving existing and adding new sports and other facilities for active recreation. For **Community Fellowship**, feedback focused on visibly incorporating the local history of the project area into the concept plans as well as ideas for programs, activities, and events. For **Waterfront Activation**, feedback focused on improving and restoring natural environments along the riverbanks, increasing recreational use of the Anacostia River, and incorporating educational opportunities related to the river. More information on this comment period is included in appendix D .

Following confirmation of the vision and goals for the plan, the NPS developed a set of early concepts to review with stakeholders in December 2021.

Early Concept Planning

Stakeholder Meeting

A stakeholder meeting was held on December 2, 2021, where participants provided feedback on elements of the early concepts. This feedback varied, but a common sentiment emerged: many park users value the park in its current configuration. The stakeholders expressed concern that many familiar uses were not reflected in the presented designs. The NPS recognized a need to restructure the planning process--specifically to deepen outreach and engagement efforts with the existing Anacostia Park visitors, Ward 7 & 8 residents, and community-based organizations with shared stewardship goals. In response to this, the NPS decided to expand its outreach approach before revisiting the proposed concepts.

Stakeholder Interviews

Justice & Sustainability Associates (JSA) joined the planning team in early 2022. JSA conducted interviews with participants from the December 2021 meeting to gain insights into their experiences, identify instances of confusion or communication breakdown, understand their immediate concerns about the plan, and learn how they would like to see communication improve moving forward.

Follow-up interviews were conducted in early 2023 to further assess the specific concerns that key stakeholders had regarding the proposed concepts. The NPS was encouraged to enhance its outreach efforts to the local community as part of the planning process. Stakeholders' concerns could be summarized in three main areas: community uses, environmental rehabilitation, and educating stakeholders about the process. The largest concern expressed by stakeholders was how community feedback on park uses and potential improvements influenced the concepts.

According to the interviews conducted by JSA, stakeholders indicated that the Friends of Anacostia Park played a pivotal role in gathering community feedback for the NPS. Feedback was collected at various Friends of Anacostia Park and NPS events, including a "Late Skate" event at the park, and input was received from at least 100 people and that input was absent during the December 2021 meeting. JSA and the design team collaborated with Friends of Anacostia Park to re-establish connections with a diverse array of stakeholders and visitors to the park to educate them on the design process and encourage their participation in upcoming public meetings. The themes of the collected comments aligned with the proposed goals of the plan: access and



The Anacostia River Trail in the springtime.

connectivity, waterfront activation, community fellowship, and active recreation. By actively engaging with a broad spectrum of stakeholders and visitors, the Friends of Anacostia Park significantly contributed to creating a more inclusive process.

Preliminary Design Concepts

Focus Groups

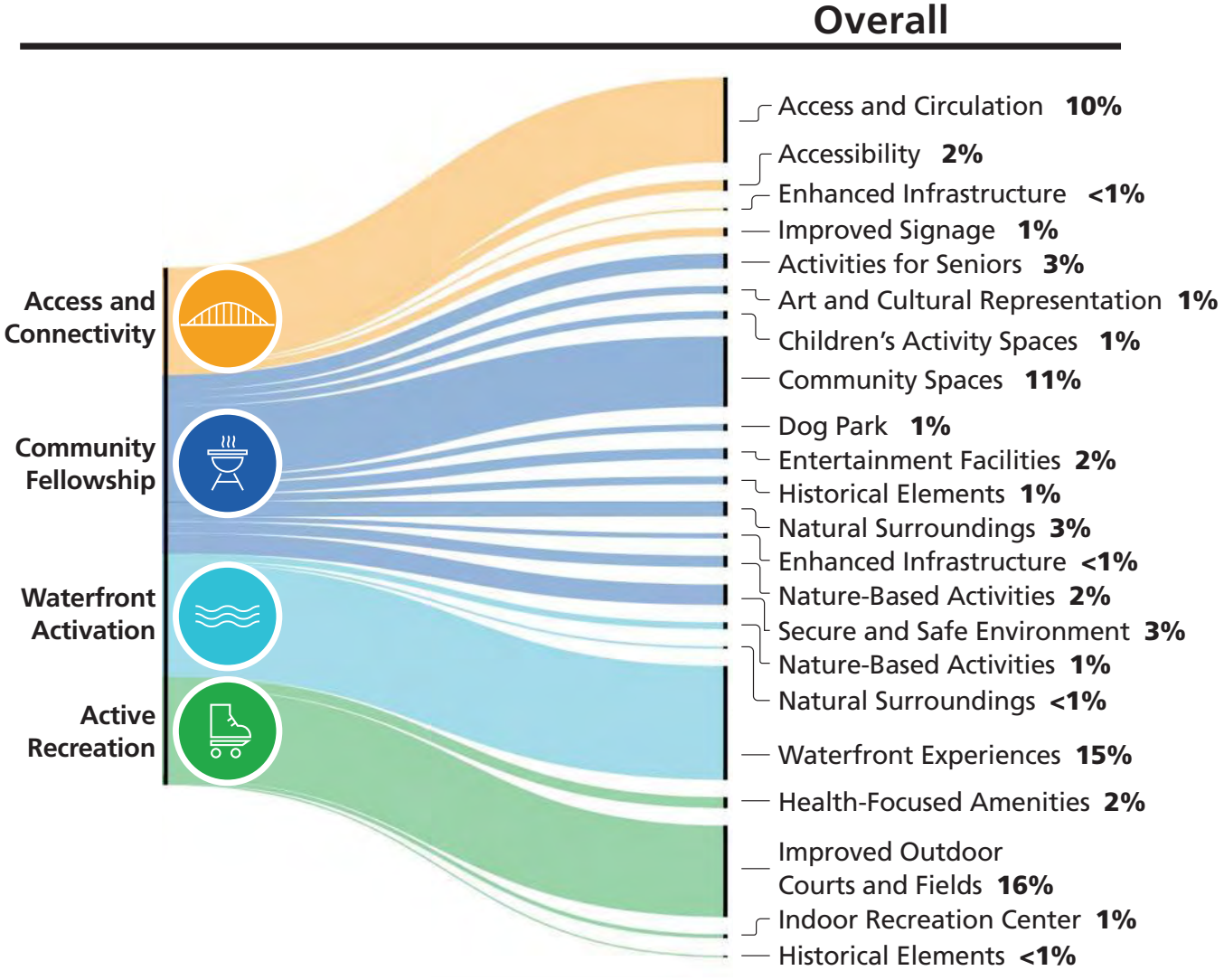
In conjunction with conducting stakeholder interviews, the planning team hosted focus group meetings and an on-site drop-in in March of 2023 for key stakeholders to review existing conditions, planning considerations, public comments, and design opportunities as they apply to each goal area. Ideas discussed during these meetings were used to develop similar materials for public review in the fall of 2023.

Public Meeting

The NPS opened a second public comment period from September 25, 2023 to December 1, 2023, with a virtual public meeting on September 27, 2023. The NPS summarized public feedback to date and requested additional feedback on the following questions:

- What in your view offers the best mix of playing fields, sport courts, and other amenities for active recreation?
- How can we improve opportunities for social, cultural, community gatherings and events?
- Would you prefer a natural shoreline, the historic seawall, or a combination of both?
- Would you like to enhance existing wetlands and introduce new, nature-based stormwater facilities to help with flooding?
- What experiences on or by the water are important to you?
- Would you like to see Pope Branch Stream flow through your park?
- What specific improvements would you like to see around access? What is your experience getting to different features of the park? What would you like to have better access to?
- Would you prefer to keep Anacostia Drive in its existing location or locate it away from the river for portions of the park?

Additionally, NPS provided updates on the plan and directions on how to comment at four community meetings between October 19, 2023 and November 7, 2023; at three tabled in-park events with the Friends of Anacostia Park between September 30, 2023 and October 28, 2023; and at three additional targeted outreach sessions with senior groups, hand dancers, and teens during the comment period. See appendix D for more details.



Second public comment period's comment analysis graphic showing major sub-themes to the four goal areas

NPS received a total of 192 pieces of correspondence with 985 individual comments identified. Demographics data showed that 70 percent of respondents were from Washington, DC, zip codes.

As depicted in the graphic above, community feedback was organized into overall themes and sub-themes that helped to further refine the project goals and guide the development of revised concepts.

Overall themes within **Access and Connectivity** included access and circulation, accessibility, enhanced infrastructure, and improved signage. The key takeaway from this feedback was the community's desire for additional walking and biking trails and better connections to surrounding neighborhoods. As a result, all concepts show improved access to the neighborhoods and an increase in the number of walking and biking trails.

Overall themes within **Community Fellowship** included activities for seniors, art and cultural representation, children's activity spaces, community spaces, dog parks, enhanced infrastructure, entertainment facilities, historical elements, natural surroundings, nature-based activities, and secure and safe environment. The key takeaway from this feedback was that the community wants fellowship spaces like outdoor eating and social areas, recreational variety for all ages, and more nature-based activities and natural areas. As a result, all concepts provide a performance / covered space, more natural areas, and recreational activities for all ages.

Overall themes within **Waterfront Activation** included waterfront experiences, environmental sustainability, natural surroundings, and nature-based activities. The key takeaway from this feedback was the community's desire for more access to the water for boating, fishing, and other nature-based activities. As a result, all concepts restructure the waterfront with places to kayak, canoe, fish, and enjoy other nature-based recreation.

Overall themes within **Active Recreation** included health focused amenities, historical elements, improved outdoor courts and fields, and indoor recreation centers. The key takeaway from this feedback was the community's desire for tennis and pickleball courts, recreational sports fields, and basketball courts. As a result, all concepts include improved courts and multi-use fields and courts.

Revised Design Concepts

Stakeholder Meeting

On May 9, 2024, the NPS hosted a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting with stakeholders to review fully developed concepts based on the community feedback discussed during the prior planning phase. The planning team made some adjustments to these materials prior to initiating the public review of these concepts.

Public Meeting

On June 25, 2024, the NPS hosted a third public meeting. This was a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting to collect feedback on the revisions that had been made to the concepts based on feedback from previous engagement meetings and events. The meeting was attended by 81 people in-person and 45 people online.

The meeting was followed by a comment period that lasted from June 25th, 2024 to August 30, 2024. Additionally, 18 in-park events, including Late Skates, Community Fishing, the Lotus and Lily Festival, Project Open House, Skating Pavilion Information Sessions, and open houses were held between June 29,2024 and August 28,2024 to collect public feedback (see appendix D). During the comment period and in-park events, the community was asked to respond to the following questions:

» What do you like about concept one? What would you change about concept one?

» What do you like about concept two? What would you change about concept two?

- What do you like about concept three? What would you change about concept three?
- What is the one improvement to Anacostia Park that you would most like to see?
- Choose between the following options for reducing conflict between vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and others along the waterfront:
  - Option 1: Add a bike lane to Anacostia Drive
  - Option 2: Create a separate trail for bicycles next to the existing trail.
  - Option 3: Widen the Anacostia River Trail.
  - Option 4: Keep existing layout for the Anacostia Drive and Anacostia River Trail.
- Do you have any additional thoughts?

In addition to the feedback heard during the public meeting, more than 250 pieces of correspondence were received with more than 1,000 individual comments identified. The feedback collected during the meeting and the public comment were organized into eight overall themes that were summarized as follows, and used to guide the final phase of concept development:

- **Natural Elements and Green Spaces:** Public comments emphasized preserving and expanding green spaces and tree canopy. The community expressed interest in the development of new forested area, more naturalized spaces like wildlife gardens, and maintaining natural shoreline. The proposal to daylight Pope Branch and enhance nature- based stormwater management efforts were strongly supported.
- **Accessibility and Connectivity:** The community placed high priority on improving pedestrian and cycling access within the project area and from surrounding neighborhoods, creating more naturalized walking paths away from the road, and separating pedestrian walkways from bike paths.
- **Parking and Traffic Management:** Feedback on whether or not to relocate Anacostia Drive away from waterfront was mixed. Those in favor of keeping the road in it's existing location noted that driving along the water is an important experience to preserve, while those in favor of road realignment articulated ecological benefits or a preference for other recreational uses.
- **Recreational Facilities and Spaces:** The community expressed appreciation for a variety of sports facilities including basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and multi-use fields, and requested an enclosed dog park for both small and large dogs, improved play areas for children, and unprogrammed spaces for individual exercise and rest. There was particularly strong support for dedicated tennis and pickleball courts. Despite strong support for a range of sporting amenities, concerns were also expressed about recreational spaces that increase impermeable surface area in the park.

- **Waterfront and Water-Based Activities:** There was strong support for naturalizing the edges of both the river and a day-lit Pope Branch stream, and for additional waterfront amenities including kayak/canoe launches, fishing piers, and picnic areas. The waterfront plaza, waterfront paths, and variety of waterfront amenities were popular ideas, but users expressed concerns about the introduction of impervious surfaces, the potential for over- crowding, and the obstruction of waterfront views.
- **Community and Cultural Integration:** Public feedback articulated a desire for more cultural and historical features, such as local art, murals, and plaques highlighting Anacostia's history. There was also strong support for community-centric amenities like picnic pavilions and event spaces that promote fellowship, as well as requests for more educational opportunities.
- **Facilities and Amenities:** Visitors to the park called for more restroom facilities, shaded playground areas, pavilions, seating, and water fountains or refill stations. They suggested upgrading existing recreational facilities and infrastructure to better serve community needs and accommodate different age groups. There were concerns about maintenance and a specific request for more trash receptacles throughout the park.
- **Safety and Infrastructure Enhancements:** The community placed high importance on adding safety lighting and emergency call boxes along trails and around recreational areas. They expressed concerns about unprotected bike lanes and suggested the inclusion of physical barriers and an increase in the separation of uses to improve safety. Finally, there was concern regarding water quality and the potential for compromised public health and safety due to lack of maintenance.



A man roller-blading at the skating pavilion



An adult and two children fish off the boat launch pier



Current Conditions

Loved by the local community, Anacostia Park currently features rich cultural and historic facilities, recreation courts and fields, and places to enjoy the waterfront and community fellowship.

Current Facilities and Recreation Opportunities

Access and Connectivity

Gateways

Early in the project, community members identified access and circulation to be a top priority for improvement in the project area. Interstate 295 creates a physical barrier between the park and the surrounding neighborhoods, limiting access to the project area to just a few spots.

The project area is most easily accessed by car, entering via Marion Barry Avenue SE to Anacostia Drive and via Nicholson Street SE. Some community members noted that entering the project area at these locations lacks a sense of arrival: due to limited signage or other indicators, it is difficult to know when you have entered the park.

Most pedestrians and cyclists enter the project area via the Anacostia River Trail. The trail is a popular, twelve-mile-long trail on both sides of the Anacostia River through the greater Anacostia Park. The entire trail is paved and pedestrians and cyclists share the path. This shared use can cause conflicts and congestion on the trail.

Other gateways for pedestrians and cyclists include a vehicular-pedestrian tunnel under Interstate 295 on Nicholson Street SE; a pedestrian bridge over the Interstate at 16th Street SE; and via sidewalks from the Pennsylvania Avenue SE bridge. Community members expressed concern about these gateways, especially the Nicholson Street SE tunnel, noting that the routes feel unsafe, unpleasant, and need better lighting. The sidewalks need repair as they are uneven and broken in many places, limiting universal accessibility by these routes.

Circulation

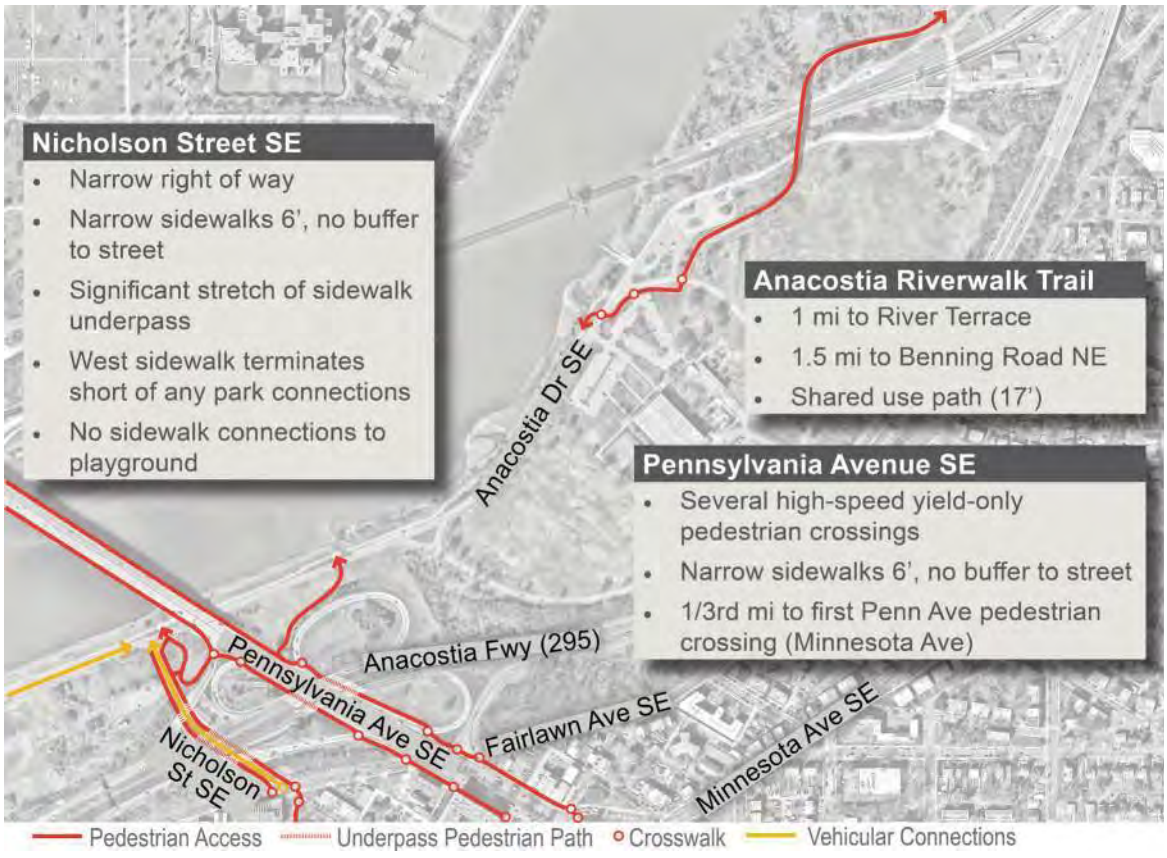
Within the project area, the primary pedestrian and vehicular circulation routes follow the Anacostia River. These include Anacostia Drive and the Anacostia River Trail. Anacostia Drive has parallel parking along much of its length, and many community members enjoy this close parking access to the river. Anacostia Drive sometimes experiences congestion during high-traffic events, and some drivers exceed the speed limit, causing safety concerns. The Anacostia River Trail does not have separated pedestrian and bicycle lanes, which causes additional safety concerns. Finally, Anacostia Drive crosses the trail twice in Section E, causing potential pedestrian-vehicular conflicts.

In addition to Anacostia Drive and Anacostia River Trail, the park has some sidewalks and parking access near key areas of the park, namely at the Anacostia Recreation Center, the Pirate Ship Playground, Anacostia Park Roller Skating Pavilion, and at the Anacostia Park Boat Ramp. These interior sidewalks are either not connected to each other, or their connections are not clearly visible, making the project area less accessible. This lack of connection has led to some "desire trails" in the project area, meaning there are footpaths or vehicular paths worn into lawn areas in certain locations. Most of the desire trails are associated with access to recreation fields while others are associated with river access.

Opportunities for Improvement

The community was united in requesting additional and improved pedestrian gateways into the project area from nearby neighborhoods and in improving accessibility within the project area. Ideas requested from the community include:

- Better lighting, signage, and repairing sidewalks were the most requested improvements.
- Additional gateways over or under Interstate 295, though the NPS would need to coordinate with other government agencies to implement this request.
- Better signage and wayfinding, including opportunities for public art.
- Separating pedestrians and cyclists or widening the path could reduce conflicts on the Anacostia River Trail.
- Realigning Anacostia Drive in Section E would remove the two Anacostia River Trail crosswalks and eliminate the pedestrian and vehicular conflict in that area.
- Realigning other parts of Anacostia Drive to be more curvilinear would help to reduce speeds; other speed reducing design interventions should also be considered such as speed bumps and narrowing the road.
- Making the Anacostia Drive loop in Section E one-way would improve traffic congestion during popular events in the park.





Access & connectivity analysis maps of Sections D (below) and E (above).



Left: A side view of the boat launch with logs and sticks in the foreground and the Anacostia River in the background. Right: A historic outfall with concrete steps and jagged stone edges.

Waterfront Activation

Waterfront Activities

Park visitors enjoy the park's proximity to the Anacostia River and see the river as a primary attraction in the park. Patrons enjoy fishing along the sea wall and taking in views of the river. The primary experience and access to the river is along Anacostia Drive and the Anacostia River Trail, though neither takes visitors to the water's edge. The only direct water access in the project area is at the boat launch. Additionally, Anacostia River Trail and Anacostia Drive's proximity to the water limits waterfront gatherings and waterfront amenities. Community members expressed interest in having more access to the water and additional recreational opportunities like swimming and picnicking in the project area.

Boat Launch

The existing boat launch is a popular place to access the Anacostia River; however, the boat launch is not universally accessible. The current configuration tends to collect debris from the river and needs frequent maintenance. While the boat launch works well for larger boats, it is somewhat difficult to launch kayaks and canoes from this location or anywhere else in the project area. Even so, community members do use the boat launch to access the river in canoes and kayaks. The boat launch is also used as a fishing pier since it has unobstructed access to the water.

Sea Wall

The existing sea wall was built by the United States Army Corps of Engineers as part of the project to fill in the marshlands along the Anacostia Riverbank. It stretches the length of the project area and beyond. The sea wall needs repairs along most of the stretch along the project area as the wall is crumbling and falling into the river in some

sections. Additionally, the height of the seawall might not be adequate for future water elevations due to sea level rise. The sea wall is historic and contributes to the cultural landscape; community members want to preserve parts of the sea wall but are also interested in a more natural approach to the river's edge.

Vegetation, much of it invasive species, grows along nearly the full length of the sea wall in the project area. The vegetation and the wall itself limit access to the river. Areas where the vegetation clears have become popular fishing and picnicking spots.

Stormwater

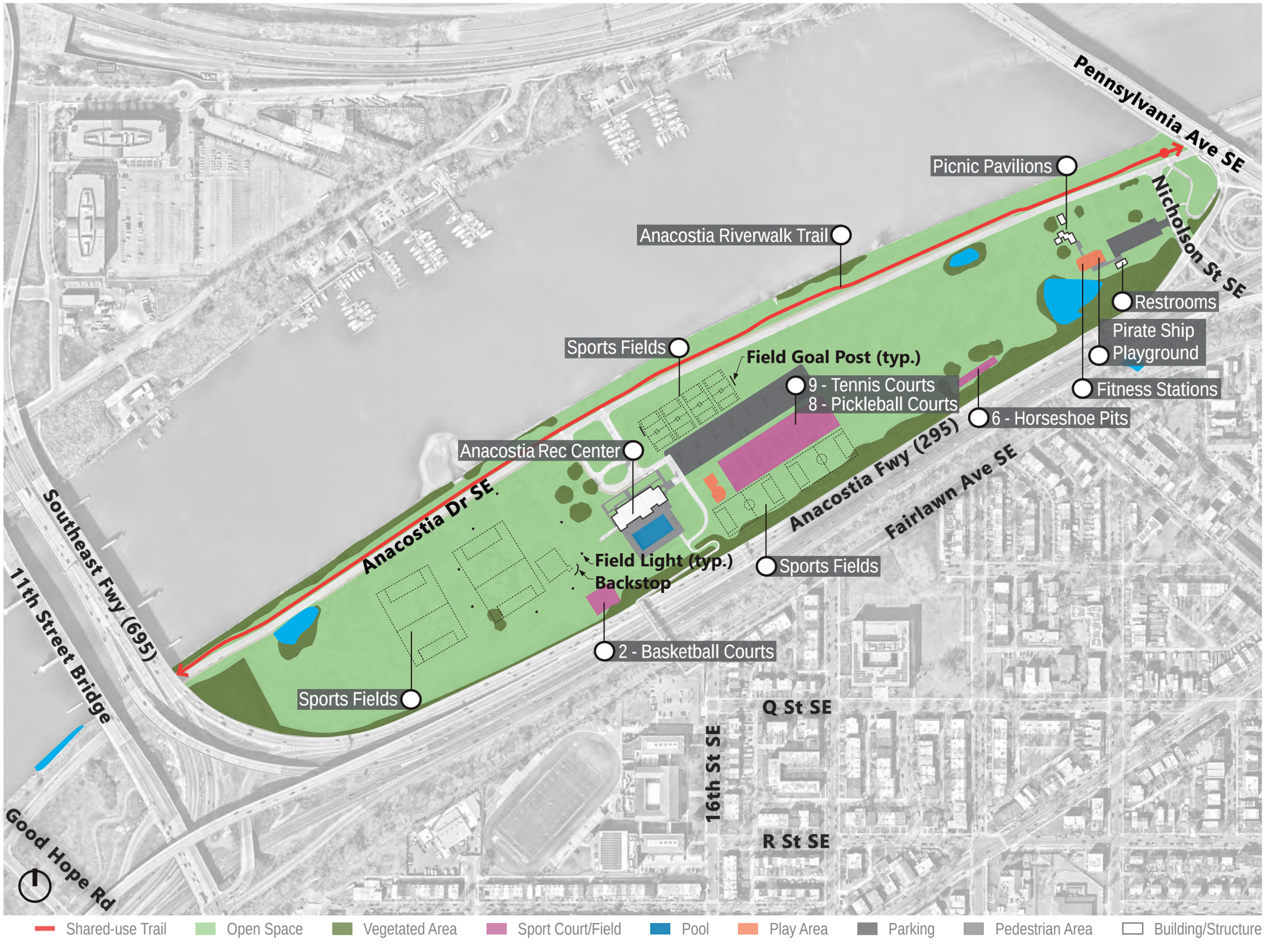
The project area is in the Anacostia River watershed and contributes to the health of the river. Stormwater reaches the river through the project area in two ways: first via overland flow, and second via underground stormwater pipes that cross the project area. Some of these pipes were built in the early 20th century and have outfall structures integrated into the historic sea wall. These structures currently act as popular river overlooks and fishing access. Additionally, they contribute to the historic landscape along the Anacostia River Trail.

Pope Branch flows through the project area in an underground pipe. Further upstream, Pope Branch is "daylit," meaning it is free flowing and not in a pipe. Having the stream in a pipe through the project area cuts off the mouth of the stream to its headwaters, reduces the stream's ecological function, and destroys valuable stream habitat. Public comments demonstrate interest in daylighting Pope Branch as an amenity to park visitors.

Opportunities for Improvement

Due to the sea wall, existing vegetation, and the proximity of Anacostia Drive and Anacostia River Trail to the river, there are limited areas to access the Anacostia River and to activate the waterfront. It is challenging to launch smaller boats at the boat ramp and there are only a few areas from which to view the water or to go fishing. Suggestions to improve this area include:

- Having a more varied waterfront experience like removing parts of the sea wall and replacing with naturalized shoreline.
- Building fishing piers and kayak launch points.
- Providing a direct water access area would give visitors more options for interacting with and enjoying the water.
- Realigning and raising Anacostia Drive would protect the road from sea level rise and provide additional waterfront space for activities.



Existing Land Use and Facilities map of Section D



Existing Land Use and Facilities map of Section E

Active Recreation

Sports Fields

Anacostia Park has several athletic sports fields in the project area. These fields are used by permitted groups and for quick pick-up games; however, many need repair or improvements. Sports fields in the north field in Section E tend to have wet, soggy soils as do the fields south of the Anacostia Recreation Center in Section D. Currently, fields are not striped, so sports leagues bring their own markers to delineate the play area.

Sports Courts

The project area has several sports courts including tennis, pickleball, shuffleboard, and basketball courts. While all the sports courts need to be resurfaced, these courts are still popular with the local community. There are currently four tennis courts and five combination tennis/pickleball courts, with two courts in such disrepair that they are unusable. Since the tennis/pickleball courts are combined, there can be conflicts between shared court use between the two sports. Basketball is important to the local community, and some community members feel the basketball courts near the recreation center are tucked away from high-use areas, which makes them feel secluded and unsafe.

Some of the courts, like the tennis and pickleball courts, the shuffleboard court, and the basketball courts near the roller-skating pavilion, will be repaired in-kind by part of the GAOA funding NACE has been awarded. As a result, these areas are not considered part of this plan.

Playgrounds

Visitors enjoy three playgrounds in the project area, the largest of which is the Pirate Ship Playground. While there are play opportunities for bigger kids, there are fewer opportunities for toddlers and pre-K aged children and no mixed-age play areas for families or groups with different-aged children. The community wants ample, shaded seating around the playgrounds, which is currently provided to various degrees at each of the three play areas.

The three playgrounds are expected to be rehabilitated with NACE's GAOA funds, therefore changes to these playgrounds were not considered as part of this plan.

Opportunities for Improvement

While many of the sports courts and the three playgrounds in the project area are excluded from the plan because of pending repairs through the GAOA funding program, other areas like the sports fields could be improved as part of this plan. Suggestions for improvement include:

- Locating the fields in locations with dry, flat soil and providing goal posts and seating.
- Defining the fields and re-grading to level the play area.
- Providing basketball courts in higher visibility areas.



A playground in the shape of a pirate ship

Though the community requested a dog park, NPS policies on dogs and dog parks in the District of Columbia are guided by federal regulations, primarily found in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 2.15, which governs pets in national parks. This policy is aimed at protecting park resources and visitor experiences. Unlike DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) spaces, NPS does not permit fenced-in, off-leash dog parks on its land.

Community Fellowship

Picnic Pavilions

Many visitors to the project area use the picnic areas to gather and grill in small and large groups. The community consistently requested more areas for picnicking and grilling, and community members pointed out the need for more seating and picnic tables, referencing the frequent relocation of these items throughout the project area. Park visitors also commented on a general lack of shade in seating and picnic areas.

The picnic pavilions near the Pirate Ship Playground are part of the GAOA funding and will be repaired in-kind outside of this plan; therefore, they are not considered as part of this plan.

Educational Signage and Activities

There are some opportunities for educational signage and activities within the project area. Signage describing the site's history and significance are few, as are signs

describing the area's environment and ecological function. The NPS has been developing waysides informed by community input gathered parallel to the input for this plan. These waysides are expected to be installed in 2025.

Community Groups

Many community groups use the park's resources for activities ranging from roller skating to hand dancing to nature viewing, but the park is lacking specific areas for some of these activities like pavilions, outdoor classrooms, and multi-use areas. Currently, these community groups use found spaces like parking lots and lawn areas for their activities.

Buildings

Most buildings within the project area are not in the scope of this plan. These include: the roller-skating pavilion, the recreation center and pool, and the restrooms. Some of these facilities, such as the restrooms and the skating pavilion, will be improved as a part of the GAOA funding.

Opportunities for Improvement

The community is passionate about the community fellowship opportunities in the park and wants to see improvements to these opportunities. Ideas from the community are as follows:

- Provide additional picnic and grilling areas of various sizes with shaded seating accommodating a variety of group sizes.
- Create dedicated places to dispose of charcoal ash after grilling to keep the park tidy.
- Define dedicated spaces for community groups to gather and host activities, including pavilions, outdoor classrooms, and multi-use spaces.
- Include interpretive signage, waysides, and wayfinding. The community is especially interested in telling Indigenous and civil rights stories in the project area.

Operational, Maintenance, and Environmental Challenges

Operations and Maintenance

During the public outreach for the plan, park visitors noted a deep appreciation for the park as a community space and recreational amenity; however, they also noted concerns about the condition and maintenance of the park facilities, trash, safety, lighting, and access. The condition of the park's restrooms frequently arose as a talking point, as did lighting the sports fields and sports courts for safety and after-sunset use. Many of the patrons' concerns will be addressed as part of the GAOA funding that NACE received. Even so, the community expressed concerns about the park's ability to maintain the existing facilities, as well as any proposed new facilities that are a part of this plan.

Sea Level Rise and Resilience Planning

One of the biggest threats to the park is sea level rise. Sea levels are expected to rise approximately six feet in the project area, which would breach the existing sea wall and inundate sections of the park, particularly at high tide. Several strategies may help to mitigate the effects of this sea level rise, as follows:

- Moving critical infrastructure, like Anacostia Drive, to higher ground
- Incorporating nature-based stormwater solutions
- Minimizing impervious surfaces and maximizing pervious ones
- Fortifying the edge of the Anacostia River by repairing and raising the sea wall and/or creating a naturalized shoreline
- Enhancing stream buffers where feasible to prevent erosion, protect water quality, and absorb stormwater runoff
- Restoring Pope Branch to a natural stream flowing through the park



Anacostia Park Centennial Celebration., September 2018



Concept Plan Recommendations

The three concepts presented in the plan were driven by balancing stakeholder and community input received throughout the planning process with the NPS legislative framework. The themes and designs for the plan emerged through site analysis, visioning workshops, and stakeholder and community engagement.

- **Concept 1:** Building on a Strong Foundation
- **Concept 2:** Planning for Resilience
- **Concept 3:** Enhancing Park Activities

While each of the concepts is defined and organized around its own theme, there are common design strategies and elements that are critical to achieve the overall vision and goals. The following pages identify those design strategies and elements. The individual concepts are described in more detail following the discussion of the common elements.

Common Design Strategies and Elements

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

- Improve existing park entrances by providing universally accessible, well-lit, and connected sidewalks.
- Provide new pedestrian underpass connecting Fort Dupont Park to Section E.
- Increase connectivity between neighborhoods, the park, and the river.

Park Entry Signage



Improve park entry signs using sign typologies established and maintained by the Harpers Ferry Center for NPS.

Wayfinding



Provide wayfinding signage to guide visitors to the park and other NACE spaces around DC, and to strengthen the connection between the park and the neighborhood.

Public Art



Engage local community organizations and artists to design art installations that honor the history of the park and the surrounding communities. Install at entrances and throughout the park.

Underpass Improvements



Work with partner organizations to introduce lighting, art installations, and murals in existing underpasses to create a safer and more inviting user experience.

Murals



Engage local community organizations and artists to design murals that honor the history of the park and the surrounding communities. Include murals in underpasses and on structures.

Educational Signage



Implement an educational wayside exhibit program throughout the park to educate visitors and strengthen their connection with the park's history and natural features.

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

- Improve accessibility for visitors of the broadest range of abilities.
- Ensure parking areas are strategically located near existing and proposed facilities and are sized for daily use; continue to rely on shuttles for large festival events.
- Include parallel parking along Anacostia Drive and use permeable pavers where feasible.

Increased Trail Network



Introduce a range of trail types with different levels of difficulty throughout the park to connect park spaces and vary user experience. Include seating areas and lighting along the trail

Widened River Trail



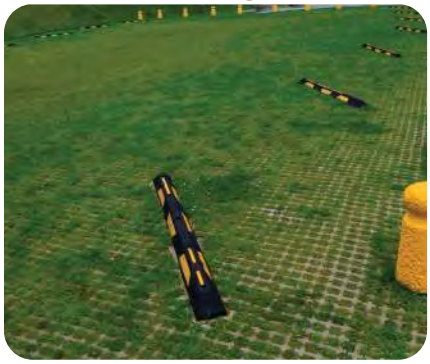
Widen and stripe the Anacostia River Trail to create separate zones for cyclists and pedestrians. Provide signage, safe crossing areas, and rest areas along the trail. (Concept 1)

Separated River Trail



Provide two separate trails for cyclists and pedestrians. Provide signage, safe crossing areas, and rest areas along the trail. (Concepts 2 and 3)

Permeable Parking



Incorporate permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies in new parking areas and introduce them in existing parking areas where feasible.

Traffic Calming



Introduce traffic calming measures at all existing and proposed pedestrian crossings, including raised or high visibility crosswalks, bump-outs, and signage.

Dark Sky Compliant



Install lighting in accordance with the NPS Sustainable Outdoor Lighting Principles to create a safe experience for park users.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

- Introduce new natural features along the waterfront and throughout the park to further support the resilience of the shoreline including meadow areas, pocket wetlands, shoreline wetlands, and native shade trees.
- Upgrade the existing waterfront to accommodate additional users.

Waterfront Picnic Areas



Introduce community fellowship areas along the waterfront with elements such as picnic tables and grills. Where space allows, pavilions, game tables, and lawn game areas could be included to create a more vibrant space with activities for all ages.

Fishing / Seating Area



Design fishing areas underneath Pennsylvania Avenue, a space which is already informally used for fishing. Include seating and tables to make the space more comfortable for the users. Locate parking along the roadway adjacent to the fishing areas.

Canoe / Kayak Launch



Include a dedicated canoe and kayak launch separate from the upgraded and expanded boat launch to reduce conflicts between users. Incorporate a dedicated accessible launch with overhead bar to assist mobility- impaired paddlers. Identify opportunities for storage and rental kiosks.

Shaded Open Space



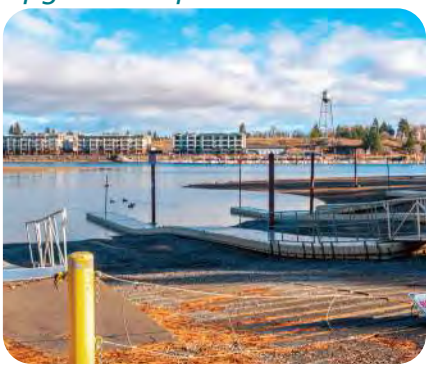
Use native trees and plants to help create shaded spaces along the waterfront for picnicking, exercise classes, or other passive recreation opportunities.

Waterfront Lounging



Provide a range of seating opportunities. This includes benches along the Anacostia River Trail, and lounge chairs and picnic tables adjacent to the waterfront.

Upgrade / Expand Boat Launch



Upgrade and expand the boat launch to accommodate additional launches and enhance the experience for the visitors.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

Naturalized Shoreline



Remove the sea wall for portions of the waterfront to introduce a softer edge. This softer, naturalized edge would use materials such as native coastal-plain rocks, native plants, and sand (Concepts 2 and 3). Naturalized shorelines reduce erosion, enhance resilience to sea level rise, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat. They also provide opportunities for walking trails, fishing areas, and educational signage.

Nature-based Stormwater



Introduce nature-based storm water features to reduce and filter runoff into the river, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for wildlife. Locate these facilities adjacent to impervious surfaces such as parking areas, courts, and the roadway to capture and hold runoff, allowing water to soak into the ground. These facilities will not only enhance the quality of the river but will help to protect the park's recreation and community fellowship spaces.

Enhanced Wetlands



Enhance wetlands where possible and incorporate maintenance strategies such as removing invasive species and reestablishing native plants. Wetlands provide natural flood protection, intercept and filter runoff, provide wildlife habitat, and create opportunities for recreation and education.

ACTIVE RECREATION

- Provide open grass areas dedicated for organized sports.
- Use best practices to keep recreational fields dry through a combination of soil amendments, regrading, and stormwater runoff diversion or capture appropriate to each location
- Introduce full-court basketball courts in Section D.
- Install Dark Sky compliant lighting at courts and fields. Incorporate timers on lights that players have to press for lighting.

Multi-purpose Equipment



Install equipment that serves multiple sports and creates flexibility in how the fields can be used.

Basketball Courts



Add additional basketball courts with seating and lighting and adjacent to proposed community fellowship spaces.

Tennis / Pickleball Courts



As part of the GAOA-funded rehabilitation, tennis and pickleball courts will be repaved and separated into 7 dedicated tennis courts and 8 pickleball courts.

Field / Court Seating



Add bleachers or benches adjacent to fields and courts to accommodate spectators.

Field / Court Lighting



Install Dark Sky compliant court and field lighting in accordance with NPS Sustainable Outdoor Lighting Principles.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

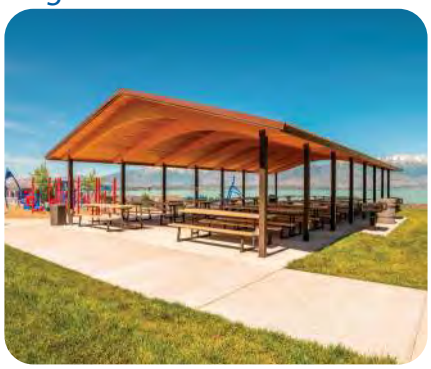
- Locate community spaces throughout the park to allow for universal access from all park entrances and parking areas.
- Utilize the north field in Section E as unprogrammed open space for passive recreation and larger community gatherings. Frame the area with native plantings and shade trees. Add several front-end parking spaces to accommodate picnickers, as people currently park on the grass. Reduce the large parking areas.
- Celebrate the river's history and significance to the city and community through educational signage.
- Increase the number of restroom facilities and water fountains in the park.

Picnic Groves



Incorporate picnic areas of varying sizes throughout the park to accommodate a range of gatherings. Include picnic tables and consider additional pavilions, grilling areas, lawn games, and outdoor game tables.

Large Picnic Pavilions



Include at least one community gathering area with a large picnic pavilion. Incorporate nearby volleyball courts, lawn-game space, outdoor game tables, and grill stations to activate the space. Locate this area near existing or proposed parking to provide easy access to the space.

Game Tables



Introduce community fellowship areas along the waterfront with design elements such as picnic tables and grills. Where space allows, include pavilions, game tables, and lawn game areas to create a more vibrant space with activities for all ages.

Grill Stations



Include grilling stations at the picnic areas with adequate equipment and places to safely dispose of waste.

Lawn Games



Relocate the horseshoe pits in Section D to a more visible location adjacent to other community spaces. Consider incorporating other lawn games such as bocce ball.

Volleyball Courts



Incorporate volleyball courts to increase the diversity of recreational spaces within the park.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Adult Fitness Area



Expand the adult fitness area to include additional picnic areas and game tables to increase recreational opportunities for a range of age groups.

Multi-purpose Pavilion



Incorporate a multi-use pavilion to host concerts and performances, outdoor fitness class, or other group activities. Locate open space adjacent to the pavilion to expand seating options.

Outdoor Classroom



Include a shaded outdoor classroom adjacent to the AREC, where there is easy access to the rest of the park for more hands-on learning experiences. Provide educational signage throughout the park for all members of the community to benefit from.

Event Lawn



Incorporate event lawns adjacent to the skating pavilion and outside of the recreation center to host festivals, performances, fitness classes, and to serve as an unprogrammed area for rest and relaxation (Concepts 2 and 3).

Unprogrammed Open Space



Include an unprogrammed lawn in the north field of Section E to host larger performances, festivals, and other community events or to be used for passive recreation. Frame the space with native trees, and intersperse additional trees in the interior of the lawn area for shade.

Increase Canopy Cover



Use climate-change-resilient native trees to increase the overall canopy cover in the park to create cool and comfortable spaces. Incorporate a buffer area between the interstate and the park to help block views of the freeway and enhance the visitor experience.

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Imagine a park that allows you to drive, walk, run, or bike along the Anacostia River with small, intimate areas for fishing and resting. The roadways and trails connect you to two activity hubs anchored by the existing Recreation Center and skating pavilion and surrounded by community spaces. With parking provided, activity areas are accessible by vehicle and provide all park users the opportunity to enjoy the variety of spaces surrounding them. For those who like to explore, the trails provide access to all corners of the park and offer a variety of experiences from woodland hikes to waterfront strolls.



Two people jog along a winding path through Anacostia Park



Concept 1: Building on a Strong Foundation

This concept strives to build upon the existing strengths of the project area as described in the Current Conditions chapter. The concept maintains the alignment of Anacostia Drive along the waterfront through Section D and slightly shortens the loop in Section E to provide a safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists coming off the bridge or the trail. The concept also maintains the existing alignment of the Anacostia River Trail, but widens and re-stripes the trail to provide separate areas for pedestrians and cyclists.

Waterfront picnic areas are introduced between the water's edge and the Anacostia River Trail. Although maintaining the existing roadway limits the amount of space along the waterfront, opportunities exist to create intimate gathering areas with shade, picnic tables, and lounge seating.

Within the park, new community fellowship spaces are organized around the existing recreation center, pirate ship playground, and skating pavilion. These spaces vary in size, programming, and amenities to provide a variety of experiences for visitors.

Recreational fields are near where they are today but incorporate multi-purpose equipment, seating, and lighting to accommodate a range of sports. The field areas are framed by community fellowship spaces to provide opportunities for spectatorship.

The north field in Section E is converted from a recreation field to an open passive-recreation area for large community gatherings, picnicking, sunbathing, and relaxation.

The existing community gathering area in the north field is expanded and formalized with picnic pavilions, picnic tables, and grill stations. A new underpass connects Fort Dupont to this area of the park and an internal trail network connects parking areas around the skating pavilion.

The internal park spaces are framed by trees to buffer the park from the interstate and preserve views. Nature-based stormwater facilities are incorporated along Anacostia Drive to reduce runoff into the river and protect the park spaces from flooding.

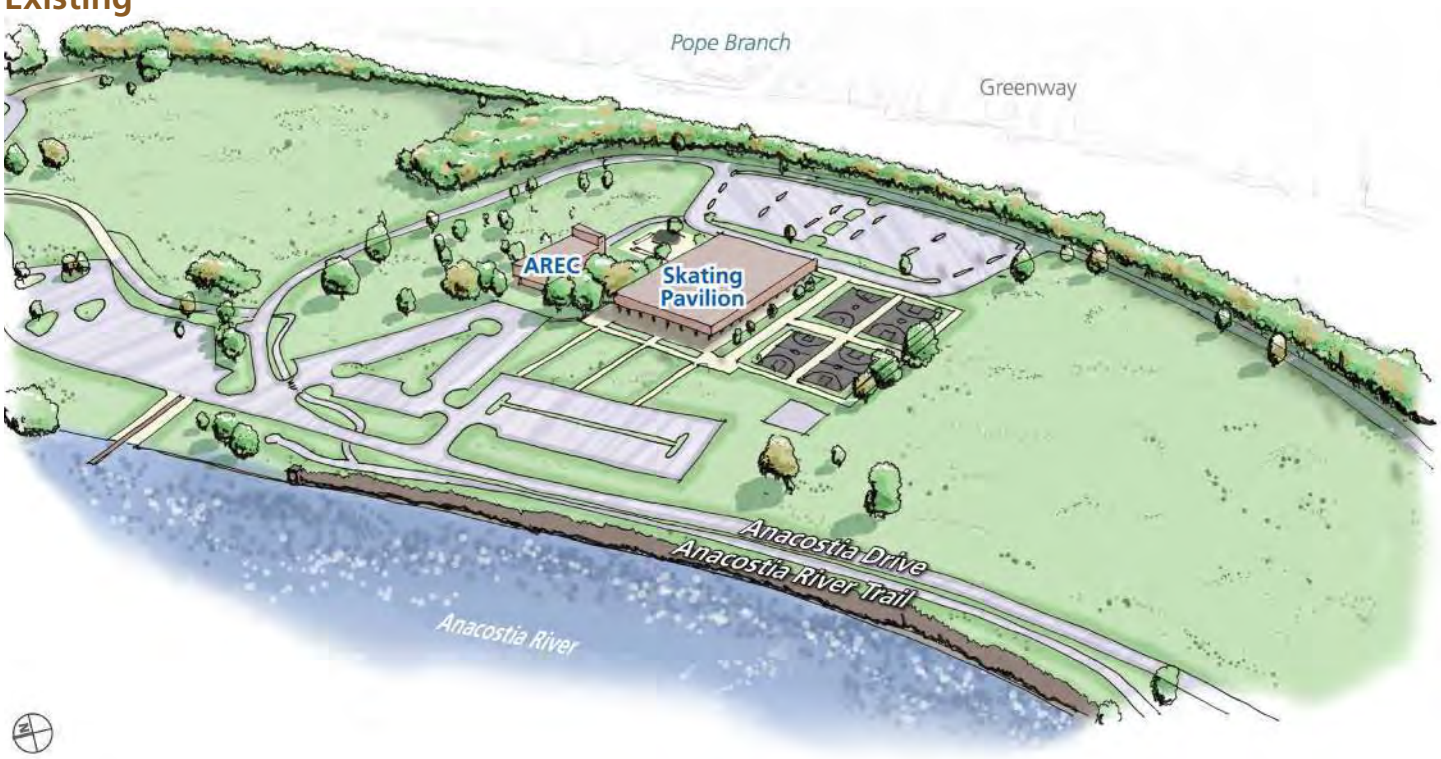
Quick Facts

5	Multi-purpose Fields
2	Soccer Fields
8	Basketball Courts
7	Tennis Courts

8	Pickleball Courts
2	Volleyball Courts
5	Restroom Facilities

Section E Bird's Eye View

Existing



Proposed



Proposed Improvements

Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination

GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect storm water. Provide informational signage for educational purposes.

4 Improve Connection to Anacostia High School and Fairlawn Neighborhood
Repair / replace the existing pedestrian bridge to create a more welcoming entry into the park. Provide lighting / wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles. Create a three-way stop at Nicholson St and Anacostia Dr.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

13 Nature-Based Stormwater Facility
Nature-based stormwater feature with native plantings to collect runoff from roadway / new parking area and prevent fields from flooding. Provide informational signage.

14 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

15 Fishing and Seating Area
Hardscape area with benches and tables to create a comfortable area to fish. Repair sea wall and install safety railing.

16 Kayak / Canoe Launch
Sloped area to launch kayaks or canoes. Remove sea wall and regrade to provide direct access to the water.

17 Upgrade and Expand Existing Boat Launch
Improve existing boat launch area and add an additional launch with docks.

ACTIVE RECREATION

22 Recreation Field
Area for 2 multi-purpose sport fields. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

23 Existing Basketball and Shuffleboard Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes upgrades to fencing and lighting.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

24 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables or picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / outdoor game tables.

26 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

29 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted withnative shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

30 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events at new pavilion. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

31 Covered Multipurpose Pavilion
Covered structure for events / performances / classes / hand dancing.

32 Outdoor Classroom
Outdoor classroom area adjacent to AREC with covered structure.

33 Unprogrammed Open Space
Open space area for passive recreation with native plantings for shade.

Section D Bird's Eye View

Existing



Proposed



Proposed Improvements

Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination

GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect storm water. Provide informational signage for educational purposes.

4 Improve Connection to Anacostia High School and Fairlawn Neighborhood
Repair / replace the existing pedestrian bridge to create a more welcoming entry into the park. Provide lighting / way-finding. Coordination with DDOT required.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

13 Nature-Based Stormwater Facility
Nature-based stormwater feature with native plantings to collect runoff from roadway / new parking area and prevent fields from flooding. Provide informational signage.

14 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

ACTIVE RECREATION

18 Recreation Field
Area for 3 multi-purpose sport fields. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

19 Existing Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding.

Proposed Courts:
7 Tennis Courts
8 Pickleball Courts

20 Basketball Courts
Area for 4 new full court basketball courts. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

24 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables and/or picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / outdoor game tables.

26 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding and includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

28 Picnic Grove with Large Pavilions and Volleyball
Area with picnic tables and larger picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / volleyball courts / outdoor game tables.

29 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

Section E



Section D



Legend

- Roadway
- Pedestrian Trail
- Bike Trail
- Parallel Parking
- Park Entrance
- Seawall
- Existing Building
- Forested Area
- Event Lawn
- Rec. Field / Lawn
- Naturalized Shore
- Existing Wetland
- Stormwater Facility
- Community Area
- Multipurpose Pavilion
- Ramp / Dock / Launch
- Parking Lot
- Plaza / Fishing Area
- Rehabbed Area
- Restroom Area
- Gateway Activation
- Historic Outfall
- Outfall
- 6’ Sea Level Rise
- # Proposed Improvements
- # Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination
- # GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

1 Improve Entrance from Marion Barry Ave and 11th St Bridge Park
Provide sidewalks / crosswalks / wayfinding to strengthen connection into the park.

2 Widen and Stripe the Anacostia River Trail
Widen the existing trail. Stripe to create separate areas for cyclists and pedestrians to increase safety for trail users.

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect stormwater. Provide informational signage for educational purposes.

4 Improve Connection to Anacostia High School and Fairlawn Neighborhood
Repair / replace the existing pedestrian bridge to create a more welcoming entry into the park. Provide lighting and wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

6 Improve Entrance from Nicholson St SE
Widen sidewalks / provide better lighting / include public art and way-finding. Coordination with DDOT required.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles. Create a three-way stop at Nicholson St and Anacostia Dr.

8 Improve Underpass Experience
Provide additional lighting and public art underneath underpass. Coordination with DDOT required.

9 Improve Existing Access from Pennsylvania Ave SE
Maintain existing trails into park and remove excess vegetation. Provide additional lighting and way-finding signage. Coordination with DDOT required.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

11 Provide New Park Connection to Community
Provide a new pedestrian underpass as a greenway connection to Fort Dupont Park through Twining / Greenway neighborhoods. Coordination with DDOT required.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

12 Enhance Existing Wetland
Conduct maintenance on the existing wetland to ensure its functionality. Provide informational signage.

13 Nature-Based Stormwater Facility
Nature-based stormwater feature with native plantings to collect runoff from roadway / new parking area and prevent fields from flooding. Provide informational signage.

14 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

15 Fishing and Seating Area
Hardscape area with benches and tables to create a comfortable area to fish. Repair sea wall and install safety railing.

16 Kayak / Canoe Launch
Sloped area to launch kayaks or canoes. Remove sea wall and regrade to provide direct access to the water.

17 Upgrade and Expand Existing Boat Launch
Improve existing boat launch area and add an additional launch with docks.

ACTIVE RECREATION

18 Recreation Field
Area for 3 multi-purpose sport fields. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

19 Existing Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed and restriped through GAOA funding.

Proposed Courts:
7 Tennis Courts
8 Pickleball Courts

20 Recreation Field
Area for 2 soccer fields with adequate space for flag football, rugby or ultimate frisbee setups. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

21 Basketball Courts
Area for 4 new full court basketball courts. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

22 Recreation Field
Area for 2 multi-purpose sport fields. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

23 Existing Basketball Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes upgrades to fencing and lighting.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

24 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables or picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / outdoor game tables.

25 Existing Building / Pool to Remain
Existing recreation center and pool / skate pavilion / AREC to remain.

26 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

27 Expanded Picnic Grove with Adult Fitness Area
Expand the existing picnic area with additional pavilions and provide an adult fitness area with exercise equipment for a variety of adult age groups. Located adjacent to the kid's pirate ship playground to create a multi-generational space.

28 Picnic Grove with Large Pavilions and Volleyball
Area with picnic tables and/or larger picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / volleyball courts / outdoor game tables.

29 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

30 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events at new pavilion. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

31 Covered Multipurpose Pavilion
Covered structure for events / performances / classes / hand dancing.

32 Outdoor Classroom
Outdoor classroom area adjacent to AREC with covered structure.

33 Unprogrammed Open Space
Open space area for passive recreation with native plantings for shade.

Imagine a park that celebrates the Anacostia River's history and natural hydrology while striving to improve the river's health. Like the curves of the river itself, wind your way through the park by car, bike, or on foot to encounter a range of experiences. With strong vehicular and pedestrian connections to all corners of the park, there is a space for everyone. Whether it is picnicking with friends and family directly on the waterfront or learning about stream daylighting at the outdoor classroom, the importance of the river to the community is clearly celebrated here.



A boy in a life jacket raises his hand. He's in a boat on the river with other students.



Concept 2: Planning for Resilience

The Anacostia River and Anacostia Park are valuable assets to the local community and District residents. The river and park provide ecological and social benefits that must be protected, not only now, but for generations to come. This concept proposes improvements to create a resilient and adaptable park.

To achieve this goal, this concept reconfigures Anacostia Drive, moving it away from the river and, where possible, out of the area of projected sea level rise. Now, the road weaves through the park and around existing and proposed amenity spaces to create a new scenic experience and increase accessibility and connectivity within the park. The Anacostia River Trail continues to run along the water's edge but is split into one trail for cyclists and one trail for pedestrians. The trails, which gently meander around waterfront picnic areas and along the naturalized shoreline, are lined with trees and divided by additional planting areas.

The realignment of Anacostia Drive opens the waterfront to the possibility of new amenity spaces, including an event lawn and waterfront plaza near the recreation center and two picnic areas with large pavilions. Seating and pedestrian access to a newly naturalized shoreline are improved. Meanwhile, the realignment of the roadway increases accessibility to community fellowship spaces within the park.

To further support the long-term resilience of the project area, the concept proposes the daylighting of Pope Branch in Section E. Daylighting the stream has the potential to reduce flood risk and runoff into the river, improve wildlife habitat, and increase educational experiences within the park.

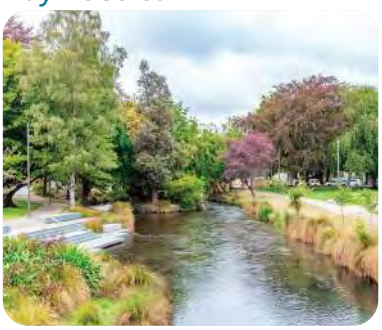
The recreational and community gathering areas in this concept are like those proposed in Concept 1.

Quick Facts

4	Multi-purpose Fields
2	Soccer Fields
7	Basketball Courts
7	Tennis Courts

8	Pickleball Courts
2	Volleyball Courts
5	Restroom Facilities

Day-lit Stream



Direct Water Access

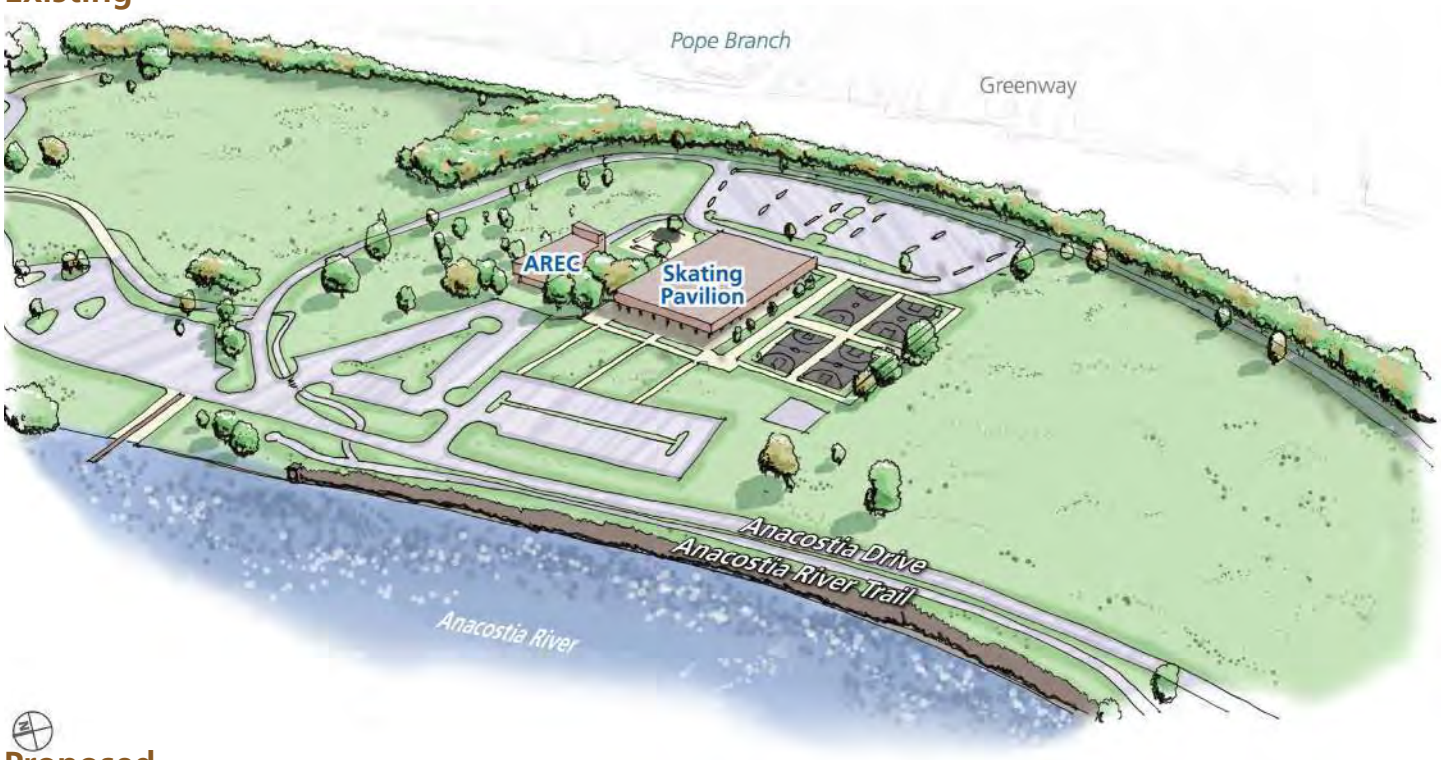


Waterfront Plaza



Section E Bird's Eye View

Existing



Proposed



Proposed Improvements

Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination

GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect stormwater. Provide informational signage for educational purposes.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

11 Provide New Park Connection to Community
Provide new pedestrian underpass and bridge as a greenway connection to Fort Dupont Park through Twining / Greenway neighborhoods. Coordination with DDOT required.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

12 Enhance Existing Wetland / Add Nature-Based Stormwater Facility
Conduct maintenance on the existing wetland to ensure its functionality. Provide informational signage. Add nature-based stormwater feature with native plantings to collect runoff from roadway / new parking area and prevent fields from flooding. Provide informational signage.

15 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables along the new pedestrian trail to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

16 Naturalized Shoreline
Remove sea wall in this area and plant with native vegetation to reduce flooding / provide habitat / clean the river. Provide signage for educational purposes.

19 Kayak / Canoe Launch / Fishing Dock
Kayak / canoe launch with opportunity for rental kiosk. Dock for fishing.

20 Upgrade and Expand Existing Boat Launch
Improve existing boat launch area and add an additional launch with docks.

21 Daylight Pope Branch and Buffer with Natural Stream Edge
Uncover currently buried stream that connects Pope Branch to the river. Provide walking trails along the stream. Include native plantings and informational signage.

ACTIVE RECREATION

26 Recreation Field
Area for 2 multi-purpose sport fields. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

27 Existing Basketball Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes upgrades to fencing and lighting.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

28 Unprogrammed Open Space / Performance Seating Area
Open space area for passive recreation with native plantings for shade. Area for performance seating for events.

29 Entry Plaza with Picnic Grove
Formalized entry area into the park with public art and wayfinding signage to welcome visitors into the park. Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / game tables.

31 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

32 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / outdoor game tables.

34 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

35 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

36 Covered Multipurpose Pavilion
Covered structure for events / performances / classes / hand dancing.

37 Outdoor Classroom
Outdoor classroom area adjacent to AREC with covered structure.

Section D Bird's Eye View

Existing



Proposed



Proposed Improvements

Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination

GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect storm water. Provide informational signage for educational purposes.

4 Improve Connection to Anacostia High School and Fairlawn Neighborhood
Repair / replace the existing pedestrian bridge to create a more welcoming entry into the park. Provide lighting / wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

13 Direct Water Access Area
Remove sea wall and regrade to provide direct water access area for kayak launch and future swimming opportunities. Provide terraced seating and informational signage.

14 Waterfront Plaza
Multi-use hardscape area for events / fitness classes / hand dancing / small performances / fishing and resting. Repair sea wall as needed and install safety railing.

15 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables along the new pedestrian trail to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

16 Naturalized Shoreline
Remove sea wall in this area and plant with native vegetation to reduce flooding / provide habitat / clean the river. Provide informational signage. educational purposes.

ACTIVE RECREATION

22 Recreation Field
Area for 1 multi-purpose sport field. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

24 Existing Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding.

Proposed Courts:
7 Tennis Courts
8 Pickleball Courts

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

29 Entry Plaza with Picnic Grove
Formalized entry area with public art and wayfinding signage to welcome visitors into the park. Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / game tables.

31 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding and includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

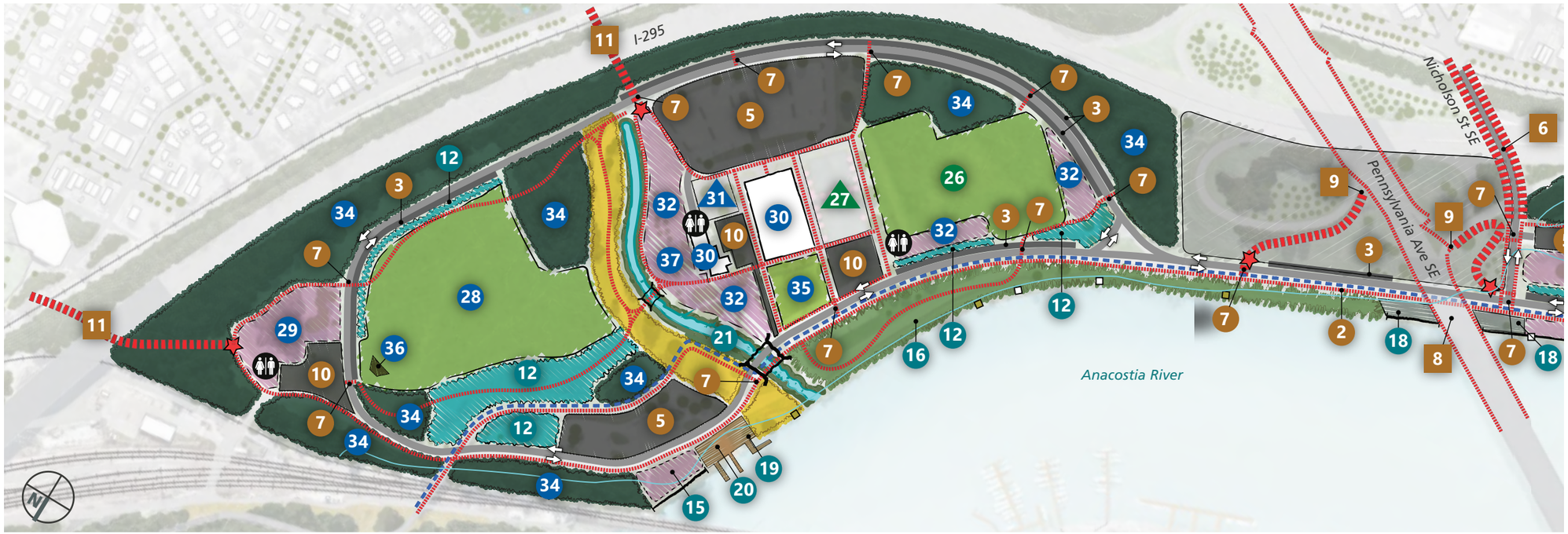
32 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / outdoor game tables.

34 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

35 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

Section E

Section D





Legend

- Roadway
- Pedestrian Trail
- Bike Trail
- Parallel Parking
- Park Entrance
- Seawall
- Existing Building
- Forested Area
- Event Lawn
- Rec. Field / Lawn
- Naturalized Shore
- Naturalized Edge
- Existing Wetland
- Stormwater Facility
- Community Area
- Direct Water Access
- Multipurpose Pavilion
- Ramp / Dock / Launch
- Parking Lot
- Plaza / Fishing Area
- Rehabbed Area
- Restroom Area
- Gateway Activation
- Daylit Stream
- Historic Outfall
- Outfall
- Bridge
- 6' Sea Level Rise
- # Proposed Improvements
- # Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination
- # GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

1 Improve Entrance from Marion Barry Ave and 11th St Bridge Park
Provide sidewalks / crosswalks / wayfinding to strengthen connection into the park.

2 Create Separate Anacostia River Trails
Provide separate trails along the waterfront for pedestrians and cyclists to create a more comfortable experience for trail users.

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect stormwater. Provide informational signage for educational purposes.

4 Improve Connection to Anacostia High School and Fairlawn Neighborhood
Repair / replace the existing pedestrian bridge to create a more welcoming entry into the park. Provide lighting / wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

6 Improve Entrance from Nicholson St SE
Widen sidewalks / provide better lighting / include public art and wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles. Create a three-way stop at Nicholson St and Anacostia Dr.

8 Improve Underpass Experience
Provide additional lighting and public art underneath underpass. Coordination with DDOT required.

9 Improve Existing Access from Pennsylvania Ave SE
Maintain existing trails into park and remove excess vegetation. Provide additional lighting and way-finding signage. Coordination with DDOT required.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

11 Provide New Park Connection to Community
Provide new pedestrian underpass and bridge as a greenway connection to Fort Dupont Park through Twining / Greenway neighborhoods. Coordination with DDOT required.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

12 Enhance Existing Wetland / Add Nature-based Stormwater Facility
Conduct maintenance on the existing wetland to ensure its functionality. Provide informational signage. Add nature-based stormwater feature with native plantings to collect runoff from roadway / new parking area and prevent fields from flooding. Provide informational signage.

13 Direct Water Access Area
Remove sea wall and regrade to provide direct water access area for kayak launch and future swimming opportunities. Provide terraced seating and informational signage.

14 Waterfront Plaza
Multi-use hardscape area for events / fitness classes / hand dancing / small performances / fishing and resting. Repair sea wall as needed and install safety railing.

15 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

16 Naturalized Shoreline
Remove sea wall in this area and plant with native vegetation to reduce flooding / provide habitat / clean the river. Provide signage for educational purposes.

17 Waterfront Rest / Relaxation Area
Provide lounge seating / picnic tables / shade trees or shade structures. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

18 Fishing and Seating Area
Hardscape area near bridge pier with benches and tables to create a comfortable area to fish. Repair sea wall and install safety railing.

19 Kayak / Canoe Launch / Fishing Dock
Kayak / canoe launch with opportunity for rental kiosk. Dock for fishing.

20 Upgrade and Expand Existing Boat Launch
Improve existing boat launch area and add a new launch with docks.

21 Daylight Pope Branch and Buffer with Natural Stream Edge
Uncover currently buried stream that connects Pope Branch to the river. Provide walking trails along the stream. Include native plantings and informational signage.

ACTIVE RECREATION

22 Recreation Field
Area for 1 multi-purpose sport field. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

23 Recreation Field
Area for 2 soccer fields with adequate space for flag football and ultimate frisbee setups. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

24 Existing Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding.

Proposed Courts:
7 Tennis Courts
8 Pickleball Courts

25 Basketball Courts
Area for roughly 3 new full court basketball courts. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

26 Recreation Field
Area for 2 multi-purpose sport fields. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

27 Existing Basketball Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes upgrades to fencing and lighting.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

28 Unprogrammed Open Space / Performance Seating Area
Open space area for passive recreation with native plantings for shade. Area for performance seating for events.

29 Entry Plaza with Picnic Grove
Formalized entry area with public art and wayfinding signage to welcome visitors into the park. Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / game tables.

30 Existing Building / Pool to Remain
Existing recreation center and pool / skate pavilion / AREC to remain.

31 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

32 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / outdoor game tables.

33 Expanded Picnic Grove with Adult Fitness Area
Expand the existing picnic area with additional pavilions and picnic tables and provide an adult fitness area with exercise equipment for a variety of adult age groups. Located adjacent to the kid's pirate ship playground to create a multi-generational space.

34 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

35 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

36 Covered Multipurpose Pavilion
Covered structure for events / performances / classes / hand dancing.

37 Outdoor Classroom
Outdoor classroom area adjacent to AREC with covered structure.

Imagine a park with a vibrant waterfront that includes areas for performances and large community gatherings while still providing intimate places to fish and rest. In this park, the roadways and trails bring you close to the water and then pull you away at the recreation center and skating pavilion to open up the waterfront for activity hubs. These activity hubs provide active and passive recreation opportunities that do not currently exist along the waterfront. Play a game of pick-up or take a hand-dancing class just steps away from the river. With parking nearby, all of these waterfront spaces can be enjoyed by everyone.



A child fishing on the banks of the Anacostia River



Concept 3: Enhancing Park Activities

Water provides a sense of peace and relaxation; seeing and hearing it draws us in. This concept orients the park towards the water, maximizing the opportunities for visitors to interact with it.

To achieve this goal, this concept reconfigures Anacostia Drive, moving it to the middle of the project area in Section D to maintain opportunities for scenic drives along the river. In Section E, the loop road is removed to expand the naturalized shoreline and incorporate community fellowship spaces. Access to the proposed spaces is provided by additional parking lots and parallel parking along the road that incorporate nature-based storm water strategies to reduce runoff and decrease flooding. As in Concept 2, the Anacostia River Trail is split into two separate trails that meander along the waterfront and the newly naturalized shoreline, and the need for trail users to cross a roadway is eliminated.

To strengthen the connection to the river, tree-lined pedestrian promenades with seating are introduced adjacent to the recreation center and skate pavilion. The promenades frame an event lawn and culminate at waterfront overlooks. The overlooks include seating, planters with shade trees, and space for small performances, fitness classes, and fishing. Along an alternate path, the promenades also lead to picnic groves and an outdoor classroom in Section E of the park, adjacent to a newly day-lit Pope Branch Stream.

The location of the recreational fields is like that in concepts 1 and 2. The fields are framed by community fellowship spaces to offer opportunities for spectatorship and are lined with trees to separate them from the interstate and protect views.

As in the previous concepts, the north field features an unprogrammed lawn area and is framed by forested area, native plantings, and trails.

Quick Facts

4	Multi-purpose Fields
3	Soccer Fields
6	Basketball Courts
7	Tennis Courts

8	Pickleball Courts
2	Volleyball Courts
5	Restroom Facilities

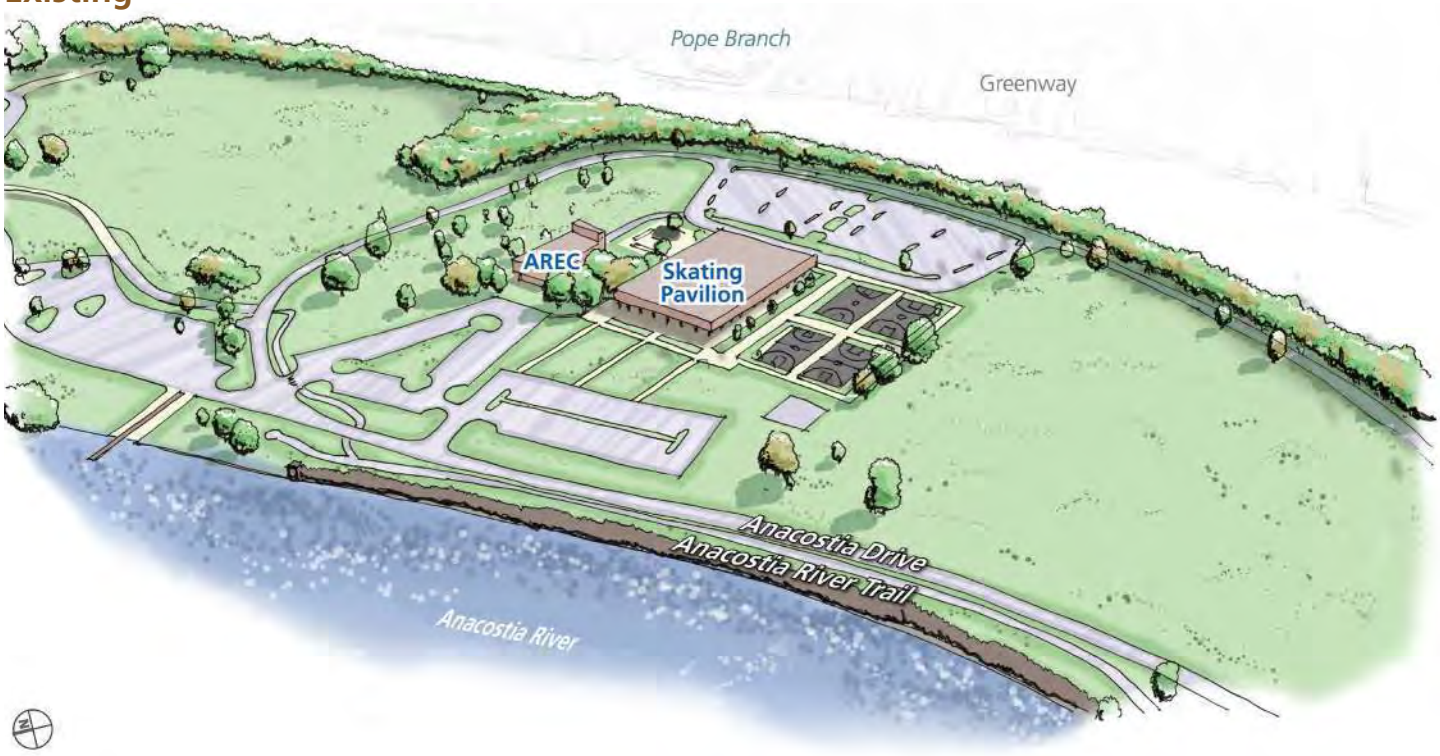
Pedestrian Promenade





Section E Bird's Eye View

Existing



Proposed



Proposed Improvements

Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination

GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect stormwater. Provide educational signage.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

11 Provide New Park Connection to Community
Provide new pedestrian underpass and bridge as a greenway connection to Fort Dupont Park through Twining / Greenway neighborhoods. Coordination with DDOT required.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

14 Waterfront Plaza
Multi-use hardscape area for events / fitness classes / hand dancing / small performances / fishing and resting. Repair sea wall as needed and install safety railing.

15 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

16 Naturalized Shoreline
Remove sea wall in this area and plant with native vegetation to reduce flooding / provide habitat / clean the river. Provide educational signage.

19 Fishing Pier / Kayak / Canoe Launch
Pier for fishing and potential kayak / canoe only launch.

20 Upgrade and Expand Existing Boat Launch
Improve existing boat launch area and add a new launch with docks.

21 Daylight Pope Branch and Buffer with Natural Stream Edge
Uncover currently buried stream that connects Pope Branch to the river. Provide walking trails along the stream. Include native plantings and educational signage.

ACTIVE RECREATION

23 Recreation Field
Area for 1 multi-purpose field and 1 soccer field with adequate space for flag football and ultimate frisbee setups. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

27 Existing Basketball Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes upgrades to fencing and lighting.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

29 Unprogrammed Open Space / Performance Seating Area
Open space area for passive recreation with native plantings for shade. Area for performance seating for events.

30 Entry Plaza with Picnic Grove
Formalized entry area into the park with public art and wayfinding signage to welcome visitors into the park. Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / game tables.

31 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / game tables. Volleyball courts at picnic grove near direct water access area.

34 Pedestrian Promenade
New tree-lined promenade with seating. Area for festivals / markets / seating / community events / small performances.

35 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

38 Outdoor Classroom
Outdoor classroom area adjacent to AREC with covered structure.

39 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

Section D Bird's Eye View

Existing



Proposed



Proposed Improvements

Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination

GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect storm water. Provide educational signage.

4 Improve Connection to Anacostia High School and Fairlawn Neighborhood
Repair / replace the existing pedestrian bridge to create a more welcoming entry into the park. Provide lighting / wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

13 Direct Water Access Area
Remove sea wall and regrade to provide direct water access area for kayak launch and future swimming opportunities. Provide terraced seating and informational signage.

14 Waterfront Plaza
Multi-use hardscape area for events / fitness classes / hand dancing / small performances / fishing and resting. Repair sea wall as needed and install safety railing.

16 Naturalized Shoreline
Remove sea wall in this area and plant with native vegetation to reduce flooding / provide habitat / clean the river. Provide educational signage.

17 Waterfront Rest / Relaxation Area
Provide lounge seating / picnic tables / shade trees or shade structures. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

ACTIVE RECREATION

24 Existing Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding.

Proposed Courts:
7 Tennis Courts
8 Pickleball Courts

25 Basketball Courts
Area for 2 new full-court basketball courts near entrance from Anacostia High School and Fairlawn neighborhood. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

26 Recreation Field
Area for 1 soccer field with adequate space for flag football and ultimate frisbee setups. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

28 Recreation Field
Area for 1 multi-purpose field. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

31 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / game tables. Volleyball courts at picnic grove near direct water access area.

33 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding and includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

34 Pedestrian Promenade
New tree-lined promenade with seating. Area for festivals / markets / seating / community events / small performances.

35 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

39 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.

Section E



Section D



Legend

- Roadway
- Pedestrian Trail
- Bike Trail
- Parallel Parking
- Park Entrance
- Seawall
- Existing Building
- Forested Area
- Event Lawn
- Rec. Field / Lawn
- Naturalized Shore
- Naturalized Edge
- Existing Wetland
- Stormwater Facility
- Community Area
- Direct Water Access
- Multipurpose Pavilion
- Ramp / Dock / Launch
- Parking Lot
- Plaza / Fishing Area
- Rehabbed Area
- Restroom Area
- Gateway Activation
- Daylit Stream
- Historic Outfall
- Outfall
- Bridge
- 6′ Sea Level Rise
- # Proposed Improvements
- # Proposed Improvements that require other agency coordination
- # GAOA funded improvements already in progress

ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

1 Improve Entrance from Marion Barry Ave and 11th St Bridge Park
Provide sidewalks / crosswalks / wayfinding to strengthen connection into the park.

2 Create Separate Anacostia River Trails
Provide separate trails along the waterfront for pedestrians and cyclists to create a more comfortable experience for trail users.

3 Parallel Parking with Permeable Pavers
Provide parallel parking with permeable pavers to collect stormwater. Provide educational signage for educational purposes.

4 Improve Connection to Anacostia High School and Fairlawn Neighborhood
Repair / replace the existing pedestrian bridge to create a more welcoming entry into the park. Provide lighting / wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

5 Repair / Re-stripe Existing Parking
Repair and re-stripe to expand parking lot capacity. Provide green infrastructure.

6 Improve Entrance from Nicholson St SE
Widen sidewalks / provide better lighting / include public art and wayfinding. Coordination with DDOT required.

7 Improve and Increase Pedestrian Crossings
Provide universally accessible crossings with ramps / high visibility or raised crosswalks / signage to provide pedestrian safety and slow down vehicles. Create a three-way stop at Nicholson St and Anacostia Dr.

8 Improve Underpass Experience
Provide additional lighting and public art in underpass. Coordination with DDOT required.

9 Improve Existing Access from Pennsylvania Ave SE
Maintain existing trails into park and remove excess vegetation. Provide additional lighting and way-finding signage. Coordination with DDOT required.

10 Parking Lot
Provide a new parking area to serve adjacent facilities. Use permeable pavers and other green infrastructure strategies where feasible to reduce stormwater runoff.

11 Provide New Park Connection to Community
Provide new pedestrian underpass and bridge as a greenway connection to Fort Dupont Park through Twining / Greenway neighborhoods. Coordination with DDOT required.

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

12 Enhance Existing Wetland / Add Nature-based Stormwater Facility
Conduct maintenance on the existing wetland to ensure its functionality. Provide informational signage. Add nature-based stormwater feature with native plantings to collect runoff from roadway / new parking area and prevent fields from flooding. Provide informational signage.

13 Direct Water Access Area
Remove sea wall and regrade to provide direct water access area for kayak launch and future swimming opportunities. Provide terraced seating and informational signage.

14 Waterfront Plaza
Multi-use hardscape area for events / fitness classes / hand dancing / small performances / fishing and resting. Repair sea wall as needed and install safety railing.

15 Waterfront Picnic Area
Provide benches and picnic tables to create a new community gathering space along the waterfront. Plant native trees to provide shade. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

16 Naturalized Shoreline
Remove sea wall in this area and plant with native vegetation to reduce flooding / provide habitat / clean the river. Provide educational signage.

17 Waterfront Rest / Relaxation Area
Provide lounge seating / picnic tables / shade trees or shade structures. Repair sea wall and remove invasive vegetation as needed.

18 Fishing and Seating Area
Hardscape area near bridge pier with benches and tables to create a comfortable area to fish. Repair sea wall and install safety railing.

19 Fishing Pier / Kayak / Canoe Launch
Pier for fishing and potential kayak / canoe-only launch.

20 Upgrade and Expand Existing Boat Launch
Improve existing boat launch area and add a new launch with docks.

21 Daylight Pope Branch and Buffer with Natural Stream Edge
Uncover currently buried stream that connects Pope Branch to the river. Provide walking trails along the stream. Include native plantings and educational signage.

ACTIVE RECREATION

22 Recreation Field
Area for 2 multi-purpose fields. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

23 Recreation Field
Area for 1 multi-purpose field and 1 soccer field with adequate space for flag football and ultimate frisbee setups. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

24 Existing Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding.

Proposed Courts:
7 Tennis Courts
8 Pickleball Courts

25 Basketball Courts
Area for 2 new full-court basketball courts near entrance from Anacostia High School and Fairlawn neighborhood. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

26 Recreation Field
Area for 1 soccer field with adequate space for flag football and ultimate frisbee setups. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

27 Existing Basketball Courts to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding. Includes upgrades to fencing and lighting.

28 Recreation Field
Area for 1 multi-purpose field. Appropriate seating and lighting provided as needed.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

29 Unprogrammed Open Space / Performance Seating Area
Open space area for passive recreation with native plantings for shade. Area for performance seating for events.

30 Entry Plaza with Picnic Grove
Formalized entry area into the park with public art and wayfinding signage to welcome visitors into the park. Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / horseshoes / game tables.

31 Picnic Grove
Area with picnic tables and picnic pavilions / grilling stations / shade trees / areas for lawn games / game tables. Volleyball courts at picnic grove near direct water access area.

32 Existing Building / Pool to Remain
Existing recreation center and pool / skate pavilion / AREC to remain.

33 Existing Playground / Picnic Area to be Rehabbed
Area to be rehabbed through GAOA funding and includes the 3 existing playground areas / bathrooms / picnic pavilions.

34 Pedestrian Promenade
New tree-lined promenade with seating. Area for festivals / markets / seating / community events / small performances.

35 Unprogrammed Event Lawn
Open lawn area for organized events. Picnic and gathering area when not in use for events.

36 Expanded Picnic Grove with Adult Fitness Area
Expand the existing picnic area with additional pavilions and picnic tables and provide an adult fitness area with exercise equipment for a variety of adult age groups. Located adjacent to the kid's pirate ship playground to create a multi-generational space.

37 Covered Multipurpose Pavilion
Covered structure for events / performances / classes / hand dancing.

38 Outdoor Classroom
Outdoor classroom area adjacent to AREC with covered structure.

39 Forested / Buffer Area
Area planted with native shade and understory trees with walking trails and shaded seating areas.



Two children hug and smile for the camera while fishing



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Moving Forward

The NPS looks forward to finding opportunities to fulfill the vision for Anacostia Park as described in this plan. This section discusses possible next steps that the NPS may undertake to implement the ideas presented in this plan. The actions included in this plan will be examined holistically to assess and understand the potential impacts of new operations or adjustments to programming, facilities, and maintenance. The NPS will carry out the necessary level of review, including NEPA and NHPA analysis, to comply with relevant laws and policies. The implementation of proposals in this plan will be reviewed in accordance with laws and policies on a case-by-case basis. Proposed activities and facilities could be implemented independently, or as part of a larger implementation strategy, as funding is available.

Short-Term Implementation Strategy

This section identifies items that the NPS may consider for short-term implementation, within the next five to ten years, and associated considerations.

Operations and Maintenance Strategies

During the planning process, the public and stakeholders made it clear that a renewed effort at maintenance in the park is a top priority. The NPS is establishing new partnerships and reinforcing current ones to support maintenance services within the park as well as deliver educational and recreational programs.

Key partners include:

- Friends of Anacostia Park
- Anacostia Parks & Community Collaborative
- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Anacostia Riverkeeper
- Anacostia Business Improvement District
- District Government (including, but not limited to, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Energy and Environment)

Short-Term Recommendations

Some elements that could be implemented in the short term include improvements to:

- **Existing sports fields**: regrading, restriping, and/or new goal posts
- **Accessibility features at the existing boat ramp**: adding ramps, transfer devices that allow universal access to boats, and regrading the parking lot to provide an accessible route
- **Existing gateways to the park**: adding signage and repairing sidewalks
- **Picnic grove**: adding picnic tables or picnic pavilions, grilling stations, shade trees, areas for lawn games, horseshoes, outdoor game tables
- **Forested/buffer area**: planting of native shade and understory trees
- **Enhance existing wetlands**: conduct maintenance on existing wetlands, provide informational signage
- **Anacostia Drive**: making the loop road one-way for smoother flow of traffic, especially during events

Long-Term Implementation Strategy

This section identifies items that the NPS may consider for long-term implementation and associated considerations. These items are likely to require substantial funding, additional design, and/or navigating multiple approvals outside the NPS.

Operations and Maintenance Strategies

The NPS acknowledges the importance of establishing lasting, effective operations and maintenance strategies for the park. The NPS will continue to work with the partners identified in the short-term implementation section above and will continue to pursue additional partnerships while also working to allocate additional NPS resources to keeping the park an enjoyable space.

Long-Term Recommendations

Some elements of the plan can be implemented as standalone or combined projects but require a longer timeline for implementation due to the need for additional design, environmental review and/or permitting, and interagency coordination. For example, providing a new park connection between Anacostia Park and Fort Dupont Park through Twining / Greenway neighborhoods would require buy-in from local stakeholders and the District Department of Transportation.

Some broader elements of the plan are best integrated as a larger package, such as:

- Realignment of Anacostia Drive
- Widening or dividing Anacostia River Trail
- Parking reorganization
- Daylighting Pope Branch

- Repairing the sea wall
- Adding naturalized shoreline

These efforts and other large-scale design elements will require more detailed engineering and design. These efforts are likely to be packaged carefully in such a way as to compete for future funding opportunities. It may take the NPS more than 10 years to acquire funding, develop construction level design, and navigate necessary approvals.

Funding Opportunities

Identification and acquisition of funding is key to improving daily operations and maintenance and to the implementation of large-scale improvements. The NPS will consider the following opportunities:

» Appropriations in the annual NPS budget

» Collaboration with other governmental agencies, in particular:
- Federal Lands Transportation Program
- District Department of Parks and Recreation
- District Department of Transportation

» Collaboration with nonprofit organizations such as:
- National Park Foundation
- National Recreation and Park Association
- Outdoor Foundation
- American Hiking Society
- The Conservation Alliance
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

» Donations

» Sponsorships

» Crowdfunding



A young boy rollerskating in the pavilion with a big smile on his face



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Appendix A

Local and regional partners are involved in planning ongoing and future projects that interface with portions of Anacostia Park. These projects necessitate a strong plan, including a robust public involvement process, in order to ensure the park's vision and management direction are preserved amidst community growth and change. Table A-1 lists many of the local and regional planning efforts interfacing with the park.

Table A-1: Local and Regional Planning Efforts
Comprehensive/Master Plans
Comprehensive Plan for Washington, DC (2011)
Extending the Legacy: Planning for America's Capital for the 21st Century
District of Columbia Bicycle Master Plan (2005)
Memorials and Museums Master Plan (2001)
Langston Golf Course Master Plan
Fort Circle Park General Management Plan (2004)
US National Arboretum Master Plan (2000)
Kingfisher Watertrail Master Plan and Public Access Project (2013)
Poplar Point Plan (2025)
Watershed Restoration/Revitalization
Executive Order 13508: "Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration" (2009)
Chesapeake Bay Agreement (2014)
Chesapeake Bay Program (1993)
Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan
Tidal River Subwatershed Action Plan (2010)
Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (2000)
Anacostia Watershed Society
Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee (1999)
Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance
Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act ("Bag Law")
Anacostia River Trash Reduction Plan
District of Columbia Wetland Conservation Plan (1997)
Green Marina Initiative (2001)
Trail/Access/Transportation
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan (2013)
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan (2011)
Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway Comprehensive Management Plan (2012)
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
East Coast Greenway
Anacostia Riverwalk Trail
Anacostia River Bicycle Trail
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region (2006)
Paved Recreation Trails of the National Capital Region (1990)
Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region (2012)
Anacostia Transit Area Strategic Investment Plan (2004)
Benning Road Corridor Redevelopment Framework (2008)

Table A-1: Local and Regional Planning Efforts
Deanwood Strategic Development Plan (2008)
Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Corridor Development Plan (2008)
Nonmotorized Boating Special Study (1989)
South Capitol Street Corridor Project
Other Plans
Climate of Opportunity: A Climate Action Plan for the District of Columbia
Washington's Waterfronts (1999)
NCPC Report on Flooding and Stormwater (2006)
The Likelihood of Shore Protection in the District of Columbia
Capital Space: A Park System for the Nation's Capital (2010)
Sustainable DC Plan (2011)
DC Wildlife Action Plan
Anacostia Neighborhood Investment Fund Plan (2008)
Memorial Trends & Practice in Washington, DC (2012)
Congressional Cemetery Historic Landscape and Structures Report (2007)
Adopted Plans for Lands Adjoining Anacostia Park in Prince George's County, Maryland (1993, 1994)
DC Water and Sewer Authority Recommended Combined Sewer System Long-Term Control Plan (2002)
RFK Stadium Site Redevelopment Study (2006)
Capitol Riverside Youth Sports Park



Looking into the neighborhood from the pedestrian bridge



Appendix B

The following policies, regulations, and guidelines in Table B-1 are applicable to the development of the plan for the park.

Table B-1: Related Policies, Regulations, and Guidelines	
Title and Code	**Summary**
The Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan	A plan to revitalize the Anacostia neighborhood prepared by the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. Established the Anacostia River Parks, a unified and continuous park system.
Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), 1979 (16 USC 470aa-mm)	Governs the excavation of archeological sites on federal and Indian lands, and the removal and disposition of archeological collections therefrom.
Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) (42 USC 4151 et seq.)	Standards guide design to provide universal access for people of all ages and backgrounds to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered.
Clean Water Act, Section 401 (33 USC 1341)	Allows the DC Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) to review any proposed activity that requires a federal CWA permit, such as "Section 404" permits discussed below, that may result in discharges to District of Columbia waters for compliance with DC water quality requirements. DOEE can then "certify" (or approve) the activity, certify it with conditions, or deny certification. Any conditions included in DOEE's certification become conditions of the federal permit. If DOEE denies certification, then the federal permit cannot be issued.
Clean Water Act, Section 404 (33 USC 1344)	Requires a USAGE-issued permit be obtained before dredged or fill material may be discharged into the waters of the United States.
Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: District Elements	The "District Elements" component of this plan is prepared by the District of Columbia Office of Planning, and addresses traditional city planning subjects such as land use, housing, and economic growth within the District. National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) reviews the "District Elements" to ensure consistency between the Federal and District Elements.
Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements	The "Federal Elements" component of this plan is prepared by the NCPC. It guides long-term planning and development related to federal properties and interests in Washington, DC and the surrounding National Capital Region that extends into parts of Maryland and Virginia.
District of Columbia Discharge Elimination System	A DOEE State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit is required for construction projects disturbing more than 5,000 square feet of soil.
Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, Section 7 (16 USC 1531 et seq.)	Requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

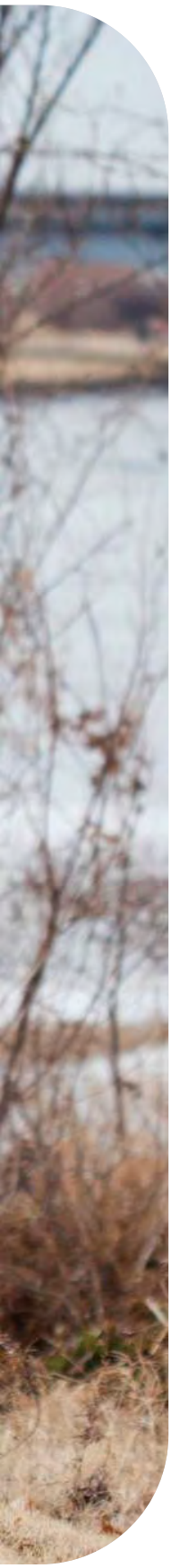
Table B-1: Related Policies, Regulations, and Guidelines	
Title and Code	**Summary**
Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 (42 USC 17083)	Requires federal projects to significantly reduce the use of fossil fuels and aims to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 USC 4321 et seq.)	Requires federal agencies to assess the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions and decisions (commonly referred to as "the NEPA process"). The NEPA process involves the federal agency determining if its proposed action/decision could have significant effects on the environment and ensuring that the public is involved in the decision-making.
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, Section 106 (54 USC 306108)	Requires federal agencies to consider the impacts of their undertakings on historic properties and archeological resources
NHPA Implementing Regulations (36 CFR 800)	Provides guidelines on the Section 106 process.
NPS Archeology Guide	Describes operational requirements, activities, standards, and other guidance to ensure the responsible management of archeological resources under the stewardship of the NPS. The Guide supplements more general directions provided in Director's Order (DO) 28A: Archeology, the NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline, and DO 28: Cultural Resource Management.
NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline	Elaborates and offers guidance on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation and DO 28.
NPS Director's Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making	Sets forth the policy and procedures by which the NPS will comply with NEPA. Requires full and open evaluation to ensure that both adverse and beneficial impacts of NPS proposed actions are fully and openly evaluated before actions are taken that may impact the human environment.
NPS Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management	Sets the policy and procedures by which the NPS will protect and manage cultural resources in its custody.
NPS Director's Order 28A: Archeology	Supplements DO 28 and provides additional detail on NPS archeology requirements.
NPS Director's Order 77-1: Wetland Protection	Provides direction for NPS on complying with Executive Order 11988. Requires that a Statement of Findings be prepared when a proposal would result in adverse impacts on wetlands and details the requirements and procedural elements associated with the Statement of Findings.

Table B-1: Related Policies, Regulations, and Guidelines	
Title and Code	**Summary**
NPS Director's Order 77-2: Floodplain Management	Provides direction for NPS on complying with Executive Order 11990. Requires that a Statement of Findings be prepared when a proposal would result in adverse impacts on floodplains and details the requirements and procedural elements associated with the Statement of Findings.
NPS NEPA Handbook, 2015	Synthesizes the legal and policy requirements and considerations related to NEPA and associated guidance applicable to NPS. It contains the information necessary to comply with NEPA and conduct sound environmental planning.
River and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899, Section 10 (33 USC 403)	Requires a permit from the USAGE to do any of the following: construction of any structure in or over any navigable waters of the United States; dredging in navigable water; depositing material in navigable water; or creating obstructions or alterations to a navigable water.
Rule on Stormwater Management and Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, 2013 or "2013 SW Rule" for short	DOEE rule designed to significantly reduce stormwater pollution flowing into the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, Rock Creek, and other District waterbodies. Also allows the District to comply with federal requirements established in the Clean Water Act stormwater permit.
Stormwater Management Guidebook, 2013 or "2013 SWMG" for short	Prepared by the DOEE, provides technical guidance on complying with the "2013 Rule on Stormwater Management and Soil Erosion and Sediment Control." This handbook defines the standards and specifications to design, review, approve, install, and maintain erosion and sediment control practices on land undergoing clearing, grading, and development. It also provides information on how to evaluate site-specific conditions, such as soils, drainage, proposed clearing, and grading.
Standardized Guidance on Compiling a Decision File and an Administrative Record	Provides the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) guidelines on compiling decision files and administrative records, which serve to document the DOI decision-making process and rational for making a decision.
Superintendent's Compendium, National Capital Parks - East, 2005	States regulatory provisions for the proper management (e.g., visitor hours, closures, public use limits, etc.) and protection (e.g., the unauthorized collection of historic artifacts, sanitation [trash, pet waste, etc.]) of National Capital Parks - East.
Superintendent's Compendium, National Capital Parks- East, 2025	States regulatory provisions for the proper management (e.g., visitor hours, closures, public use limits, etc.) and protection (e.g., the unauthorized collection of historic artifacts, sanitation [trash, pet waste, etc.]) of National Capital Parks - East.

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A man and child pick up trash along the Anacostia River



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Appendix C

Cost Estimate

The following cost estimates present a preliminary, rough order of magnitude cost for each concept at Anacostia Park. The total estimated net construction cost is broken down into subcategories, each of which will need to be addressed for every concept. Each estimate is based on a set of assumptions that influence the final cost for each subcategory, as well as the overall total, including location factors, design contingencies and overhead. These assumptions are detailed below. The three cost estimates are intended to provide an initial cost for each concept, highlighting the variance between them, and should not be considered as definitive or final projections for the project costs.

Assumptions	Percentage
Published Location Factor	-4.10%
Remoteness Factor	0.00%
Federal Wage Rate Factor	0.00%
State & Local Taxes	5.75%
Design Contingency	25.00%
Standard General Conditions	10.00%
Government General Conditions	10.00%
Historic Preservation Factor	1.00%
Overhead	10.00%
Profit	10.00%
Bonds & Permit	2.50%
Contracting Method Adjustment	5.00%
Inflation Escalation	4.00%
Time Until Project Midpoint (Months)	24

Concept 1 Cost Estimate

Item #	Description	Cost
1	Demolition	$1,531,900
2	Site Improvements / Hardscape	$12,476,400
3	Waterside Improvements	$22,621,300
4	Landscape	$1,875,100
5	Planting	$1,389,200
6	Sports Facilities	$1,112,000
7	Site Utilities	$5,839,500
8	Site Amenities	$2,739,600
	Total Estimated Net Cost of Construction	**$49,585,000**

Concept 2 Cost Estimate

Item #	Description	Cost
1	Demolition	$1,707,500
2	Site Improvements / Hardscape	$21,185,600
3	Waterside Improvements	$22,107,900
4	Landscape	$8,329,800
5	Planting	$1,162,500
6	Sports Facilities	$993,500
7	Site Utilities	$6,643,400
8	Site Amenities	$2,739,600
	Total Estimated NET Cost of Construction	**$64,869,800**

Concept 3 Cost Estimate

Item #	Description	Cost
1	Demolition	$1,707,500
2	Site Improvements / Hardscape	$21,075,500
3	Waterside Improvements	$22,683,000
4	Landscape	$7,359,900
5	Planting	$1,615,400
6	Sports Facilities	$913,600
7	Site Utilities	$6,277,400
8	Site Amenities	$2,525,800
	Total Estimated NET Cost of Construction	**$64,158,100**

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A bicyclist rides downhill from the Anacostia River Trail bridge

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Appendix D

Public Comment Summary Breakdown

Public Comment Summary 1	
Report Title	Public Comment #1 | Vision and Goals
Date of Public Meeting	September 2021
Link to Report Online	https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=425&ProjectID=102870&documentID=113171

Public Comment Summary 2	
Report Title	Public Comment Period #2 | Preliminary Concept Designs
Date of Public Meeting	January 2024
Link to Report Online	https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=425&ProjectID=102870&documentID=131983

Public Comment Summary 3	
Report Title	Public Comment Period #3 | Revised Design Concepts
Date of Public Meeting	September 2024
Link to Report Online	https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=425&ProjectID=102870&documentID=137538

Vision and Goals Public Meeting

Date	Time	Location
June 29th, 2021	6pm - 7:30pm	Via Zoom

Preliminary Design Concepts Public Meetings/ Outreach

Date	Time	Location
Sep. 27th, 2023	6pm - 8pm	Via Zoom
Sep. 30th, 2023	3pm - 7pm	Lake Skate at Anacostia Park
Oct. 14th, 2023	11am - 4pm	Frederick Douglass Family Day
Oct. 19th, 2023		Via Zoom
Oct. 20th, 2023		
Oct. 28th, 2023	3pm - 7pm	Lake Skate at Anacostia Park
Oct. 31st, 2023		Martha's Table
Nov. 7th, 2023		Hybrid Zoom & In-Person

Revised Design Concepts Public Meetings/ Outreach

Date	Time	Location
June 25th, 2024	6:30 - 8:30pm	Hybrid Zoom & Anacostia High School
June 29th	4pm - 10pm	Lake Skate at Anacostia Park
July 6th	9am - 2pm	Community Fishing - Anacostia Park Boat Ramp
July 6th	10am - 12pm	Information Table at the Skating Pavilion
July 13th	10am - 12pm	Information Table at the Skating Pavilion
July 20th	10am - 12pm	Information Table at the Skating Pavilion
July 20th	1pm - 4pm	Lotus and Lily Festival
July 21st	1pm - 4pm	Lotus and Lily Festival
July 27th	9am - 2pm	Community Fishing - Anacostia Park Boat Ramp
July 27th	10am - 12pm	Information Table at the Skating Pavilion
July 27th	4pm - 10pm	Lake Skate at Anacostia Park
August 7th	9am - 12pm	Project Open House - 1901 Anacostia Drive
August 14th	9am - 12pm	Project Open House - 1901 Anacostia Drive
August 21st	9am - 12pm	Project Open House - 1901 Anacostia Drive
August 28th	9am - 12pm	Project Open House - 1901 Anacostia Drive

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