

RESURGENCE

OF THE

ANACOSTIA WATERFRONT

15

15 YEARS OF PROGRESS ALONG THE ANACOSTIA RIVER
2003 - 2018

Washington, DC is a waterfront city. ~ DC Mayor Muriel Bowser

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

It's the Year of the Anacostia and Washingtonians are celebrating many milestones and achievements along the Anacostia River, including the 15-year anniversary of the Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan.



Led by the District of Columbia government, and embraced by 19 regional and federal agency partners, our vision is to reconnect the river to make possible widespread access to the water and its new parks as well as recreational, cultural, residential, and commercial centers.

As we've completed subsequent plans, policies, projects, and legislative measures, the original goals and recommendations of the forward-looking Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan remain a foundational compass. Fifteen years later, these goals still resonate with continued significance for the Anacostia waterfront, with transformative new destinations, green spaces, and blossoming economic opportunities for District residents.

In 2016, my Administration established the Anacostia Waterfront Interagency Working Group, led by the Office of Planning with the goal of formalizing collaboration to maximize the potential of the Anacostia Waterfront for economic development, revitalization, recreation, and environmental value, while promoting resilience and equity. This Anacostia Waterfront Progress

Report is a summary of how far we've come and a look-ahead to what comes next.

Washington, DC is a growing city, and we see this growth along the Anacostia waterfront. Between 2010 and 2025, we are expecting to add an estimated 35,000 new residents in waterfront neighborhoods; in 2018, we are well on our way to achieving this goal.

Today, Washington, DC is truly a waterfront city!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Muriel Bowser". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop for the "B".

Mayor Muriel Bowser

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This progress report is a product of the District of Columbia's Anacostia Waterfront Interagency Working Group, formed in December 2016. The Working Group is comprised of the following District government agencies and other authorities:




Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
Office of Planning
Department of Energy and Environment
District Department of Transportation
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of General Services
Department of Housing and Community Development
Office of Public Private Partnerships
Office of the City Administrator (Resilient DC)
DC Water
Events DC

DMPED
OP
DOEE
DDOT
DPR
DGS
DHCD
OP3
OCA

In addition, several key federal and community partners have been long-time champions of the Anacostia River and supported the development of this report:

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
DC Silver Jackets
General Services Administration
National Capital Planning Commission
National Park Service
Washington Navy Yard
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling
Fort Lesley J. McNair
Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative
Anacostia Waterfront Trust
Anacostia Business Improvement District
Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District
Southwest Business Improvement District

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REALIZING A WATERFRONT CITY

RESURGENCE OF THE ANACOSTIA RIVER

WASHINGTON, DC IS A WATERFRONT CITY.

At the confluence of two tidal rivers, the Potomac and Anacostia, the District of Columbia enjoys 47 miles of shoreline. With DC now fully embracing its revived identity as a waterfront city, this progress report celebrates the resurgence of the Anacostia River—the heart of the District’s reorientation to its waterfront.



The Anacostia River and its waterfront neighborhoods stand today in stark contrast to the challenges of 2003, underscoring a depth of commitment, stewardship, and investment. Fifteen years ago, the river had been compromised by pollution from untreated sewage overflows, trash, sedimentation, untreated stormwater, fertilizers, and more. The Anacostia’s banks had been artificially walled, preventing the growth of natural ecosystems that help keep rivers healthy and foster wildlife. While the river boasted miles of National Park Service parkland, it also contained a range of industrial uses like scrap yards, stone crushing facilities, utilities, and military installations. The shoreline was hard to reach or completely inaccessible from nearby communities. Most District residents did not approach the river, which had become a near-synonym for abandonment and urban decay. If the environmental restoration of the river seemed a pipe dream, the possibility of luring residential development to its banks seemed equally hard to imagine. Meanwhile, a complex ownership structure exists where the river itself (both water and river bed) and the land along it are split between several federal and local agencies and private property owners. The river and its watershed are further

shared with Prince George’s and Montgomery counties in Maryland. Despite these hurdles, sustained leadership, significant public, non-profit, and private investment, and community advocacy have enabled the Anacostia River to flourish.

Once a forgotten and polluted dividing line, the District’s eight-mile stretch of the Anacostia River and Washington Channel is now unlocking social, environmental, and economic benefits. This area weaves through Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8, and stretches from the Tidal Basin to the District’s northeast border with Maryland. The Anacostia waterfront has become more widely recognized and experienced with its new destinations, homes, job centers, environmental regeneration, and enhanced public access that have restored residents’ connections to the water.

In 2003, the Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan set a visionary and ambitious agenda for the revitalization of the Anacostia waterfront as a world-class destination and the center of 21st century Washington, DC. On March 22, 2000, 19 federal and District agencies committed themselves



to the unprecedented effort of restoring the Anacostia River, its waterfronts, and adjoining communities and parks through the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI). Led by then Mayor Anthony Williams, the AWI vision for the Anacostia included an ambitious set of goals (outlined on page 9). The DC Office of Planning, in collaboration with the AWI agencies and civic stakeholders, created the Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan (AWI Plan) to implement the AWI vision and provide a roadmap for waterfront revitalization. The AWI Plan focused on 900 acres of land along the eight-mile long Anacostia waterfront and Washington Channel, 90 percent of which were publicly owned at the time. The AWI study area focused strongly on large public sites that could be leveraged for redevelopment. The AWI Plan envisioned the “transformation of upwards of 2,000 acres of a long-neglected and abused river corridor into a model of 21st century urban life – socially heterogeneous, culturally diverse, and environmentally and economically sustainable across future generations.”

The AWI Plan set in motion a transformation that includes new mixed-income neighborhoods, environmental restoration, transportation infrastructure, enhanced public access, new connected parks, and cultural destinations. The revitalization of the Anacostia waterfront is a shared success story of visionary planning, strategic public and private investment, and community partnership that has fueled one of the most exciting urban waterfront transformations in the United States. In 2018, at the 15-year anniversary of the AWI Plan, the turnaround of the Anacostia waterfront is a national model for urban rivers in terms of environmental restoration, public access, economic development, and inclusive growth.

A revitalized waterfront has always been about shared stewardship, and the constituencies are strong and growing. While the leadership of former Mayor Anthony Williams, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and other champions elevated the Anacostia River as a priority,



a growing number of nonprofit organizations, community groups, and foundations have emerged in recent years with a focus on the Anacostia River’s environment and the community development of adjacent neighborhoods. Many of the District’s waterfront successes and progressive legislation are direct results of the hard work of so many dedicated community advocates and stewards of the river. This growing constituency will help to sustain community-based conservancy efforts into the future.

The Anacostia waterfront has grown and prospered as a collection of both new and well-established neighborhoods, planned as a key location to accommodate the city’s population growth around transit and waterfront amenities. The rise in waterfront development is the result of planning policy that has guided public investment and private development along the Anacostia River, especially on underutilized public land, large sites, and formerly industrial properties, capitalizing on the transit capacity along Metro’s Green, Blue, and Orange lines. The AWI Plan set a vision for accommodating growth along the waterfront in vibrant, sustainable neighborhoods that were to be connected to each other, other District neighborhoods, and the region. The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: District Elements enshrined this vision through policies identifying the neighborhoods dotting the Anacostia waterfront as new or revitalized neighborhoods, including the Southwest Waterfront, Buzzard Point, Navy Yard, Hill East, and Poplar Point. This planned growth was aimed at bringing amenities and enhanced access to existing neighborhoods such as Historic Anacostia, Kenilworth, and Capitol Hill. Leveraging public properties at the Southwest Waterfront (The Wharf) and Navy Yard (Capitol Riverfront) has already catalyzed the creation of new residences, cultural destinations, recreational amenities, job centers, and restored access along the waterfront. The Navy Yard has emerged as the fastest-growing neighborhood in the city with an expected 13,000 residents by 2020.

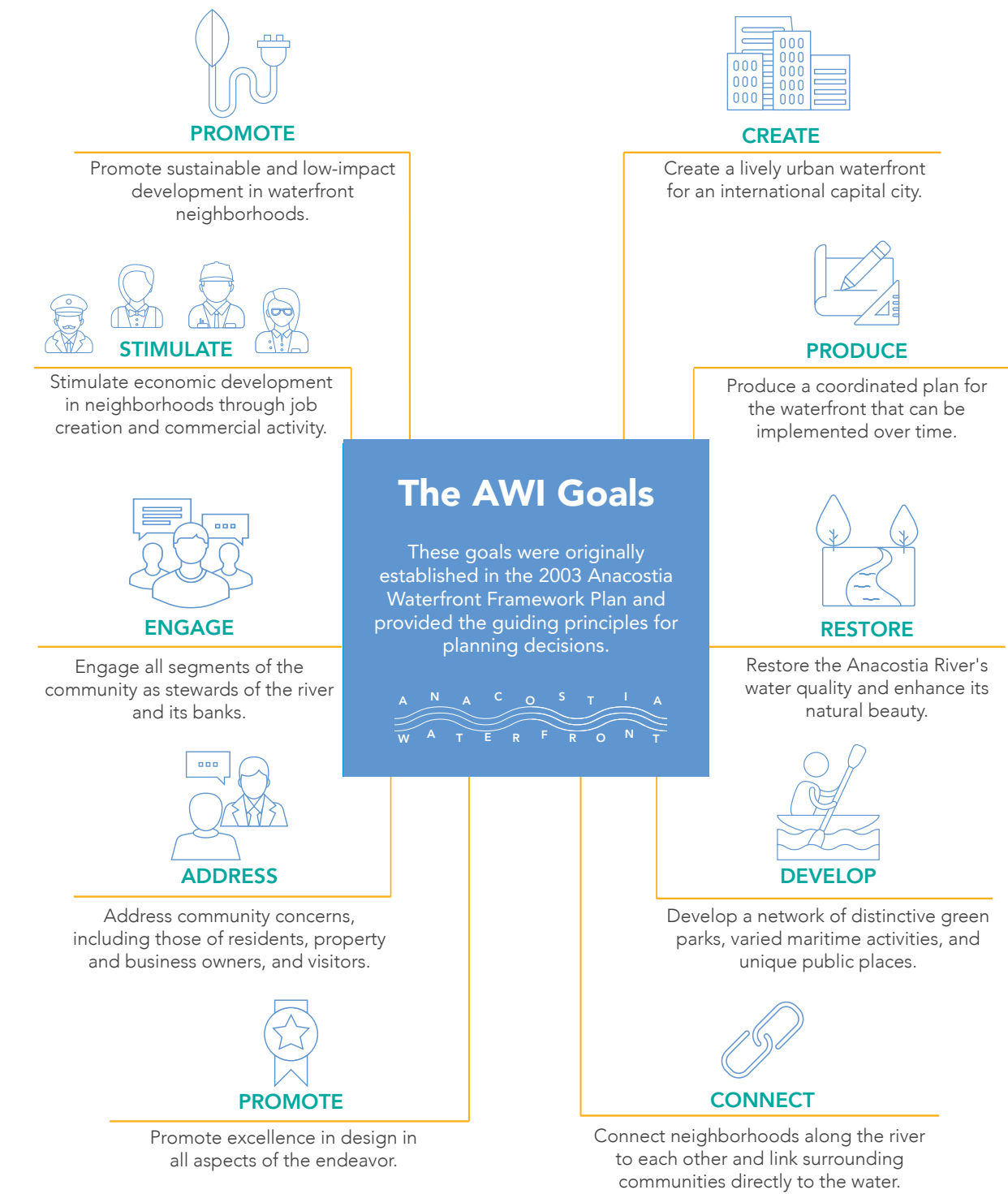
By improving the Anacostia River’s water quality, the District has sought to achieve environmental healing and justice and promote water-dependent activities. Through a mix of legislative measures, restoration and remediation projects, and large-scale infrastructure like DC Water’s Clean Rivers Project, the District has experienced a radical environmental turnaround that is helping to make all other investments a success. A clean river is a necessary foundation for all water-related experiences and essential to the wellbeing of nearby residents and the health of wildlife habitat. The Anacostia River is well on its way to being swimmable and fishable by 2032 as envisioned in the AWI Plan. The next wave of environmental progress is about making the river and its waterfront communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including potential flooding, sea level rise, and more frequent and intense precipitation.



credit: Jeff Salmore

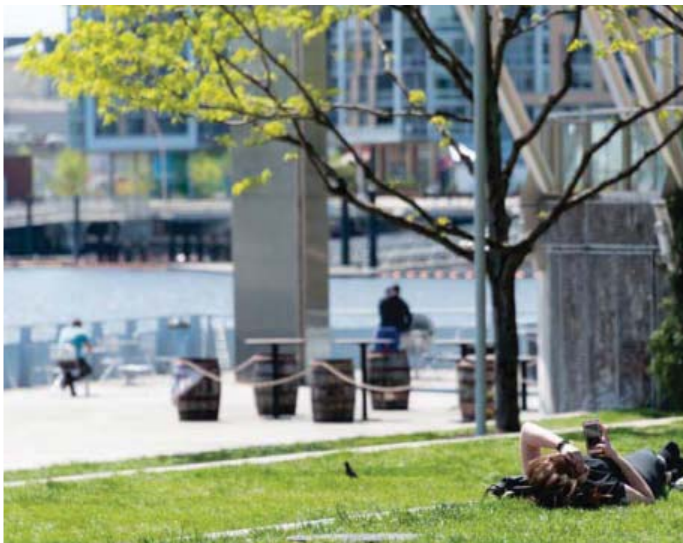
credit: Jeff Salmore

ANACOSTIA WATERFRONT INITIATIVE (AWI) GOALS





credit: Jeff Salmore



credit: Jeff Salmore

“Transformation of upwards of 2,000 acres of a long-neglected and abused river corridor into a model of 21st century urban life...”

Investments in transportation infrastructure have helped deliver a connected waterfront, ensuring that the Anacostia River no longer divides our neighborhoods. State-of-the-art multimodal projects are enhancing mobility and public access to and along the waterfront like the planned Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, almost 20 miles of the Anacostia Riverwalk trail, new options like bikeshare, the DC Circulator bus, and streetcar, and improved roadway circulation that takes regional traffic off neighborhood streets. Restoration of streets and rebuilding the historic L’Enfant grid have helped to connect neighborhoods. This waterfront transportation network, which includes new water taxi service, is also essential for connecting District residents to jobs, schools, parks, and entertainment destinations.

The natural experiences and recreation along the Anacostia River are a fundamental ingredient for the continued livability of a growing city. A great deal of the shoreline remains parkland in District or federal ownership, including the federally-owned 1,200+ acres of Anacostia Park which celebrates its 100-year anniversary in 2018. The District has created a system of interconnected and continuous waterfront parks that establish widespread access to the river for recreation, from signature locations like Yards Park to improved facilities like Kenilworth Recreation Center, all joined by the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. The Anacostia waterfront is a place where DC plays and rejuvenates; a place for everyone from local families to tourists; a place to discover nature in the city; and a place to find respite in recreation and river views. The District’s population has grown by over 125,000 residents since the 2003 AWI Plan and continues to grow by about 800 residents each month, and the Anacostia waterfront and its robust park system will help to balance growth and serve all District residents.

The Anacostia waterfront has emerged as a cultural center complementing the Mall with cultural venues, sports arenas, and museums that are enlivening its shores with millions of annual visitors and reinforcing our city’s unique cultural heritage. There are also new developments and neighborhoods that serve as destinations in themselves, such as The Wharf, that are changing the image of DC and its relationship with the water through unique public spaces and programming. From Nationals Park and Audi Field to

new museums, music venues, future monuments, and the planned 11th Street Bridge Park, the Anacostia waterfront is adding to the cultural energy and dynamism of the District.

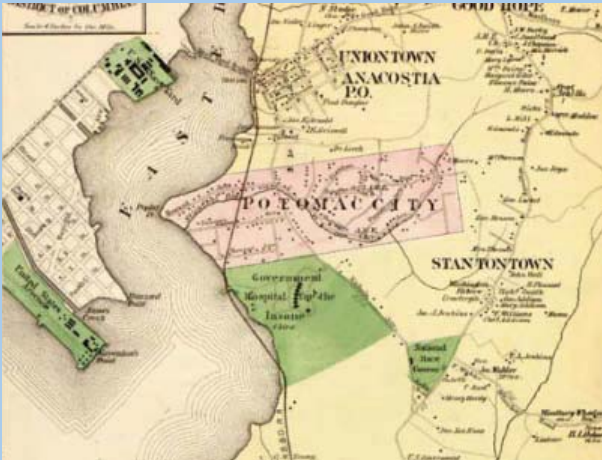
Most importantly, waterfront revitalization is about growing an inclusive city and delivering shared economic and social prosperity. As the AWI Plan envisioned, “the river will no longer be a widening social and economic boundary separating ‘east of the river’ from west”, but rather “...it will be a source of economic opportunity generating resources to spur revitalization and narrow the gap between wealth and poverty in neighborhoods along its shores.” Inclusive prosperity is about expanding access to opportunity and providing pathways to the middle class for District residents through the sustained growth of jobs, affordable housing, and tax revenue. New jobs, retail options, transportation improvements, and parks along the Anacostia River all seek to serve longstanding and new residents in waterfront communities as well as the city and region. While the Anacostia River’s renaissance has realized notable strides on inclusion, there is a need to ensure the next generation of waterfront projects purposely address equity.



Preserving the Heritage of the Anacostia River

The Anacostia has a rich story that spans from prehistory through industrialization, and a legacy that continues today. The District actively works to manage our historic structures, through research, designation, adaptive reuse, and archeological investigation. The following are some archeological and historic preservation highlights:

- **Archeological surveys at Anacostia Park** have uncovered evidence of prehistoric camp sites, regional transportation for Native Americans, industry, and historic African American neighborhoods. Nomination of Anacostia Park to the National Register is currently underway.
- Historically, **Reservation 13** was a Native American settlement, and prehistoric stone tools in various stages of production were found there during an archeological survey, indicating that this was once a tool processing site. More recently, the site housed the Marine Hospital and Arsenal.
- **An archaeological survey at the 11th Street Bridge site** revealed a below-ground paved street dating to the 1860s.
- A number of historic structures are located in Capitol Riverfront, some of which have been adapted for reuse as part of redevelopment. The **Lumber Shed Building** is the site of new restaurants, and the **Old Capitol Pumphouse** is now an educational space for the Earth Conservation Corps.
- One of the oldest operating Naval facilities in the nation, the **Washington Navy Yard** is a Historic Site that is still active today. It employs approximately 16,000 people, and is home to the U.S. Navy Museum.
- The **Kingman Park Neighborhood** was designated as a historic district in 2018.




NEXT GENERATION APPROACH


In celebration of the 15-year anniversary of the AWI Plan, this report highlights many of the collective accomplishments and frames future opportunities that the Anacostia waterfront holds for the District. This progress report looks beyond the AWI Plan’s original boundaries confined to publicly owned waterfront edges and includes adjacent communities along the waterfront. The report focuses on the following thematic areas which also correlate to the original chapters/themes of the AWI Plan:

Washington, DC has made great strides on the Anacostia waterfront, but there is still work to do. Large publicly controlled sites like RFK Stadium, Hill East, and Poplar Point are still in planning or early stages of redevelopment. Since the AWI Plan, the District has increasingly grown in its consciousness and commitment to the issue of equity as the pressure of significant population growth increases concerns around housing affordability and economic opportunity. Long a leader in sustainability, the District is now also working to advance policies and projects that support a more resilient city, which means adapting to climate change and flood risk in waterfront areas. There is also a growing understanding of how the waterfront can invite innovation and sustain the District’s competitive advantage on a world stage. Looking forward, the District is committed to focusing on equity and inclusive prosperity, next generation resilience, innovative design, and sustainable growth.


15 Years of Progress




NEIGHBORHOODS
Building and Sustaining Strong Waterfront Neighborhoods




ENVIRONMENT
A Clean and Active River



TRANSPORTATION
Breaking Down Barriers and Gaining Access



PARKS
A Great Waterfront Park System

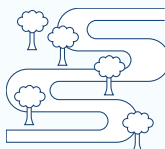


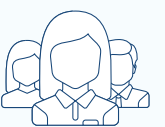







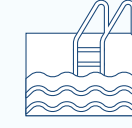





DESTINATIONS
Cultural Destinations and Places of Distinct Character



REALIZING A WATERFRONT CITY

TOP 15 AWI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

 <p>Connected Anacostia River Parks into an integrated open-space system with 1,800 acres of parkland, including new signature parks like Yards Park and Canal Park.</p>	 <p>Completed nearly 20 miles of a continuous Anacostia Riverwalk Trail built along both banks of the Anacostia waterfront.</p>	 <p>Radically improved water quality and river health through wetland and stream restoration, regulations, and the \$2.8 billion DC Clean Rivers Project.</p>
 <p>Attracted a diversity of government and private sector employers with 100,000 employees working in Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods.</p>	 <p>Spurred new housing development including 18,000+ additional housing units for Washington, DC, including 4,500+ new and preserved affordable housing units.</p>	 <p>Designed state-of-the-art multimodal bridges for 11th Street and the Frederick Douglass Bridge at South Capitol Street to better serve local residents.</p>
 <p>Delivered over 13 million square feet of commercial, retail, and service-oriented space along the waterfront.</p>	 <p>Fostered the Anacostia waterfront as a world-class cultural destination with Arena Stage, the Anacostia Arts Center, the International Spy Museum, The Anthem, the Anacostia Playhouse, Nationals Park, and Audi Field.</p>	 <p>Strengthened existing waterfront neighborhoods through public investment in infrastructure, schools, libraries, parks, and recreation centers.</p>
 <p>Transformed the SW Waterfront into The Wharf as a four-seasons regional waterfront destination for residents and visitors with a mix of shops, restaurants, music venues, hotels, offices, homes, and public gathering spaces.</p>	 <p>General fund revenues of \$287 million to the District in 2018 generated within the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District (BID), over three and a half times the amount generated before the BID was formed in 2007.</p>	 <p>Created signature park experiences such as Yards Park and Canal Park, with year-round programming that draws neighbors and visitors from throughout the region. Continued investment in waterfront neighborhood recreation centers.</p>
 <p>Clustered new housing and jobs around waterfront neighborhood Metrorail stations on the Green, Blue, Orange, and Silver Lines, reinforcing walkable, transit-friendly places.</p>	 <p>Redesigned streets to accommodate people and bikes, as well as vehicles, and the expansion of transit through the DC Circulator bus, shuttles, bikeshare, and in the future, streetcar.</p>	 <p>Established the District's first State Conservation Area at Kingman Island and supported the reemergence of wildlife like the bald eagle at the Anacostia River.</p>

REALIZING A WATERFRONT CITY

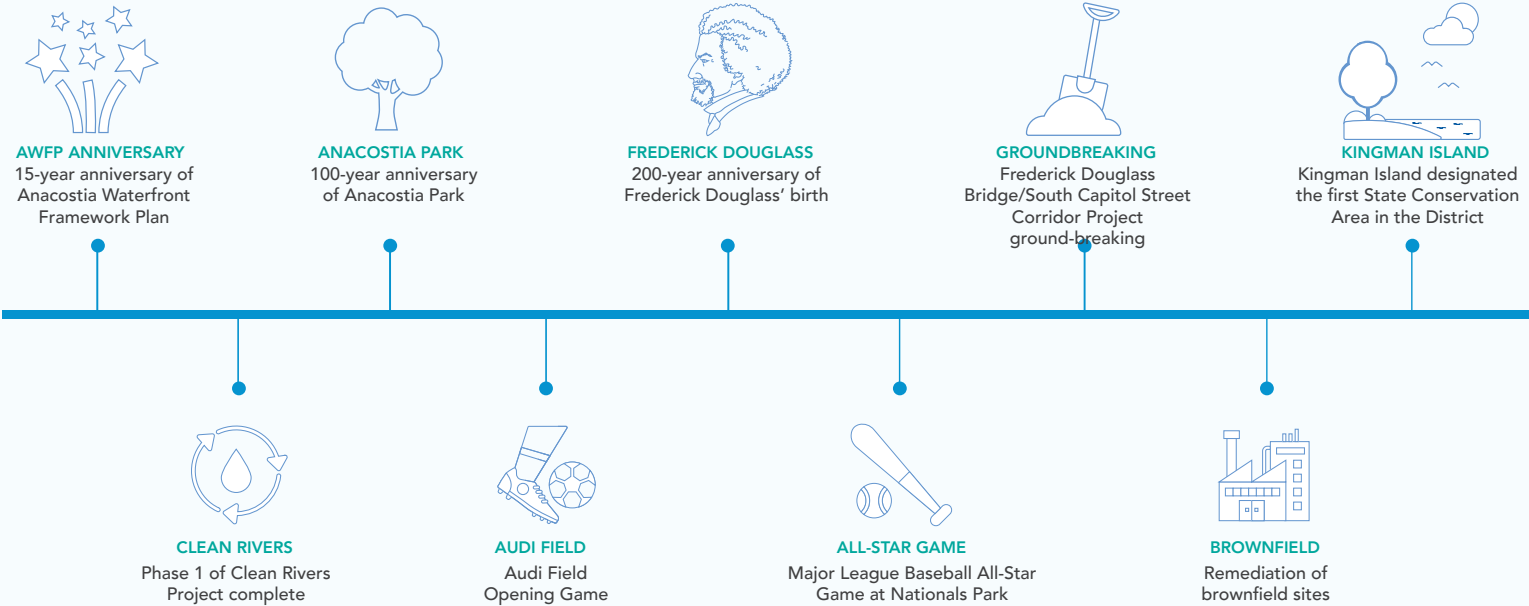
2018: YEAR OF THE ANACOSTIA

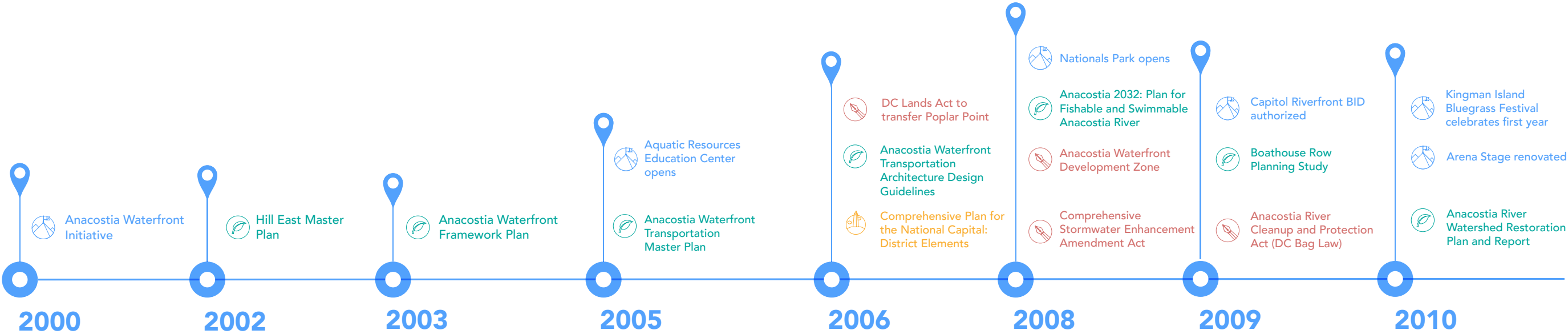
2018 is a big year for the Anacostia River in Washington, DC and Maryland. This momentous year comes at the 15-year anniversary of the AWI Plan.

The open space along the slow and gentle river was preserved as park land through an act of Congress on August 31, 1918 — 100 years ago. This year not only marks the centennial celebration of the legislation that preserved Anacostia Park but also the completion of DC Water's Anacostia River Tunnel, which will substantially improve water quality. Meanwhile, the DC Department of Energy and Environment and the National Park Service will make the final decision on the most effective way to clean up the riverbed, and fans will celebrate the 89th Major League Baseball All-Star Game along the banks of the Anacostia.

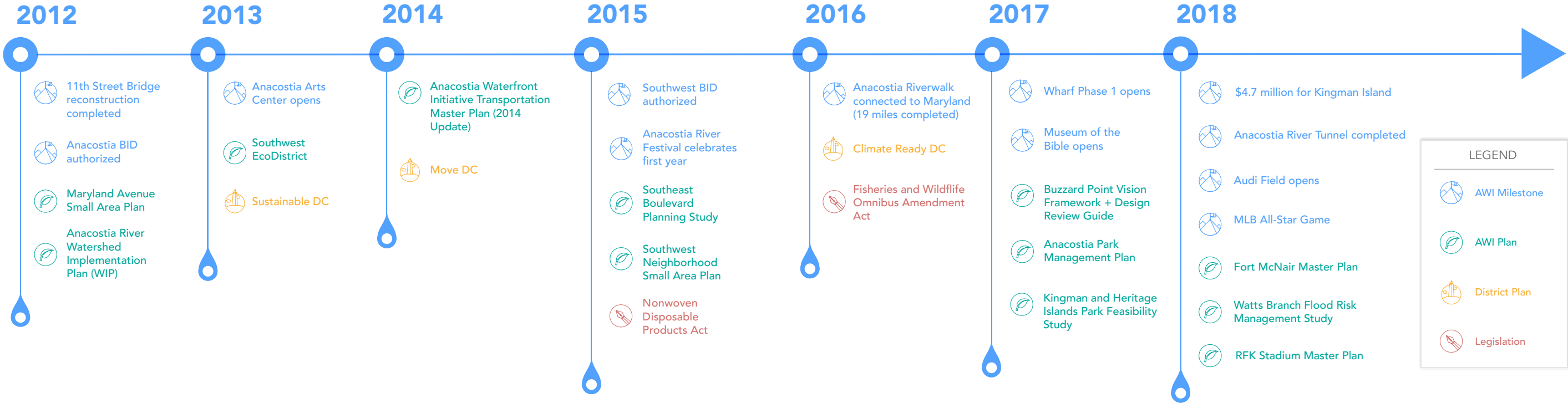
These are just some of the milestones, anniversaries, projects, and events that together make 2018 a significant year. Known as the Year of the Anacostia, 2018 is a monumental opportunity to acknowledge history and look to the future: to continue to transform the Anacostia waterfront into a vibrant, healthy, and thriving civic space in the heart of the District. The Anacostia corridor, once a dividing line in the nation's capital, will serve as a touchstone for ecological restoration, equitable economic growth, and a celebration of community strength and unity.

2018 Anacostia Waterfront Progress Milestones





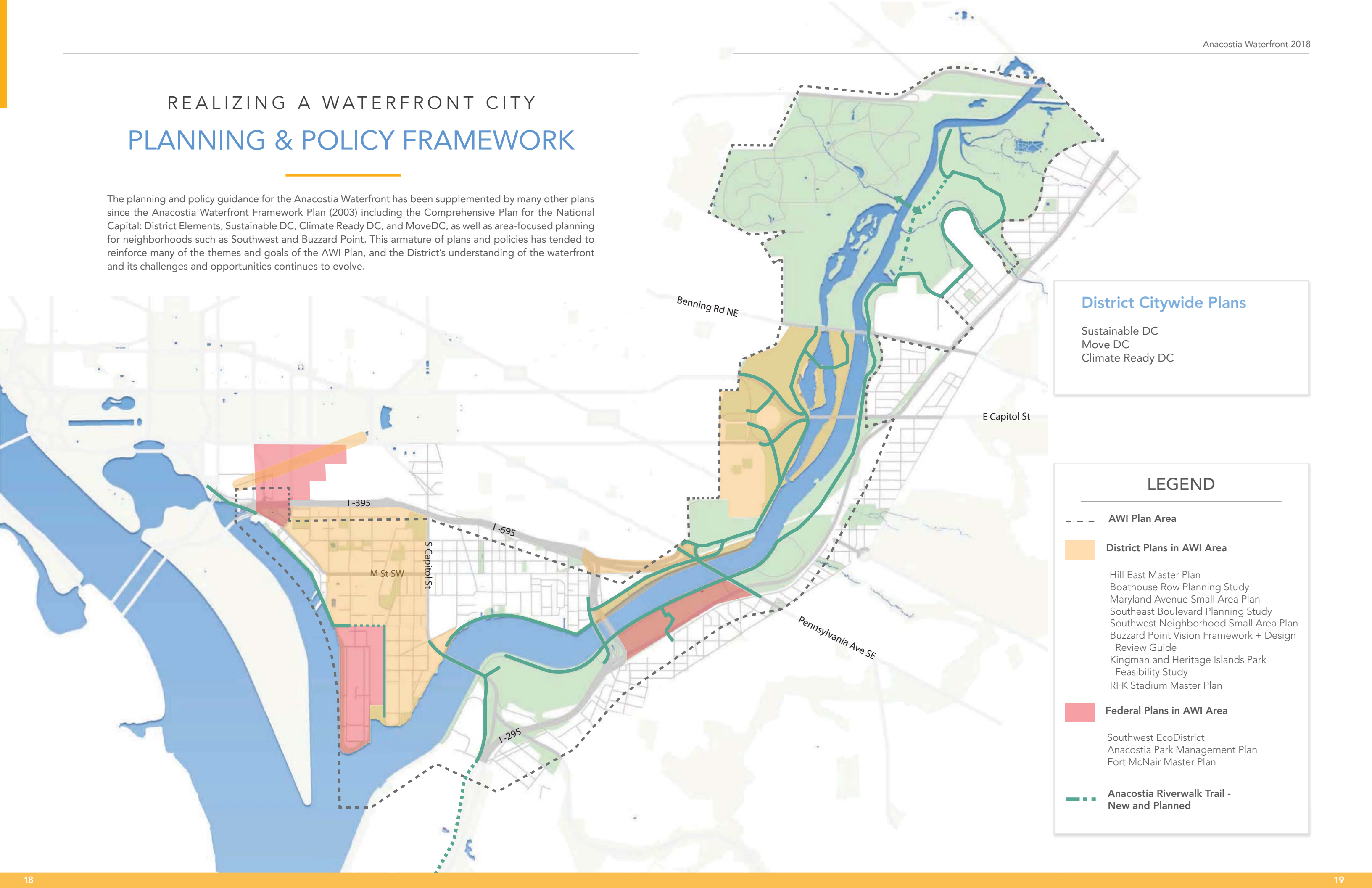
REALIZING A WATERFRONT CITY
ANACOSTIA WATERFRONT TIMELINE



REALIZING A WATERFRONT CITY

PLANNING & POLICY FRAMEWORK

The planning and policy guidance for the Anacostia Waterfront has been supplemented by many other plans since the Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan (2003) including the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: District Elements, Sustainable DC, Climate Ready DC, and MoveDC, as well as area-focused planning for neighborhoods such as Southwest and Buzzard Point. This armature of plans and policies has tended to reinforce many of the themes and goals of the AWI Plan, and the District's understanding of the waterfront and its challenges and opportunities continues to evolve.

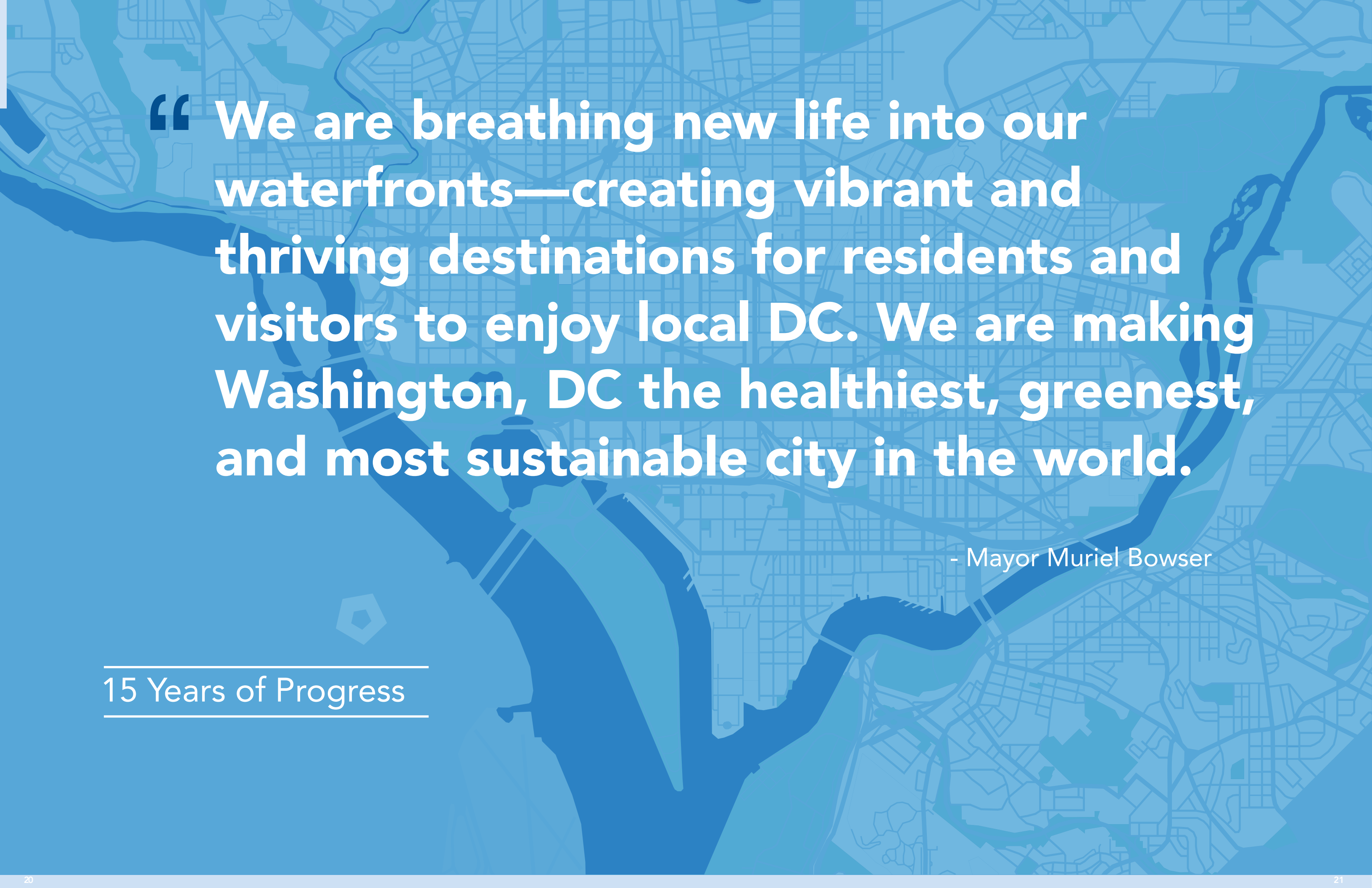


District Citywide Plans

Sustainable DC
Move DC
Climate Ready DC

LEGEND

- - - AWI Plan Area
- District Plans in AWI Area
 - Hill East Master Plan
 - Boathouse Row Planning Study
 - Maryland Avenue Small Area Plan
 - Southeast Boulevard Planning Study
 - Southwest Neighborhood Small Area Plan
 - Buzzard Point Vision Framework + Design Review Guide
 - Kingman and Heritage Islands Park Feasibility Study
 - RFK Stadium Master Plan
- Federal Plans in AWI Area
 - Southwest EcoDistrict
 - Anacostia Park Management Plan
 - Fort McNair Master Plan
- Anacostia Riverwalk Trail - New and Planned



“ We are breathing new life into our waterfronts—creating vibrant and thriving destinations for residents and visitors to enjoy local DC. We are making Washington, DC the healthiest, greenest, and most sustainable city in the world.

- Mayor Muriel Bowser

15 Years of Progress



NEIGHBORHOODS

Washington, DC now enjoys a range of exciting urban waterfront communities in new and existing neighborhoods strengthened with investment and amenities. A growing number of residents live, work, play, and connect in transit-oriented waterfront neighborhoods, while an increasing number of visitors experience the waterfront for business, recreation, and entertainment.



AWI Goals for Neighborhoods



Promote mixed-use waterfront neighborhoods with opportunities to live, work, and play.



Invest in existing neighborhoods to ensure that current residents have improved services and amenities.



Create the opportunity for more than 20,000 additional mixed-income households to live in waterfront neighborhoods.



Revitalize existing commercial areas and connect these historic centers to new public amenities.

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING STRONG WATERFRONT NEIGHBORHOODS

BY THE NUMBERS

\$250 Million invested in Modernized Schools
in Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods between 2015-2020.

\$55 Million invested in Parks and Recreation
facilities in waterfront neighborhoods since 2010.

18,000+ New Homes
built in Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods since 2004.

4,500+ New Affordable Homes
for families and seniors have come to waterfront neighborhoods since 2004.

\$287 Million Revenue Generated
in 2018 within the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District.

Absorbing a Growing Downtown

The Anacostia waterfront was intentionally planned as an extension of the city's Central Business District to capture commercial and job growth beyond the existing downtown. The fastest-growing neighborhoods in the District are on the Anacostia waterfront, and much of this growth has been achieved through leveraging public land and large sites for new mixed-use, transit-oriented development. Land development along Capitol Riverfront, especially at Buzzard Point, is moving faster than anticipated. Commercial projects led the initial development surge at the waterfront, which has now shifted to increased residential construction.

Housing and Inclusive Neighborhoods

Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods are among the fastest growing in the District, expanding with new homes which include replacement and new affordable housing as well as housing for older adults. New infill development has also been a powerful engine for delivering additional amenities and services in existing neighborhoods.

A Waterfront that Works

More than 100,000 people now work along the waterfront for a diverse collection of government and private sector employers. Historic military facilities retain a strong employment presence at the Washington Navy Yard and Fort McNair. Waterfront locations are expected to continue to attract top talent and were featured prominently in the District's proposal for Amazon's HQ2. The District government is leading by example, locating thousands of government employees within waterfront neighborhoods in recent years near Metrorail, including at the Waterfront, Navy Yard, Anacostia, and Minnesota Avenue stations. These government offices occupy newly constructed public buildings or serve as anchor tenants in new commercial and mixed-use developments.

The Power of Parks

New and improved parks contribute to Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods in three powerful ways: adding economic value to new development through recreation and programming; ensuring the waterfront remains a family-friendly destination; and providing environmental resilience to mitigate flooding and the impacts of climate change. Canal Park, Yards Park, Diamond Teague Park, and the Wharf Park are linked to new developments, providing neighborhood amenities for existing and new waterfront residents, workers, and visitors. Longstanding federal park and open space assets, from Langston Golf Course to the National Arboretum and Anacostia Park, are experiencing reinvestment, including plans for stronger connections to adjacent communities. The District has led a sustained capital campaign to renovate existing recreation centers on both sides of the river, an important foundation for maintaining vibrant neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods Accomplishments



In 2018, Capitol Riverfront has an estimated population of 8,600 residents in 6,600 homes, 6.7 million square feet of office, 34,000 daytime employees, and 325,000 square feet of retail.



The Wharf Phase I opened in 2017 with 900 residential units (205 affordable), \$200 million in public infrastructure, three hotels, dozens of restaurants, and three performance venues. Phase II is under development. When complete, the full project will deliver 6,000 jobs and \$94 million in annual tax revenue for the District.



Hill East Phase I Land Disposition Agreement was executed in 2015, bringing 354 new homes—of which 106 are affordable—atop 43,000 square feet of retail.



Historic Anacostia has seen diverse reinvestment with the relocation of several District government agencies since 2009, formation of the Anacostia BID in 2012, and the opening of the Anacostia Arts Center in 2013.



Award-winning Southwest Neighborhood Plan, focused on inclusive growth, approved by the Council of the District of Columbia in 2015.

Riverfront Retail

Hundreds of new restaurants, bars, and cafes offer a range of dining experiences in waterfront neighborhoods. New retail will continue to bring enhanced shopping opportunities to waterfront neighborhoods, including at Park 7 (4058 Minnesota Avenue) and at Hill East as part of Phase 1 development.

Connected Neighborhoods

With new and improved public parks, additions to the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail system, reconstructed multi-modal bridges, more transit options, and a water taxi crossing the Washington Channel, the Anacostia waterfront is accessible and connected to adjacent neighborhoods.

Capitol Riverfront

As federal lands around the Navy Yard were released for redevelopment and the District built Nationals Park on the Anacostia waterfront, Capitol Riverfront emerged as one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in the country. Nationals Park is a national model for a stadium as catalyst and anchor for neighborhood transformation and for thoughtfully integrating a major regional sporting destination into a high-density, urban neighborhood. In addition to attracting residents and visitors to baseball games, the stadium activates the neighborhood at all times of the day and year, with locally oriented programming like Opera in the Outfield. The 2018 opening of Audi Field in Buzzard Point, Capitol Riverfront's western section, replicates this model of growing an amenity-rich neighborhood anchored by a new stadium destination. Quality of life in Capitol Riverfront has continued to improve for residents and workers pouring into the area as new parks and public spaces host regional events and provide respite and recreation year-round. This activity is supported in large part by the leadership of the Capitol Riverfront BID, which maintains and activates public spaces with festivals, concerts, and outdoor movies. As a result, the BID estimates that the Capitol Riverfront hosted 2.8 million visitors in 2016.



Downtown Ward 7

New mixed-use developments have brought transit-accessible jobs, housing, and retail to the Parkside and Minnesota-Benning neighborhoods, while both public and private investments strengthen the connections and opportunities in the community. The Minnesota-Benning Government Center and neighboring Park 7 Apartments have brought more than 450 jobs and 376 homes to the Minnesota Avenue Metro Station area. Meanwhile, Educare in Parkside is a \$16 million state-of-the-art school that provides early childhood education aimed at closing the achievement gap for children from low-income households. Broadband internet for the site is provided by a grant from DC-Net. Construction continues, with 191 workforce housing and multi-family units breaking ground in 2018 at Parkside Parcel 11. Since 2016, a new four-mile segment of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail completed a continuous 40-mile network throughout the Anacostia River Watershed. The trail connects Parkside with District neighborhoods via existing segments south of Benning Road while providing more direct access to nature along the Anacostia River. Downtown Ward 7 neighborhoods will have stronger connections to employment opportunities and District amenities with the future Benning Road streetcar extension, better pedestrian bridges over Kenilworth Avenue, and a new pedestrian bridge across the Anacostia River to the National Arboretum.



NEIGHBORHOODS

A diversity of historic and emerging neighborhoods along the Anacostia River are enjoying the benefits of being adjacent the waterfront, strengthened by investment in schools, parks, libraries, and new retail, cultural spaces, and job centers.



BUZZARD POINT

The growth of new neighborhoods along the Anacostia River continues in Buzzard Point, anchored by the new Audi Field stadium and guided by the Buzzard Point Vision Framework + Design Review Guide.



WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

The Washington Navy Yard is the oldest shore establishment of the U.S. Navy and currently serves as its ceremonial and administrative center. The historic Washington Navy Yard is home to approximately 16,000 employees in 2.2 million square feet of office space.



CAPPER-CARROLLSBURG

Former public housing at Arthur Capper-Carrollsborg was transformed into Capitol Quarters, a mixed-income community with one-for-one replacement of every public housing unit removed. Redevelopment includes a new community recreation center and affordable senior housing.

LEGEND

Bike/Bed Trail - New and Planned

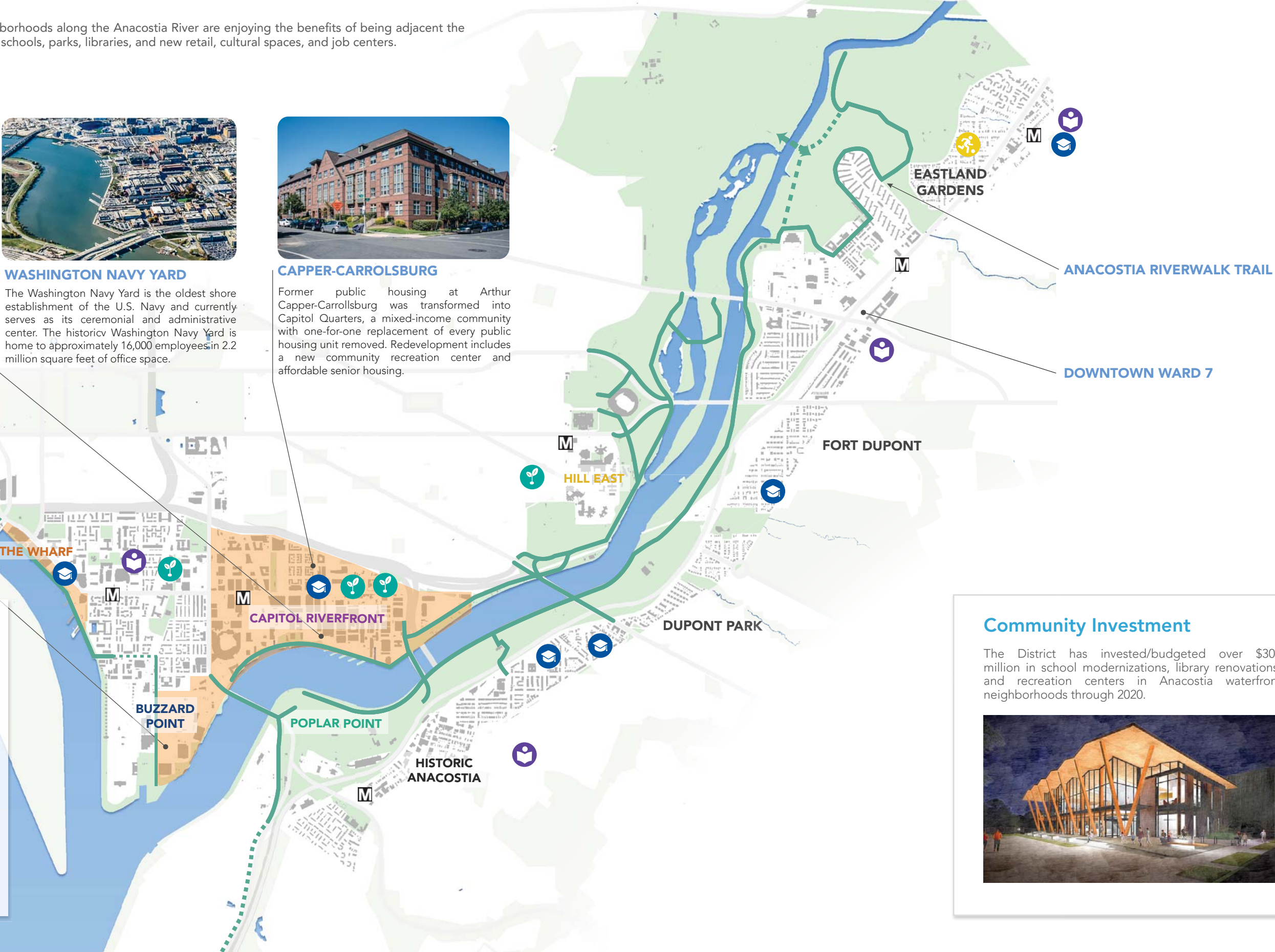
New Neighborhoods

New Community Garden

Library Investment

Modernized School

Renovated Recreational Center



Community Investment

The District has invested/budgeted over \$300 million in school modernizations, library renovations, and recreation centers in Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods through 2020.





Building Equity into our Neighborhoods

Housing. The preservation and creation of affordable housing is a citywide priority that, when applied to the Anacostia waterfront, is a key strategy to ensure a more equitable future for established and new neighborhoods. Since 2010, land owned or controlled by the District within the Anacostia Waterfront Development Zone is required to provide at least 30 percent affordable housing units to moderate- and low-income households. This emphasis on housing has catalyzed more than 4,500 new and replacement affordable units along the riverfront. Additionally, in 2019, the District will open a new short-term family housing program in Southwest to support families experiencing homelessness.

Food Access. Longtime and newer residents in areas such as Southwest and Capitol Riverfront have gained full-service grocery stores, community gardens, and other neighborhood amenities generated by public and private investment along the Anacostia waterfront.

Mobility. Neighborhoods along the Anacostia River have seen improved connections to and along the waterfront through a more complete street network with better bike and pedestrian access. In the future, waterfront neighborhoods will be better connected across the Anacostia River through improved roadways, the extended Benning Road Streetcar line, and bike-pedestrian connections. The highly anticipated Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project, which broke ground in Winter of 2018, will facilitate multimodal transportation options across the river.

Recreation. The Anacostia waterfront has seen increased investment in public amenities in existing communities, especially east of the Anacostia River. In addition to improved and new playgrounds, parks, and recreational centers in waterfront neighborhoods, trail connections to and along the river from Kenilworth and South Capitol Street have opened access to one of the District's greatest natural amenities.



Inclusive Prosperity. The development of new office space is bringing established companies and District and federal agencies to the Anacostia waterfront as well as incubating independent entrepreneurship and startup ventures. New development also brings construction employment opportunities. Phase I of The Wharf generated several hundred construction jobs, and 30 percent of apprenticeship opportunities were designated for District residents in Wards 7 and 8. The current construction of the Frederick Douglass Bridge also has substantial targets for training and employment of District residents.



credit: Jeff Salmore



ENVIRONMENT

Through a broad coalition of civic and government advocates, private and public investment, and progressive policymaking, the Anacostia River is experiencing an extraordinary environmental turnaround – one so dramatic to merit becoming a national best practice.



credit: Jeff Salmore

AWI Goals for the Environment



Provide a river suitable for swimming by 2032.



Restore riparian function of the watershed in both urban and natural environments.



Implement green guidelines and standards to require sustainable development.



Increase all type of maritime activity .



Enhance environmental education on the river's watershed.

A CLEAN AND ACTIVE RIVER

BY THE NUMBERS

70+ Organizations

working to improve the Anacostia River, its parks, and adjoining communities.

1,000+ Youth Trained

in environmental education through Green Zone Environmental Program's (GZEP) Summer Youth and Young Adults Watershed Protection Education and Job Training.

5 Streams Restored

that flow into the Anacostia River (Nash Run, Alger Park, Pope Branch, Watts Branch, Springhouse Run).

\$2.7 Billion DC Clean Rivers Project

will reduce 82% of combined sewer overflows into the Anacostia.

60% reduction of Plastic Bag Litter

through the implementation of the District bag fee.

52,000 lbs. of Trash Removed

from seven trash traps installed.

River Restoration

A clean river is the foundation for the Anacostia River revitalization and makes all other objectives and investments in the waterfront possible. Once dubbed “DC’s forgotten river” because of heavy pollution and neglect of its banks, the Anacostia River is on its way to becoming fully fishable and swimmable. While photos from a decade ago show a river covered in floating trash, today, the Anacostia River is experiencing an environmental rebirth characterized by improved water quality, wildlife repopulation, and more accessible, natural shorelines. To transform the Anacostia River into a fishable and swimmable river, in 2014, the District launched a long-term project to address contaminated sediments called the “A Cleaner Anacostia River” project. This project is the most comprehensive approach to restoration in the river’s history, and the District allocated \$45 million to support cleanup efforts.

Improved Water Quality

The restoration of five streams that flow into the Anacostia has diminished effluent pollution and debris that pollute the river’s waters. Legal requirements paved the way for the local water and sewer utility, DC Water, to initiate the biggest infrastructure project in the District since the building of the Metro system: the DC Clean Rivers Project, a \$2.7 billion sewer tunnel system and greening program to decrease the amount of untreated sewage spills into the river by 98 percent.

In addition to the ongoing remediation of several polluted sites, including at Kenilworth and Boathouse Row, the Anacostia River Sediment Project will lead to an enforceable clean-up strategy for the river bed itself. The redevelopment of old and highly polluting industrial areas on the riverfront has stemmed industrial runoff. The District and its partners have also worked to reduce trash pollution in the river through trash traps installed on various tributaries, anti-littering education, illegal dumping enforcement programs, and volunteer clean-up events, preventing millions of pounds of trash from entering the Anacostia River each year. Lastly, the District’s stormwater regulations and incentive programs, like the Stormwater Retention Credit Purchase Agreement Program, are driving the installation of green infrastructure across the city to reduce pollution and erosion from stormwater runoff.

Health and Activity

Improved water quality is addressing long-time environmental justice concerns and creating a healthier environment for nearby communities. Residents have been coming back to the river to take advantage of its numerous recreational opportunities, including maritime activities like kayaking, boating, and recreational fishing.

Environment
Accomplishments



Instituted the most progressive green building code and stormwater requirements in the country.



Signed the 2016 Anacostia River Accord between DC, Prince George’s County, and Montgomery County to work together to clean the watershed.



Created the Stormwater Retention Credit (SRC) Purchase Agreement Program (2016) to incentivize a market place for financing green infrastructure.



Designated Kingman and Heritage Islands as the first State Conservation Area in DC.



Completed the Remedial Investigation for the Anacostia River Sediment Project (ARSP), which determines the nature and extent of sediment contamination in the Anacostia River.



Published Proposed Rulemaking on allowing Special Swimming Events in the Anacostia.



Passed multiple new District laws to improve Anacostia River water quality:

- o Fisheries and Wildlife Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016;
- o Comprehensive Stormwater Management Enhancement Amendment Act of 2008;
- o Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act of 2009;
- o Nonwoven Disposable Products Act of 2016; and
- o Sustainable DC Omnibus Act of 2014 which bans the use of disposable foam food containers and includes other sustainable service ware requirements.

DC Water Clean Rivers Project

The DC Clean Rivers Project is DC Water’s program to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into DC’s rivers. CSOs are highly polluting spills of raw sewage and stormwater into rivers caused by the inadequate treatment and storage capacity of urban sewer systems. Until the recent completion of the current sewer system, the District’s rivers and creeks experienced CSOs during rain events. The DC Clean Rivers Project has created a new 157-million-gallon tunnel system where CSOs can be stored and conveyed to the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Anacostia River and Potomac River tunnel systems include more than 18 miles of tunnels, constructed more than 100 feet below the ground. The DC Clean Rivers Project will reduce CSOs annually by 96 percent throughout the system and by 98 percent for the Anacostia River alone. In addition, the project reduces the chance of flooding in the areas it serves and reduces nitrogen discharged to the Chesapeake Bay.



Kingman and Heritage Islands

The product of dredging the Anacostia River over 100 years ago, Kingman and Heritage Islands are now home to important and rare ecosystems, including tidal freshwater wetlands and swamp forests. Consequently, the islands boast more than 100 different species of birds, mammals, and other wildlife. For these reasons, in January 2018, the District designated portions of both islands as a State Conservation Area and the southern area of Kingman Island as a Critical Wildlife Area. The designation restricts the use of the islands to environmental, educational, and recreational purposes only. Furthermore, the District committed to investing \$4.7 million to fund outdoor classrooms, bathrooms, and accessible routes and pathways for visitors to the islands. These improvements will mean greater use of the island by District residents and visitors, which in turn will help expand successful school and volunteer programs already in place. Kingman Island is already a popular destination for cultural programming like the annual Bluegrass Festival, which introduces more people to this unique natural asset in the middle of the Anacostia River.



Progressive Legislative Framework for Sustainability

Since 2003, a coalition of tireless civic and non-profit advocacy groups in cooperation with District government agencies and policymakers advanced legislative measures to significantly improve the Anacostia River’s environment. New legislation and agreements with adjoining jurisdictions that share the Anacostia Watershed have helped to reduce the number of plastic bags and polystyrene (foam) containers in the river, create sustainable funding for river cleanup and environmental education, provide guidance for wetlands creation, restoration, and conservation, and launch innovative funding mechanisms for green infrastructure projects that reduce stormwater runoff into Anacostia waterways. The adoption of exemplary site and building standards for green design and stormwater management have also helped stem the amount of organic and chemical pollution going into the river. Much of this work has been guided by the District’s bold sustainability vision encapsulated in the Sustainable DC Plan. More recently, the District developed the Climate Ready DC Plan to strengthen resilience to increased flooding and rising tides and other climate change impacts on the District.

Conservation as Parks and Destinations

In 2018, Kingman and Heritage Islands were designated as the District’s first State Conservation Areas. This act signaled a permanent and long-term commitment to conservation while also ensuring a park resource for surrounding communities, a unique space for environmental education, and a destination for events. On both islands, and along the Anacostia River and its shores, increased clean up and conservation efforts have stimulated the return of wildlife. Now, portions of the river are home to tidal freshwater wetlands, vernal pools, wildflower meadows, tidal swamp forests, and hundreds of species of birds, mammals, and other wildlife.

Environmental Education and Economic Development

Youth are the future stewards of a clean and healthy Anacostia River, and the river itself is a source of jobs for future generations. The District maintains its commitment to training and deploying District youth to clean and study the river, while encouraging its recreational use through youth education and engagement. Through the Green Zone Environmental Program’s Summer Youth and the Young Adults Watershed Protection Education and Job Training, District agencies have trained more than 1,000 young residents while cleaning the river, planting trees, and creating wetlands.

“
The Clean Rivers project, a \$2.6 billion sewer tunnel which has decreased the amount of untreated sewage spills into the river by 98%.
”



credit: Jeff Salmore



credit: Jeff Salmore

THE DISTRICT AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE WORKED TO REDUCE POLLUTION PREVENTING MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF TRASH FROM ENTERING THE ANACOSTIA RIVER EACH YEAR.

ENVIRONMENT

The environmental turn-around that the river has experienced in the last 15 years is the result of the work of countless government and non-governmental champions and the implementation of a myriad of interventions big and small. From the District's Anacostia River Sediment Project to DC Water's Clean River Project, from new greener and more sustainable construction along the river to increased conservation and restoration efforts of natural habitats, from clean up efforts and waste reduction to wildlife protection, many actions and many actors contributed together to making the Anacostia river swimmable, fishable and boatable for all.



BUZZARD POINT VISION FRAMEWORK + DESIGN REVIEW GUIDE

Buzzard Point is transforming from an industrial area into an environmentally sustainable neighborhood with exceptional architecture, public space, and affordable housing. The design concept for Buzzard Point proposes places for neighborhood parks and public spaces, ways to improve the environmental health and resilience of the area, and continuous public access along the water.



DC WATER HEADQUARTERS

Due for completion by Fall 2018, the new headquarters will be certified LEED Platinum. The headquarters was built around the O Street Pump Station, and will use heat from this pump to condition the building.

100-Year Flood Plain

Floodplain maps visualize areas at higher risk of flooding caused by river overflow due to weather events. Standard flood plain maps identify 100 years floodplains which are areas with a 1% likelihood to experience flooding any given year.



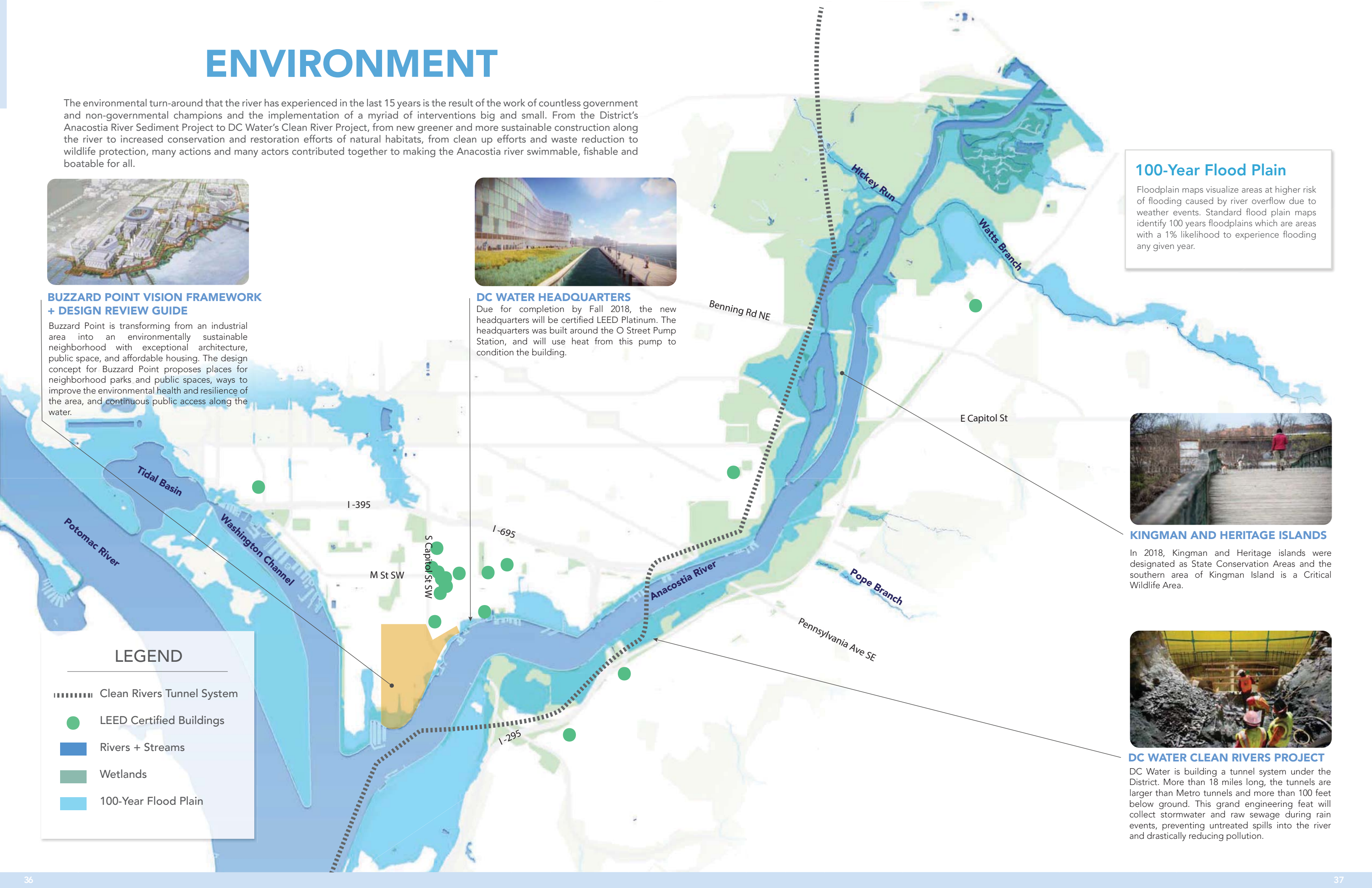
KINGMAN AND HERITAGE ISLANDS

In 2018, Kingman and Heritage islands were designated as State Conservation Areas and the southern area of Kingman Island is a Critical Wildlife Area.



DC WATER CLEAN RIVERS PROJECT

DC Water is building a tunnel system under the District. More than 18 miles long, the tunnels are larger than Metro tunnels and more than 100 feet below ground. This grand engineering feat will collect stormwater and raw sewage during rain events, preventing untreated spills into the river and drastically reducing pollution.



LEGEND

- Clean Rivers Tunnel System
- LEED Certified Buildings
- Rivers + Streams
- Wetlands
- 100-Year Flood Plain



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AND GAINING ACCESS

BY THE NUMBERS

4
New Anacostia Bridge
crossings completed or in
progress.

\$441 Million invested in
South Capitol St. Corridor
Phase 1 project, the District's largest
capital project.

19.5 miles of
Anacostia Riverwalk Trail
connecting communities on both sides of
the river to the waterfront with continuous
pedestrian and bicycle access.

2
DC Circulator Routes
serving waterfront communities on
both sides of the Anacostia River.

26
Capital Bikeshare
stations in waterfront
neighborhoods.



TRANSPORTATION

Unprecedented public investment in transportation infrastructure for a 21st century city has stitched together Anacostia waterfront communities, restored public access to the waterfront, created a sustainable and connected waterfront transportation network, and enhanced mobility options for adjacent neighborhoods.



AWI Goals for Transportation

-  Reconnect the city street grid to waterfront parks.
-  Provide continuous pedestrian and bicycle access along the entire waterfront.
-  Redesign highways and freeways to become less of a barrier between neighborhoods and waterfront parks.
-  Redesign bridges across the Anacostia in the tradition of great civic architecture.
-  Create great urban boulevards with mixed-uses, landscaping, and great civic spaces.
-  Aggressively promote a modal shift to public transit.

Infrastructure Stitching Together East and West

In 2003, there was inadequate public access to the waterfront and the Anacostia River, itself a dividing line between communities, was cut off from neighborhoods by a regional highway system. Since then, the District has been replacing outdated and deteriorating facilities and reshaping transportation infrastructure along the waterfront into a network that improves public access for residents, commuters, and visitors while also improving the area's environmental quality. By providing new options for walkers, cyclists, transit riders, and drivers, these projects are reconnecting communities on both sides to the river and to each other. Physically reconnecting neighborhoods to the east and west of the river ensures that more residents share in the benefits of revitalization, including greater access to economic opportunity.

Equitable Public Access to Waterfront

In the early 2000s, there were few convenient routes to the Anacostia waterfront, limited ability to travel along the river, and scarce amenities along its banks. As envisioned, people are now able to get to the waterfront using public transportation, beautiful new street connections, distinctive bridges, and the new and restored Anacostia River parks. Linking all activities along the waterfront, the nearly 20 miles of continuous Anacostia Riverwalk Trail has physically reconnected DC's diverse waterfront neighborhoods on both sides of the river and transformed public access along the waterfront. Improved transportation linkages have expanded access to new and restored waterfront park amenities and provided connections between waterfront neighborhoods and the region. Improvements like the Parkside Pedestrian Bridge connect communities to the waterfront and each other, once isolated by highway infrastructure.

Expanded Public Transportation Options

The District has expanded public transportation options to waterfront communities with the addition of DC Circulator routes, streetcar, and bikeshare, as well as on streets rebuilt for better walking and biking. Development along the waterfront, especially on underutilized public land, large sites, and former industrial properties, has taken advantage of the proximity to Metro's Green, Blue, Orange and Silver lines, creating nodes of activity at the stations. New developments like The Wharf also have recognized the opportunity to supplement public transit with privately-funded options like shuttle service to and from Metro stations and new water taxi service.

Connections that Serve Immediate Communities

The District has been working to move regional traffic off local roads in order to improve air quality and better serve waterfront neighborhoods, prioritizing more local access

Transportation Accomplishments

- Constructed the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail with a planned new pedestrian and bike crossing at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.
- Constructing a new Frederick Douglass Bridge at South Capitol Street that replaces a 68-year old bridge with a grand gateway to the Capitol that accommodates local traffic, bicycles, and pedestrians.
- Replaced two 11th Street Bridges with three new bridges that separate local and freeway traffic and improve neighborhood connections across the river.
- Planned extension of streetcar line across the river on Benning Road.

and more livable neighborhoods. The goal for the highways and freeways that frame the Anacostia River is to be less of a physical and visual barrier to the waterfront and adjacent neighborhoods. Initial planning and design work for the Southeast Boulevard reflects this effort and reimagines a highway as a local boulevard. The District is also replacing unattractive, aging, highway-like bridges designed for regional traffic that discourage walking and biking. The 11th Street Bridge project replaced two bridges built in the 1960s with three new bridges that separate local and freeway traffic, with wide sidewalks, vastly reducing the amount of regional traffic on the streets of Historic Anacostia.

Urban Boulevards and Sustainable Streetscapes

Many streets and boulevards that lead to the Anacostia River are being designed for all modes of transportation and to be neighborhood-serving. From M Street SW/SE to Kenilworth Avenue, the District has been studying how to make critical corridors more accessible, pedestrian-friendly, and attractive. For example, South Capitol Street was a primary corridor in Major Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 Plan of the City of Washington and was envisioned as one of the

Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge

The new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project will unify the east and west sides of the Anacostia River through enhanced pedestrian and bicycle access and deliver civic architecture worthy of its eponymous symbol of freedom and unity. The new Frederick Douglas Memorial Bridge is part of the South Capitol Street Corridor Project, which will be completed in two phases and is the largest capital project the District has undertaken. For the \$441 million first phase of the project, the District received special federal approval to require 51 percent of all new project-related jobs to be performed by District residents. Additionally, at least 13 percent of the total design contract and 22 percent of the construction contract must be subcontracted to certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, far outpacing goals on previous capital projects. To meet these targets, the project is offering workforce development, contracting, and employment opportunities, including on-the-job training opportunities for design staff, trades, and contractor staff.



Anacostia Riverwalk Trail

The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail serves as a backbone of the Anacostia waterfront, connecting residents, visitors, and communities to the river, one another, and numerous commercial, cultural, and recreational destinations. The Riverwalk Trail is a multipurpose path along the east and west banks of the Anacostia River, where 19.5 of the planned 28 miles are open and actively used. Beyond recreation, the trail offers a transportation alternative for commuters between the District and Prince George's County in Maryland. The trail provides comfortable and scenic travel for pedestrians and bicyclists along the river to the Fish Market, Nationals Park, Historic Anacostia, RFK Stadium, the National Arboretum, and numerous DC communities between the Tidal Basin and Maryland border. The trail itself has become a tourist attraction, while linking outdoor destinations along the waterfront like Yards Park, Diamond Teague Park, Anacostia Park, and the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. The picturesque four-mile Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens segment of the trail, completed in 2016, extends from Benning Road NE to the Bladensburg Trail in Maryland, filling in a missing link in a regional 40+ trail mile system within the watershed.



symbolic gateways to the city, but has lost the characteristics of this historic function. The South Capitol Street Corridor project is replacing the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge to create an iconic gateway while transforming the urban freeway into a 6-lane scenic boulevard with an enhanced streetscape. Restoring the L'Enfant street grid is being further accomplished through the reestablishment of 4th Street SW between M and "I" Streets at the Waterfront Metro. 4th Street SW is now a neighborhood-serving street supporting retail, office, and housing, and operates as a social space and community focal point.



credit: Jeff Salmore



**DC IS DESIGNING AND
CONSTRUCTING AN
IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM TO SUPPORT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ALONG A TRANSFORMED
ANACOSTIA WATERFRONT...**

TRANSPORTATION

The District Government and private and non-profit partners have worked together to improve and create new recreational opportunities along the Anacostia waterfront. Now, a diversity of experiences along the waterfront provides residents and visitors opportunities to play and connect on land and water.



4TH STREET SOUTHWEST

Through private redevelopment, the L'Enfant street grid was restored at 4th Street SW delivering an enhanced streetscape and opportunities for neighborhood retail.

SOUTH CAPITOL STREET

At \$441M for Phase 1, the largest public infrastructure project in DC's history will create new, green ovals on both sides of the river, increased bicycle and pedestrian facilities, a new parkway interchange, and improved drainage and stormwater management throughout the corridor.

ARBORETUM BRIDGE + TRAIL

The Arboretum Bridge and Trail Project, underway and slated to be completed in 2020, will connect the U.S. National Arboretum, Kenilworth Park North, Mayfair, Kenilworth-Parkside and River Terrace.

BENNING ROAD STREETCAR EXTENSION

Currently in design, the Streetcar line will be extended from Oklahoma Avenue NE east across the Anacostia River, connecting Ward 7 residential neighborhoods in Northeast DC to employment centers.

ANACOSTIA RIVERWALK TRAIL

The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail serves as the backbone of the Anacostia waterfront, connecting residents, visitors and communities to the river. To date, 19.5 of the ultimate 28 miles of the Riverwalk Trail are open and heavily used. The most recent addition is the 4-mile Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens segment of the Riverwalk Trail.

PARKSIDE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

To be completed in 2020, the Parkside Pedestrian Bridge will provide safe, well-lit, disabilities-accessible pedestrian travel between the Mayfair and Parkside neighborhoods and Minnesota Avenue Metrorail station now separated by DC 295 and two sets of railroad tracks.

SOUTHEAST BOULEVARD + BARNEY CIRCLE

The former Southeast Freeway, a more than half-mile, four-lane road between Barney Circle and 11th Street SE, is being reimaged as a boulevard for improved multimodal access and community redevelopment along the river.

11TH STREET BRIDGE

The 11th Street Bridges were replaced with three new bridges separating local and freeway traffic and improving neighborhood connections. The project paved the way for 11th Street Bridge Park through the preservation of former bridge piers.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS BRIDGE

A new, 6-lane multi-modal Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge will be an iconic gateway between Anacostia and Downtown as part of the South Capitol Street Corridor Project.



SOUTH CAPITOL STREET TRAIL

The South Capitol Street Trail Project will extend the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail 3.8 miles, filling a bicycle and pedestrian travel void for local communities and employment centers like Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling and the St. Elizabeths West Campus.

LEGEND

- Anacostia River Trail (Bike/Ped Trail) – New and Planned
- ↔ Bridge Connection – New and Planned
- Proposed Streetcar Route
- Southwest Shuttle Route
- Circulator Routes
- eb Capital Bikeshare Station
- Water Transportation
- M Metro Station



With 1,660 acres of parkland and open space, the Anacostia waterfront now features a large, varied network of parks and compelling recreation experiences that are expanding residents’ access to the water and nature and fostering local stewardship.



AWI Goals for Parks



Enhance underutilized parkland along the river to become important public amenities.



Improve circulation to and between waterfront open spaces in order to create an interconnected park system.



Ensure continuous access along the waterfront for pedestrians and bicyclists.



Increase recreational opportunities along the waterfront parks system.



Create distinct park destinations at the neighborhood, regional, and national scales.

A GREAT WATERFRONT PARKS SYSTEM

BY THE NUMBERS

1,660 Acres of Waterfront Parks along the Anacostia, which is about twice the size of New York’s Central Park (842.88 acres).

550 Boat Slips new or proposed, along the Anacostia Waterfront.

23 Public Park Facilities (new or renovated) including gardens, recreational centers, and pools.

19.5 Miles of Anacostia Riverwalk Trail from the Washington Channel to the Maryland border, on both sides of the Anacostia River, including the Southwest waterfront promenade and the Fort Circle Trail connection.

New Signature Parks and Enhanced Neighborhood Facilities

The Anacostia waterfront has joined the Potomac waterfront, the National Mall, and Rock Creek Park as one of the District’s premier recreational and open space networks, and continues to draw residents and visitors from around the region. Since the implementation of the AWI, public and private investment has activated both local and federal recreational lands along the Anacostia waterfront. Construction of new parks has brought the total area of public park land to nearly 1,700 acres in the AWI impact area, while 23 facilities have been newly developed or renovated in the study area, including two new recreational centers, 11 playgrounds, two new pools, and two boxing rings. District and federal agencies have worked diligently, together and with private and nonprofit organizations, to improve, program, and provide access to high-quality recreational space throughout the AWI impact area. As a result, the Anacostia waterfront has seen a significant increase in recreational activity both on land and water.

Park Access and Connections

New recreational and transportation facilities unlock access to recreational opportunities along the Anacostia River. The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail is now a nearly complete network that connects the river, existing parks, and other green amenities to each other and to waterfront neighborhoods. One of several new segments of the trail, the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Pedestrian Bridge, is currently underway and will soon connect pedestrians and bikers between the National Arboretum and Kenilworth Gardens. Improved wayfinding, cohesive signage, and path and lighting improvements guide visitors to and through new and existing parks and trails, making these great amenities more navigable and accessible. As new green spaces such as Yards Park and Wharf Park are located in neighborhood centers, recreational spaces are more accessible by foot, transit, and even boat—the District Wharf features water taxis that carry visitors to and from East Potomac Park.

A Diversity of Experiences

Residents and visitors are fishing, boating, and kayaking on the Anacostia River, and as efforts to clean up the Anacostia River achieve better water quality, the District remains on target to make swimming possible by 2032. On land, the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail and recreational facilities are frequently used for transport and exercise, while Kingman Park has become a popular location for bird-watching and educational programs. Parks along the Anacostia River come alive year-round with festivals, like the annual Bluegrass and Folk Festival at Kingman Island Park and the Anacostia River Festival at Anacostia Park. Yards Park and Canal Park offer an urban park experience, and are regularly activated with seasonal activities and fitness classes.

Parks Accomplishments

- Improved connections between neighborhoods and waterfront parks on both sides of the Anacostia River.
- New regional and neighborhood-scale waterfront parks: Yards Park, Canal Park, and the Wharf Park.
- Over 200 acres of enhanced District parks and recreation facilities, including a community fitness and recreation center at Anacostia Park.
- Signage and marketing by BIDs and other organizations that create a common identity for the Anacostia River Parks.
- New Assets:
 - Yards Marina operated by Living Classrooms
 - Stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, and pedal boarding rentals offered by Capital SUP out of Yards Marina
 - 202 Festival in Canal Park
 - 2 Rooftop Farms (cited in Capitol Riverfront’s 2017 Annual Report)

Stewardship and Programming

Many hands are needed to ensure the safety, maintenance, and continued appreciation of the District’s waterfront parks. These partners include the District of Columbia, National Park Service (NPS), local business improvement districts (BIDs), numerous community associations, and nonprofit organizations. The Southwest BID and the Capital Riverfront BID employ 17 and 18 staff members, respectively, to ensure that parks within their boundaries are safe and clean. The Anacostia River Trail Rangers Program, a partnership between NPS and the Washington Area Bicyclists Association, provides youth an opportunity to interact with the Anacostia River Trail through educational programs and community service, while organizations such as the Anacostia Community Boathouse Association continue to educate the public about riverfront culture while providing affordable recreational opportunities.

Anacostia Park

At its 100th year anniversary in 2018, Anacostia Park is revived as a center for recreation with increased advocacy, planning, and investment. As part of this effort, NPS has ramped up park planning efforts through the Anacostia Park Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, a comprehensive framework document that will guide long-term park development and programming. NPS has identified capital improvements for Anacostia Park, especially in the Central Park segment, that will protect the park’s ecosystem and provide spaces for play and culture for the District and beyond. The Anacostia Park and Community Collective (APACC), which includes organizations like the Anacostia Waterfront Trust, DC Appleseed, and the Anacostia BID, has also catalyzed community support to improve Anacostia Park, the river corridor, and adjacent neighborhoods in Wards 7 and 8. Turning advocacy into action, the Building Bridges Across the River organization is leading the development of the 11th Street Bridge Park project and corresponding equitable development efforts. In addition to creating an exciting and iconic future park experience, the 11th Street Bridge Park will also reconnect neighborhoods on both sides of the river and provide improved access to Anacostia Park from Capitol Riverfront and Capitol Hill.



credit: Jeff Salmore

Canal and Yards Parks

The award-winning Canal Park and Yards Park are a success story of how public and private investment in the construction and stewardship of parks can anchor and stimulate neighborhood development. Yards Park is an urban waterfront park and was part of the mixed-use redevelopment of the Southeast Federal Center, which was formerly a U.S. Navy facility. In response to a community desire for a more interactive play space, Yards Park includes several water features, including a splash pool, outdoor seating, and an iconic pedestrian bridge. The Canal Park site was once part of a canal system that connected the Anacostia and Potomac rivers, and, after decades of underuse, was developed by the District as green public space for the growing Capitol Riverfront neighborhood. Canal Park is a model of sustainable landscape design and includes a rain garden and a green roof. The park also features a dancing fountain in the summer and a skating rink in the winter. The Capitol Riverfront BID maintains and programs both parks. Year-round programming includes concerts, markets, activities such as fitness classes, and passive recreation, drawing visitors from all walks of life. As centers of activity, these parks have made the Capitol Riverfront a desirable place for families, regional visitors, and employers alike.



PARKS

The District Government and private and non-profit partners have worked together to improve and create new recreational opportunities along the Anacostia waterfront. Now, a diversity of experiences along the waterfront provides residents and visitors opportunities to play and connect on land and water.



BENJAMIN BANNEKER PARK

Benjamin Banneker Park is receiving \$4 million in park improvements, including new bicycle and walking connections to the Wharf, improved lighting, and stormwater improvements.

DIAMOND TEAGUE PARK

Completed in 2009, Diamond Teague Park includes features water access, seating, and open space. Developed along the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, it was designed to increase public access to the river with public docks for boats and non-motorized vessels. The pump house at the park was formerly Navy property, refurbished as educational space.

ANACOSTIA RIVERWALK TRAIL

ARTHUR CAPPER RECREATION CENTER

Currently a community building center, this newly built facility will come into District inventory by 2019. It includes exercise space, a computer lab and arts and craft space.

SW DUCK POND

LEGEND

- Bike/Bed Trail - New and Planned
- New and Renovated Parks
- Planned Parks and Future Renovations
- Existing Marinas
- Planned Marinas
- New or Renovated Recreational Center
- Planned Recreation Centers and Future Renovations
- New or Renovated Public Swimming Facility
- Recreational Docks

United States National Arboretum

Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens

Langston Golf Course & Driving Range

Benning Rd NE

E Capitol St

Congressional Cemetery

Pennsylvania Ave SE

I-295

I-695

I-395

M St SW

S Capitol St SW



KENILWORTH-PARKSIDE RECREATION CENTER

The \$17 million Kenilworth Recreation Center renovation was completed in 2017 at the former Kenilworth Elementary School. This facility includes several activity rooms, a fitness center, and an outdoor pool.

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CENTER

The Therapeutic Recreation Center has long served residents of a range of ages and abilities with a therapeutic pool and therapeutic programming. The District is planning an entire site renovation to create a new state of the art therapeutic campus that will be a model of healthy design, universal accessibility, and sustainability.

CAPITOL RIVERFRONT PARKS

Developed through a public-private partnership and managed by the Capitol Riverfront BID, in partnership with DPR, Canal Park and Yards Park offer signature design and programming and deliver unique urban park experiences to residents and visitors.



ANACOSTIA RECREATION CENTER

11TH STREET BRIDGE PARK

Envisioned by Ward 8 nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River, this park will be built on existing pillars from the old 11th Street Bridge. This park will span over 300 feet and include playgrounds, bike-ped facilities, and performance spaces.

BARRY FARM RECREATION CENTER

Adjacent to the former Birney Elementary School (now Excel Academy PCS), the new \$15 million Barry Farm Recreation Center was developed as part of a District-wide commitment to accessible recreation and 21st century facilities. In addition to programming for all ages, the center also features a year-round pool with an indoor slide.










DESTINATIONS

New sports arenas, arts and performance venues, parks, and museums are introducing the Anacostia Waterfront to residents from the District, the region, and beyond.



AWI Goals for Destinations

-  Construct memorable shorelines that appropriately relate to each basin.
-  Highlight the unique character of the river heritage and basins, including natural and urban elements.
-  Make the Anacostia a regional destination for special events, such as concerts and sporting events.
-  Create park destinations for public concerts, picnics, and local neighborhood festivals.
-  Seek to find locations along the waterfront that enhance and reinforce existing assets as emerging cultural institutions begin to look for sites beyond the National Mall.

BY THE NUMBERS

7,700 Theatre Seats
at new and improved theatres and music venues, Anacostia Arts Center, Arena Stage, The Anthem, and the Pearl Street Warehouse.

119,500 Sporting Stadium Seats
at 3 sporting venues: RFK (48,000), Nationals Park (41,500), and Audi Field (20,000).

600,000 Sq. Ft. of Museum and Gallery Space
at the Museum of the Bible, the new International Spy Museum, ArTecHouse, and the Anacostia Arts Center.

A Waterfront for DC Culture and Music

A diversity of musical and cultural celebrations is bringing new and expanding groups of visitors to the Anacostia waterfront. New and improved cultural spaces and musical venues like Arena Stage, the Anacostia Arts Center, The Anthem, and the Pearl Street Warehouse, as well as the many waterfront parks and public spaces, have made the Anacostia waterfront an entertainment destination.

Neighborhoods as Destinations

DC’s waterfront neighborhoods are becoming destinations themselves, with clusters of activity enlivening the area day and night. Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods like Historic Anacostia, Capitol Riverfront, and the nascent Wharf offer a diversity of urban experiences along the Anacostia River.

Host to Major Events

The Anacostia waterfront hosts major events, including the Pope’s visit in 2009 and the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in July 2018. The Kingman Island Bluegrass Festival has grown in popularity and regional significance since kicking off in 2010, introducing thousands of visitors to the Anacostia’s natural splendor. The DC Jazz Festival has had a presence on the Anacostia River since 2015 at Yards Park, and this year at The Wharf. Since 2016, the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival brings the flavors and sounds of the Caribbean to the Anacostia’s banks at RFK Stadium. Begun as the 11th Street Bridge Festival in 2013, the Anacostia River Festival has connected communities from both sides of the Anacostia River. Now in its fifth year, the Anacostia River Festival is jointly run by Building Bridges Across the Anacostia/11th St Bridge Park and National Park Service and has grown to attract 10,000 participants. The Anacostia River Festival is the bookend event to the National Cherry Blossom Festival, bringing DC’s premier annual celebration to Anacostia Park.

A Noted Destination for Visitors

Visitors from around the country and world can stay at new hotels on the Anacostia waterfront. In 2017, articles in Travel + Leisure (“The 50 Best Places to Travel in 2018”) and Money Magazine (“The 10 Coolest Neighborhoods in America Right Now”) have highlighted the cultural attractions, restaurants, and public spaces on the Anacostia waterfront as key reasons to visit Washington, DC.

Destination Accomplishments



Two new stadiums (Nationals Park and Audi Field).



Five new and improved cultural venues (Anacostia Arts Center, ArTecHouse, Anthem, Pearl Street Warehouse, Arena Stage).



Two new museums on the waterfront (Museum of the Bible, new International Spy Museum).



New and existing parks are increasingly destinations for families and residents from around the region, hosting concerts, picnics, and local neighborhood activities.



The future South Capitol Street oval parks will host future memorial sites.



Nationals Park and attractions at The Wharf are connected to Georgetown and Alexandria via water transport.



Three Business Improvement Districts have formed to advocate and market Historic Anacostia, Capitol Riverfront, and Southwest DC.

Meet You at the Anacostia River

The Anacostia River itself is now a destination for residents of and visitors to Washington, DC to experience through boating, active recreation, educational programs, festivals, and wildlife-watching. Whether on a boat tour led by the Anacostia Riverkeeper, meeting an osprey with the Earth Conservation Corps, learning to fish at the Aquatic Education Resource Center, or canoeing the shallows of Kingman and Heritage Islands, thousands of long-time and newer District residents have experienced being on the Anacostia River for the first time in recent years. Thousands more have enjoyed the regional events such as the Bluegrass Festival, DC Jazz Festival, and Anacostia River Festival along the Anacostia’s banks, while new piers and sections of Anacostia Riverwalk Trail provide more casual and personal interactions with the water. A cleaner, more active, and inviting Anacostia River is being rediscovered as a central piece of the District’s civic identity and is bridging District neighborhoods east, west, north, and south.



The Wharf

Open since October 2017, Phase 1 of The Wharf has proven to be a four-season regional destination facing the Anacostia waterfront with a mix of music venues, shops, restaurants, hotels, offices, homes, and open spaces. Joining the Maine Avenue Fish market, one of the longest continuously-operating outdoor fish markets on the East Coast, The Wharf’s amenities and programming entice and entertain visitors even on DC’s coldest days, with outdoor features including fire pits and a skating rink. The network of well-designed and programmed active outdoor spaces encourage visitors to the hotels, restaurants, venues, and shops, as well as residents and office workers to linger and enjoy being on the water. Sold-out shows, talks, and events at The Anthem and Pearl Street Warehouse have brought thousands to The Wharf to be entertained. To support ease of access to this new waterfront neighborhood, The Wharf is connected to the District and region with a new segment of Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, bus shuttle service to Metrorail, a new water taxi, and pedestrian accessibility improvements connecting to L’Enfant Plaza via Banneker Park.



DESTINATIONS

New and improved cultural, sports, and entertainment venues on the Anacostia waterfront have joined a network of renewed parks and public spaces to attract District residents and visitors from near and far. More destination projects are in the works to support growing and revitalizing neighborhoods and job centers along the waterfront.



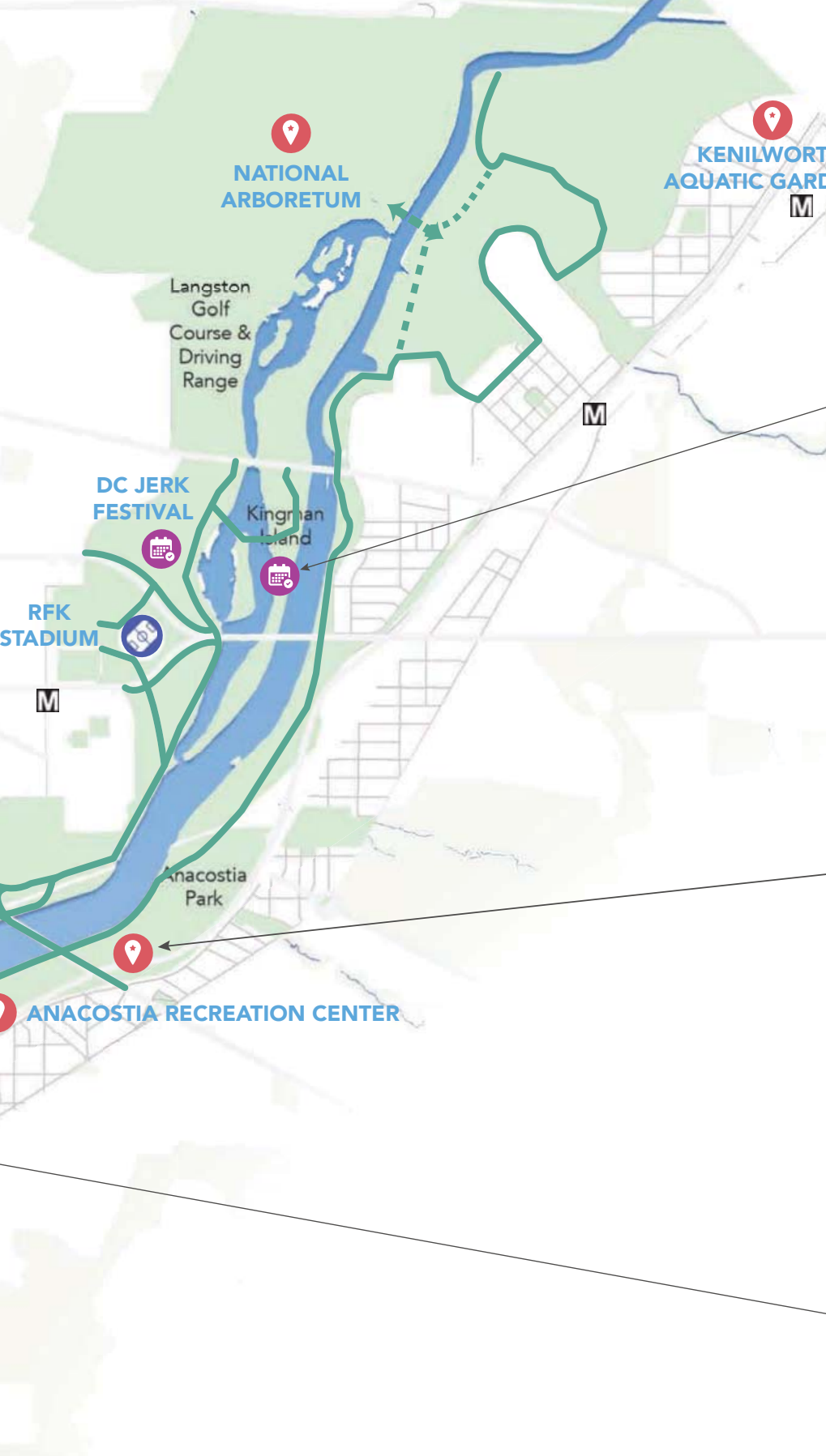
MAINE AVENUE FISH MARKET

In operation since 1805, DC's Fish Market is oldest open-air fish market in the United States. It is currently being preserved and renovated, as part of the Wharf development, and is expected to be completed in 2018.



AUDI FIELD

Audi Field is the new home of D.C. United, and can host a variety of other sporting and cultural events, community activities, and concerts. This state-of-the-art urban facility has a capacity of 20,000 fans with 17,000 square feet of retail space on site.



KINGMAN ISLAND BLUEGRASS + FOLK FESTIVAL

The festival attracts over 10,000 guests annually to Kingman Island with dozens of bands spread across multiple stages, helping to raise awareness for the ecology and public accessibility of the island.



ROLLER SKATING PAVILLION

Free skate rentals and summer weekend DJ music get the retro skate party rolling at NPS' iconic open-air roller skating pavilion.



ANACOSTIA RIVER FESTIVAL

Formerly the 11th Street Bridge Festival, the Anacostia River Festival brings communities together from both sides of the Anacostia.

LEGEND

Bike/Bed Trail - New and Planned

Performance Venue

Sports Arena

Museum

Event

Attraction

A stylized map of Washington, DC, rendered in various shades of teal and green. The map shows the city's grid, the Potomac River to the west, and the Annapolis Waterway to the east. The text is overlaid on the map.

“As the nation’s capital, Washington, DC must be prepared to withstand any natural or man-made challenges that threaten our communities...”

- Mayor Muriel Bowser

Resilience

▷||◁

RESILIENCE

When the AWI was launched in 2000, the impacts of climate change on the District were just beginning to be understood. More recently, updated climate science and data has made it clearer that the District of Columbia is vulnerable to a range of climate change impacts that threaten the well-being of District residents, workers and visitors; existing and newer neighborhood development, including along the Anacostia waterfront; and natural and infrastructure systems that support a well-functioning community. As a result of this growing awareness, the District government has been collaborating with community, federal, non-profit, and private stakeholders to plan for a more resilient Washington, DC and implement climate-adaptive solutions for public and private projects. The District’s leadership and commitment in these efforts, along with its partners, will support a world-class and resilient Anacostia waterfront where hundreds of millions of dollars in public and private investments can be better protected from climate threats and continue to serve District residents into the future.

Changing Climate

Climate Ready DC is the District’s plan to make Washington, DC more resilient to future climate change. Developed by the District Department of Energy and Environment and released in 2016, Climate Ready DC has provided up-to-date data that paints a sobering picture of the District’s vulnerabilities to climate change. In addition to more frequent extreme heat, climate change-related impacts for the District include increased interior and riverine flooding from more frequent and intense heavy precipitation events and rising sea levels as well as increased tidal flooding due to storm surge—all of which affect the Anacostia waterfront and adjacent neighborhoods. Local sea level for the District, for example, has risen 11 inches since 1924 and is expected to continue to rise over the coming decades. These trends create hazards, especially flooding, that threaten not only already completed Anacostia waterfront development or projects in the pipeline, but also areas such as Poplar Point where redevelopment is still years out.

Climate Ready DC provides a series of recommendations that, while citywide in applicability, are especially relevant for ongoing and future investments in the Anacostia waterfront. The main goals of Climate Ready DC are to:

Resilience Accomplishments

✓

Award-winning District/federal flood risk management partnership through the DC Silver Jackets team.

✓

First DC Flood Summit in 2016 (150 attendees).

✓

Launch of an online flood mapping tool in 2017 that enables homeowners and property owners to easily access information about their flood vulnerability.

✓

Watts Branch Flood Risk Management Study.

✓

The District and NPS are working together to emphasize coastal resilience for Anacostia Park.

- Improve the transportation and utility infrastructure to maintain viability during periods of extreme heat, severe weather, and flooding.
- Upgrade existing buildings and design new buildings and development projects to withstand climate change impacts.
- Make neighborhoods and communities safer and more prepared by strengthening community, social, and economic resilience.

Climate Ready DC also includes a vulnerability assessment for people and communities that combines climate change projections with demographic, health, and economic data to identify areas of the District where residents are more susceptible to climate change impacts due to lack of



resources or other challenges. Climate Ready DC identified three areas along the Anacostia waterfront—Buzzard Point, Poplar Point, and Watts Branch—as Priority Planning Areas based on its vulnerability assessment. Priority Planning Areas are areas with the most assets and people at risk.

Resilience is About Equity

Often the most economically disadvantaged communities are the most vulnerable to environmental risks. Resilience is not just about coping with environmental shocks, but also about making sure that we are strengthening existing waterfront communities and building new ones that are inclusive and equitable. Resilient and equitable communities enable residents to better deal with everyday stresses ranging from housing affordability to unemployment, from personal health to the shocks and stresses of a changing climate.

Planning for Resilience and Building for Adaptation

In the wake of this greater understanding of the District’s climate threats, particularly to the Anacostia waterfront, the District government and its public, community, and private partners are implementing Climate Ready DC and developing new strategies, plans, and guidance for a more resilient Anacostia waterfront and Washington, DC. Resilience for Washington, DC is about preparing for and adapting to shocks, such as flooding and extreme heat, and to chronic stresses, such as gaining access to affordable housing, that residents face every day and that can make it harder for those residents to recover in the event of disaster. Despite the sobering outlook of the climate-related challenges noted earlier, a range of resilient and climate-adaptive solutions exist that can and are being implemented in the District.

What Climate Change will mean for DC?

- Much warmer average temperatures.
- Up to two to three times as many dangerously hot days.
- Longer, hotter, and more frequent heat waves.
- More frequent and intense heavy rain events.
- Higher tides as a result of rising sea level.

The Anacostia waterfront in particular is on the front line of bolstering the District’s environmental resilience. Resilience is a key theme purposefully being integrated into plans that will guide new waterfront neighborhoods, like Buzzard Point and Poplar Point. The Buzzard Point Vision Framework and Design Review Guide, released in 2017 by the DC Office of Planning, provides specific strategies and recommendations for building more flood resilience into this new waterfront neighborhood. These include green infrastructure, natural shorelines, microgrids, and more flood-resilient building and site design.

Additionally, the DC Office of Planning is currently leading an amendment cycle for the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: District Elements, the District’s 20-year vision for future growth and development. This amendment cycle will include strengthening existing and adding new Comprehensive Plan policies to ensure future public and private waterfront investments and development are better protected against flooding and other hazards that affect the city’s resilience. Later this year, the District will also release climate design guidelines to assist agencies and the private sector with creating more natural shorelines where future development impact river banks.

Resilient DC

In 2016, Washington, DC was selected from more than 1,000 cities around the world to join the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) network, along with cities like Paris, New York, Bangkok, and Buenos Aires. In 2017, Mayor Muriel Bowser established the Office of Resilience within the Executive Office of the Mayor and appointed a Chief Resilience Officer to develop a comprehensive resilience strategy for the District. As part of the 100RC network, Washington, DC receives technical and other support to develop and implement its resilience strategy as a holistic, action-oriented plan to build partnerships and alliances as well as financing mechanisms, while addressing the needs of the city's most vulnerable populations. "Honor the Anacostia River" has emerged as a thematic area for additional research and guidance in the strategy.



DC Silver Jackets

The DC Silver Jackets is a cross-disciplinary interagency team comprised of federal, District, and regional agencies and academics. This team leverages shared resources to identify and implement comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable solutions to reduce flood risk around the District and to assist local communities. Flood risk management is critical in the District, as there are three types of flooding that can impact low areas of the District: river, coastal storm surge, and interior. The District formalized its Silver Jackets team in 2014 through an interagency Memorandum of Understanding currently signed by 12 federal and District agencies. The DC Silver Jackets team first began meeting in April of 2012 as the Potomac River Flood Coordination Group. The Department of Energy and Environment is the lead agency for the District. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District and the National Park Service jointly lead the federal agencies.



RECONNECTING THE RIVER TO THE CITY IS MORE THAN A PHYSICAL PROBLEM, IT IS A SYMBOLIC CHALLENGE WHICH REQUIRES NEW WAYS OF CREATING CIVIC IDENTITY ALONG THE RIVER. THE SYMBOLISM OF THE RIVER'S NEGLECT MUST BE COUNTERED WITH A NEW COMMITMENT TO INTEGRATE THE WATERFRONT ENVIRONMENT INTO THE URBAN LANDSCAPE OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

- Principle 8:
Achieve Design Excellence in Every Aspect of the Endeavor, 2003 Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan



**“ The Anacostia needs to be viewed
as Washington, DC’s river - not the
forgotten river but the river.**

- Dennis Chestnut , Former Founding Executive
Director of Groundwork Anacostia River DC

Looking Forward

LOOKING FORWARD

EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY



The redevelopment of the Greenleaf Gardens public housing complex into quality, mixed-income housing follows the recommendations of the Southwest Neighborhood Small Area Plan for a one-to-one replacement of the existing units, ensuring an inclusive future for the community.

The District has made strides towards a more equitable waterfront in terms of the development of affordable housing, workforce development and job opportunities for local residents, enhanced mobility and public access to the waterfront for all residents, widespread investment in public facilities, and clean-up efforts that foster better health outcomes for waterfront communities. Even with this progress, there is still more to be done to ensure everyone, including traditionally underserved populations, can benefit from the Anacostia River revitalization.

As Anacostia waterfront neighborhoods experience increased investment and development, the District will work to protect the interests of long-time residents, celebrate the diversity of all residents, and ensure equitable access to community services, amenities, and opportunities. To this end, District agencies and non-profit and private partners will continue to develop creative, community-driven solutions and leverage Anacostia waterfront investment to overcome the economic, physical, and cultural barriers that disproportionately disadvantage low-income residents and residents of color.

INNOVATIVE DESIGN



DC Water's new headquarters in Capitol Riverfront is an example of innovative and sustainable design that uses the shape of its structure for passive shading, incorporates natural vegetation on the site and roof, and employs an innovative heat recovery system, achieving LEED Platinum.

The Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan set a standard for design excellence which is evidenced in the design awards received for projects like Arena Stage and Yards Park. In recent years, more progressive and iconic architecture and urban design continues to emerge in a range of new projects of varying scales along the Anacostia like the new DC Water headquarters.

Innovative architecture and urban design will continue to inspire visitors and define the waterfront experience with inclusive public spaces and resilient features that are adaptive to climate change and work with the natural function of the river.

NEXT GENERATION RESILIENCE



Rendering from DOEE resilience study for the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Image credit to Rambøll.

As a national sustainability leader, the District is advancing policies and projects that support a more resilient city, which means adapting to climate change and flood risk in waterfront areas.

Moving forward, the District will apply innovative tools and policies to create more resilient communities along the Anacostia River. This new focus on resilience will help communities withstand the impacts of both climate related events as well as economic, security, and health shocks and stresses.

The goals of resilient design are often more easily accomplished at the district scale (rather than city-wide scale), and communities along the Anacostia River are ideal sites for district-based solutions. For communities and buildings, these goals include net zero energy and water use and zero waste sent to landfill. Some strategies to achieve these goals are shared utility systems such as combined heat and power, on-site generation, and battery storage; centralized stormwater management infrastructure (like at Canal Park); rainwater harvesting and living wetlands; and waste reduction policies like composting supported by urban agriculture. Driving towards true sustainability in the built environment would make the community a world-class destination for investment and economic development.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



Neighborhoods on the Anacostia waterfront are intentionally designed to offer a high quality of life connecting people to the river.

The District has accommodated considerable residential and commercial growth as envisioned along the Anacostia waterfront in both new and well-established neighborhoods. More livable and sustainable higher densities are being realized in waterfront neighborhoods through quality design, increased access to the river, and investments in parks, schools, culture, and transportation.

As the Anacostia waterfront continues to grow as an attractive place to live, work, and play, plans are in place to balance continued growth with neighborhood amenities and connectivity, such as with the Streetcar extension and parkland improvements. The Anacostia River itself and its abundant park system will need to provide respite, recreation, and social space for a growing number of residents, workers, and visitors.

ON THE HORIZON

There are still several projects underway along the Anacostia River including new parks and the development of remaining large-scale waterfront sites that will reinforce a livable, sustainable, and inclusive Anacostia Waterfront.

11th Street Bridge Park

The 11th Street Bridge Park, will be DC’s first elevated public park located on the piers of the old 11th Street Bridge spanning the Anacostia River, serving as a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education, and the arts, and reconnecting communities on both sides of the river. A community-based and philanthropically funded effort of the Ward 8-based nonprofit Building Bridges Across the river, the 11th Street Bridge Park aims to support inclusive economic opportunity and is informed by a broader Equitable Development Plan. The design team of OMA+OLIN was selected through a design competition in 2014 and the District Department of Transportation completed a feasibility study and engineering analysis of the concept designs and the existing structure in 2018. The park is planned to open in 2023.



Poplar Point

Poplar Point is one of the last great urban waterfront redevelopment opportunities on the East Coast. The 110-acre site is slated to be transferred to the District of Columbia from the federal government, with the stipulation that 70 acres remain dedicated to parks and open space. Located in Ward 8 and bounded by South Capitol Street, I-295, and the 11th Street Bridges, the site is largely unused, but contains some active National Park Service and U.S. Park Police facilities. A future planning effort will help to determine how the site will be developed.



RFK Stadium Campus

With D.C. United moved into their new stadium at Buzzard Point, there is an opportunity to reimagine the 190-acre RFK Campus. Events DC is planning for the campus’ future and has proposed a plan to redevelop it into a new sports and recreation destination for the District, including improved access and experiences along the waterfront. Potential short-term elements of the plan include: a sports and recreation complex, a market hall, community playing fields, pedestrian bridges connecting the main site to Kingman and Heritage Islands, and a memorial to Robert F. Kennedy.



Hill East

Hill East District Waterfront, formerly known as Reservation 13, is comprised of 67 acres between the eastern edge of the Capitol Hill neighborhood and the western shore of the Anacostia River. It hosted the former National Capital Medical Center campus, formerly known as DC General Hospital, the Central Detention Facility/DC Jail, and other buildings and parking lots. The District plans to redevelop 50 acres of Hill East into a vibrant, mixed-use urban waterfront community in accordance with the Hill East Master Plan approved by the DC Council in 2002. Phase I broke ground in 2018 on two mixed-use buildings providing approximately 350 residential units and 22,000 square feet of retail.



CONCLUSION

Testing Ground for Innovation

The Anacostia waterfront and its neighborhoods provide an unparalleled canvas for the District’s imagination, where a creative and innovative palette of future possibilities can flourish. This is the place to pilot new technologies, reach unprecedented sustainability and resilience, capture inclusive economic growth, and attract the most sought-after talent and investment. The waterfront can and will be a testing ground for innovation and the District’s aspirations, demonstrating the type of leadership that garners national and international attention.

Big Ideas and Key Sites

It is no surprise that the Anacostia waterfront—its neighborhoods, amenities, destinations, and remaining opportunity sites—have been central to the District government’s prominent bids to compete with other world cities for investment and recognition. From the 2024 Summer Olympics bid to Amazon’s HQ2 competition, DC’s waterfront has been central in proposals and a compelling setting for siting these opportunities. Two of the four sites in DC’s proposal for hosting Amazon’s second headquarters include properties on both sides of the Anacostia River at Capitol Riverfront and Poplar Point as well as the redevelopment of the Reservation 13 campus at Hill East.

Anticipating Future Needs

The physical space along the Anacostia waterfront provides the canvas for visionary thinking to address future opportunities and the changing needs of the District. Publicly-owned properties at Hill East, Poplar Point, and RFK, these large-scale sites can be reimaged to meet future market demand and adapt to technological change to achieve a more equitable and resilient future for all DC residents. These remaining sites coupled with significant private investment already afoot at Buzzard Point, The Wharf, and Navy Yard provide a roadmap for a diverse, cutting edge waterfront. Historic and built out portions of the city do not always lend themselves to serve as laboratories for innovation and state-of-the-art development, but the Anacostia waterfront beckons it.

DC of Tomorrow

Whatever the technology, innovation, or desired investment that lies ahead, the Anacostia waterfront will be a ready platform to make the dream a reality in a way that serves and benefits all District residents. This readiness is essential for sustaining the competitive economic position of Washington, DC and ensuring continued relevancy and inclusive prosperity.



2024 Olympic Bid

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