

A Concept Plan for Sections D & E

Public Informational Meeting

September 27, 2023

MEETING WITH YOU TODAY





TARA MORRISON

SUPERINTENDENT

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS - EAST



JESSI BARNES

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

VHB



DONZELL ROBINSON

PRINCIPAL

JUSTICE &
SUSTAINABILITY
ASSOCIATES



ALEXIS ROBINSON

ASSOCIATE

JUSTICE &
SUSTAINABILITY
ASSOCIATES

AGENDA



- 1) Introductions
- 2) How to Provide Comments
- 3) What is a Concept Plan
- 4) Design Process
- 5) Vision & Goals
- 6) Design Elements:

Active Recreation
Community Fellowship
Waterfront Activation
Access & Connectivity

7) Wrap-up



MEETING ETIQUETTE



NPS wants to hear from you. Here are a few guidelines to keep this meeting productive and to maintain respect for all participants:

- You will have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation
- To ensure we hear from as many community members as possible, please follow the Q&A protocol:



Raise your hand if you'd like to ask a question



Request to speak by typing your name in the chat



Type questions directly into the chat

- When speaking, maintain a civil tone and be mindful of time so that your fellow community members can share their feedback
- You may type questions into the Q&A at any point during the meeting, questions will be answered at the end of the presentation

Meeting facilitators may mute participants to reduce background noise or to enforce meeting etiquette guidelines.

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ONLINE

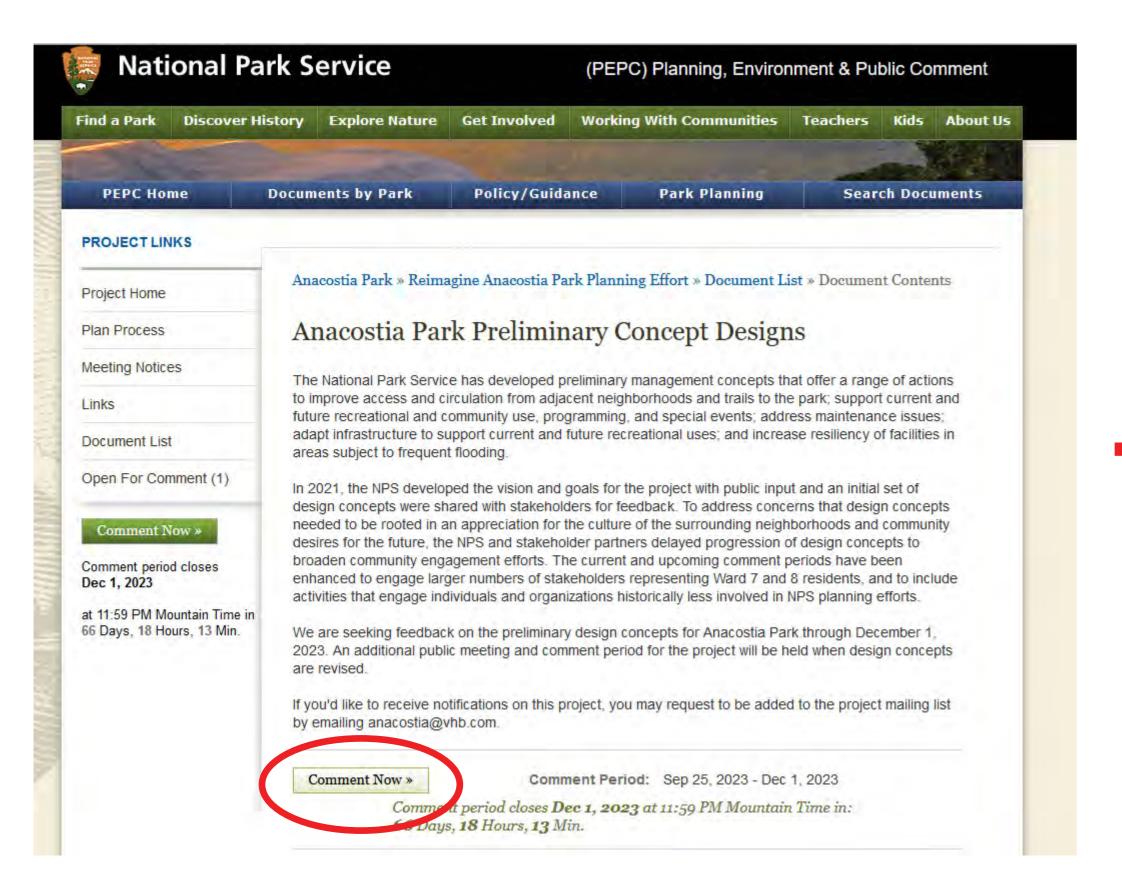
Please visit:

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Reimagine_AnacostiaPark_PrelimDesign

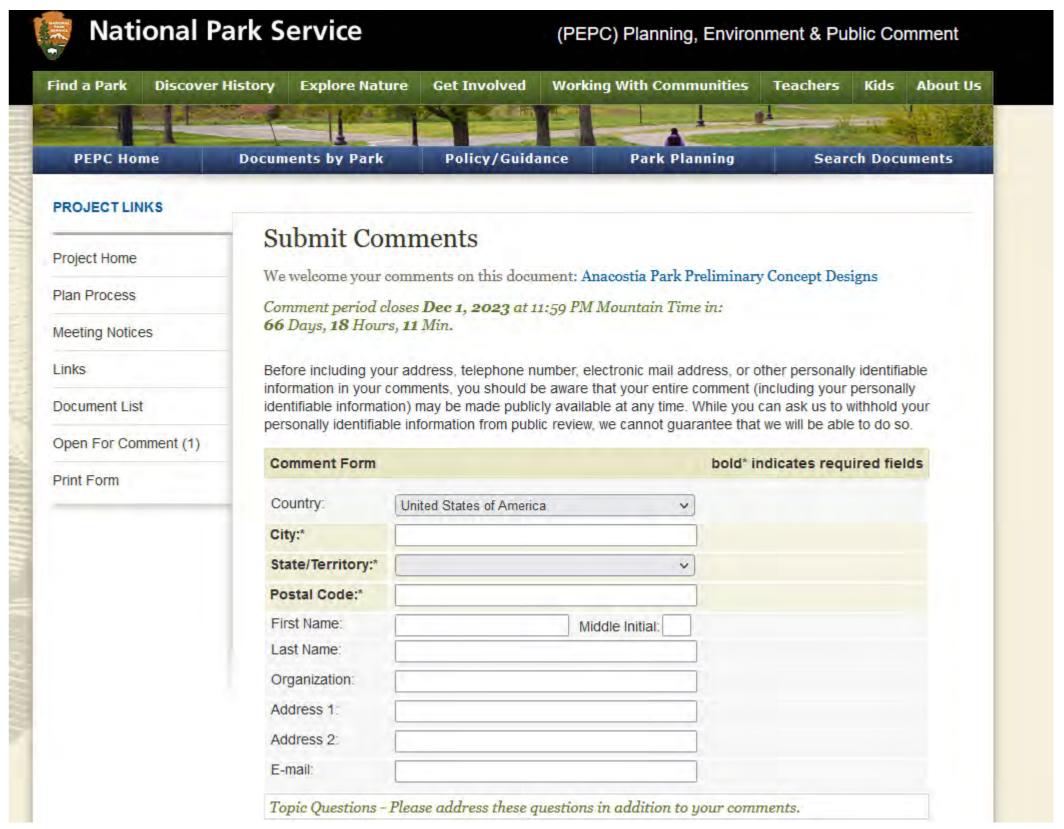
Comments can be submitted to the Park via QR Code:



https://qr.link/xzauvj

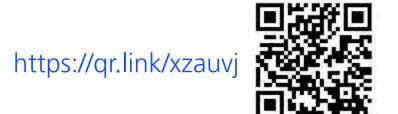






Step 2: Fill Out the Form with Your Comments

WHAT IS A CONCEPT PLAN?



A plan that presents **specific opportunities** to meet the **goals and vision for a park**, or section of a park, at a conceptual level.

Examples of concept drawings below from the *Buzzard Point Concept Plan:*





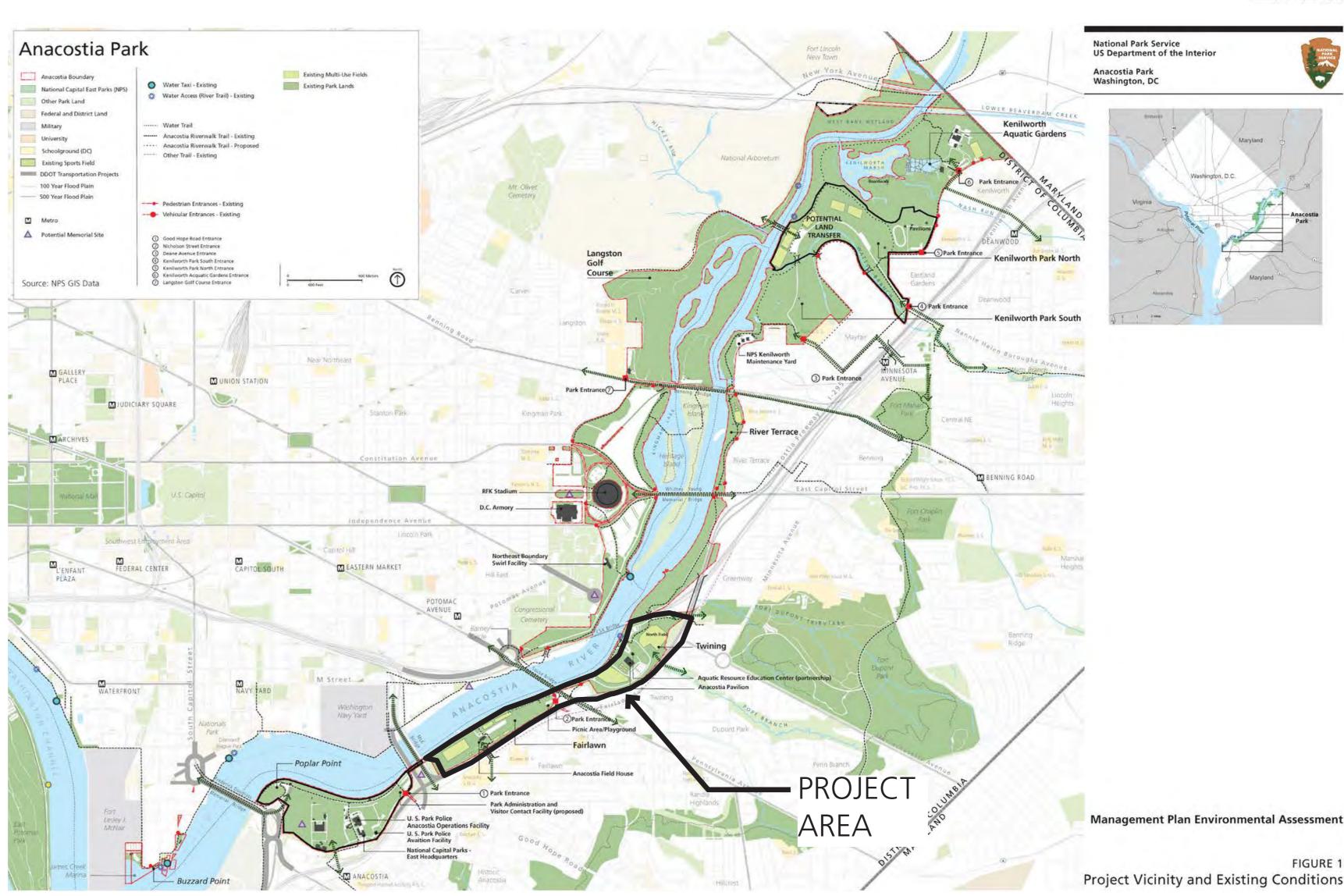
ANACOSTIA PARK CONCEPT PLAN



The legislation that created Anacostia Park identified the following purposes for the park, parkway, and playground system:

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

The concept plan is the first step in the overall decision-making process for the future of Anacostia Park. Certain proposed actions in the concept plan will require additional environmental and historical preservation compliance prior to implementation. Implementation may occur over time as funds become available.



CONCEPT PLAN AREA





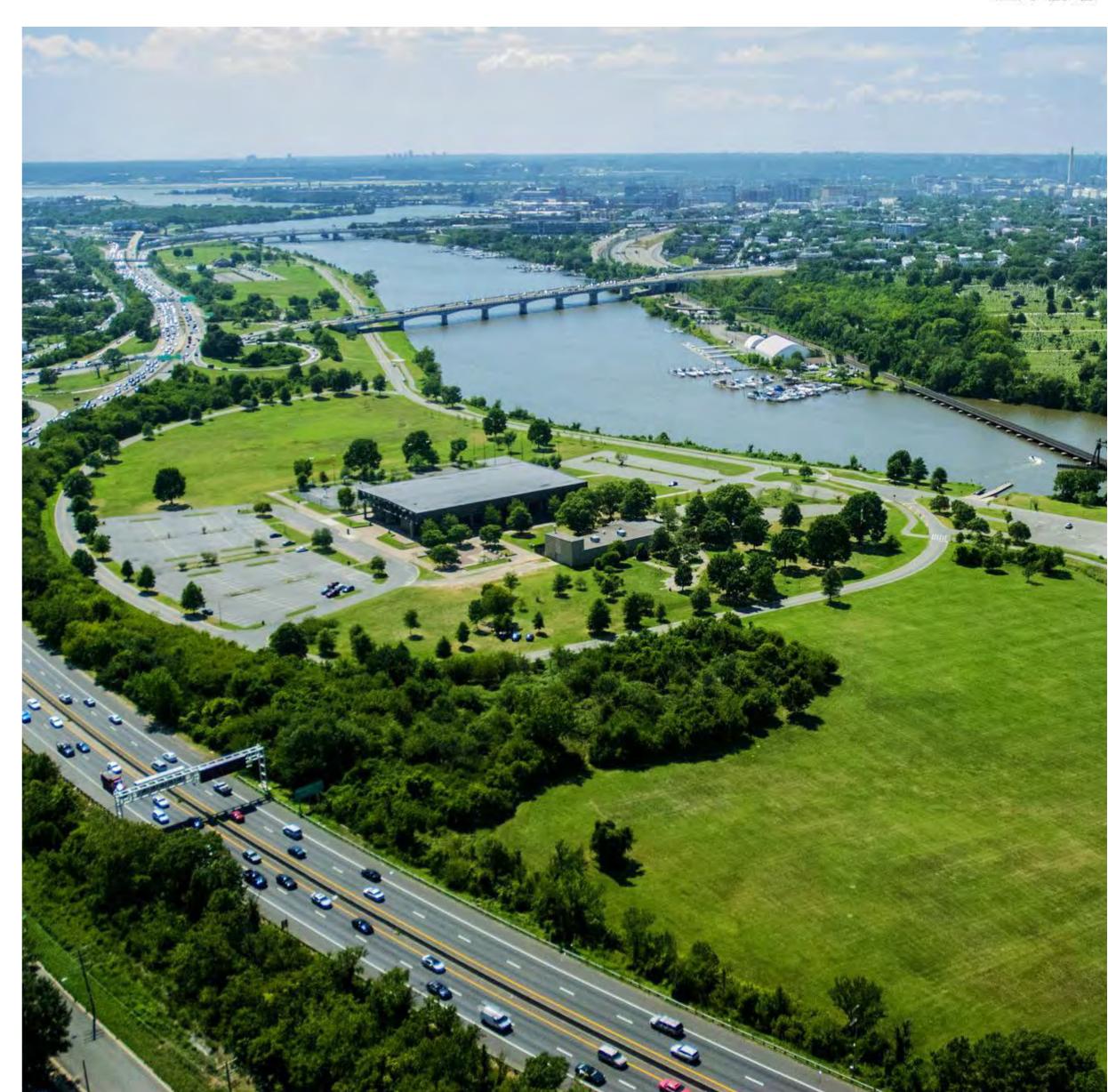
PURPOSE OF THE PLANNING PROCESS



Evaluate the existing conditions of Sections
D & E of Anacostia Park and develop a set of recommendations that improve access from nearby neighborhoods and trails; support current and future community use, park programming, and special events; address maintenance issues, adapt infrastructure to support use and improve accessibility; and increase resiliency of facilities in areas of frequent flooding.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD:

- Be consistent with the legislative purpose for Anacostia Park
- Be rooted in an appreciation for the culture of the surrounding neighborhoods and community desires for the future
- Advance the 2017 Anacostia Park Management Plan preferred alternative:
 - Land and water-based recreation would be expanded to meet needs of communities; river landscape ecology to be improved
 - Infrastructure supporting sports play would be consolidated, with current capacity retained or slightly expanded; no major new additions
 - Public access to river would be enhanced



WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?



Develop Vision & Goals

Stakeholder Workshop

(March 2021)

NPS Refinement of Vision & Goals

(Spring 2021)

45-Day Public Review

(June-August 2021)

Early Concept Development

Strategies Identified & Early Framework Created (Fall 2021)

Stakeholder Workshop

(December 2021)

Revisit Stakeholder
Engagement Strategy &
Re-Engage, and Break
Out Potential Concept
Elements
(2022)

Concept Refinement

Focus Group Meetings (March 2023)

Agency Coordination Meetings

(March-April 2023)

Public Engagement
Strategy & Materials
Developed

(Summer 2023)

60-Day Public Review

(September-November 2023)

[WE ARE HERE]

Concept Plan Produced

Concept Options
Developed
(Late 2023/Early 2024)

Stakeholder & Public Review

(Summer 2024)

Concept Options
Refined
(Fall 2024)

Concept Plan Published

(Late 2024)

FUNDING INFORMATION



- \$2.2 million in remaining mitigation funds can be used towards design or implementation of this concept plan.
- \$11.8 million in Great American Outdoors Act funding for Anacostia, River Terrace, Kenilworth, Fort Dupont parks, the Parkland area of Shepherd Parkway, and more. The projects include replacing or rehabilitating:
 - Tennis and basketball courts
 - Playgrounds
 - Picnic pavilions
 - Restrooms
 - Fencing and lighting.
- The NPS will also use this funding for the design of the Anacostia Park Skating Pavilion rehabilitation and plans to seek additional funding for the full rehabilitation.
- \$25 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant awarded by U.S. Department of Transportation to a regional partnership investing in trails.
 - The funding will help complete the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. With this funding, we can realize our vision of a fully connected, 28-mile Anacostia Riverwalk Trail.



OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

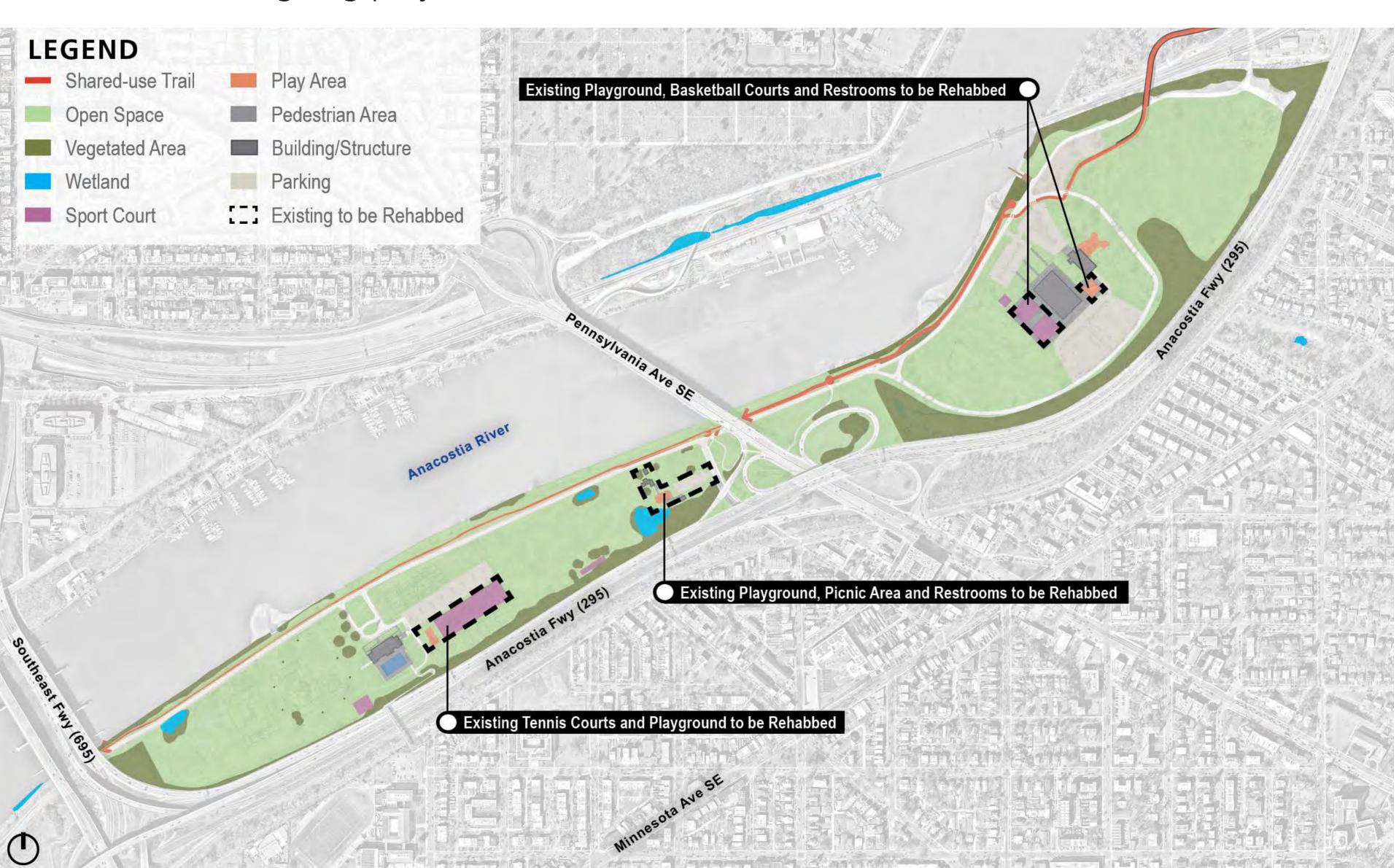


The concept plan takes into account other ongoing projects.

Projects

The following areas will be rehabilitated:

- Tennis Courts
- Playgrounds
- Picnic Areas
- Basketball Courts
- Restrooms



VISION STATEMENT

https://qr.link/xzauvj

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



PROJECT GOALS











ACTIVE RECREATION

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

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

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

WATERFRONT ACTIVATION

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

ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY

Improve the safety, accessibility, and directness to the project area from neighboring communities, and within the park between activity nodes and park areas.





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



Early comments show visitors want to play in the park differently:

- Enhance, renovate, and/or expand court sports in the park
- Include space for lawn games like horseshoes, bocce ball, etc.
- Keep basketball courts visible (not at the back of the park)
- Repair & update soccer & football fields
- Update tennis courts
- Add a pickleball court

- Renovate skate pavilion to allow for beginners to skate safely
- Provide parking adjacent to recreation fields and courts
- Preserve as much grass as possible



What in your view offers the best mix of playing fields, sport courts, and other amenities for active recreation?

The Park is considering improving and adding to active recreation options in the park.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Some fields that flood or have soggy soils might benefit from adding drainage and/or relocating them to drier areas of the park.
- Some active recreation can be noisy and might interfere with contemplative areas.
- Locating active recreation near community fellowship spaces offers the opportunity for people to enjoy watching the game.

HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

- Park visitors would see improvements to active recreation spaces like sports fields.
- Park visitors would have more options and varieties of recreational experiences for active recreation with friends and family at the park.
- Locations of existing sports fields may be relocated to more suitable areas of the park.





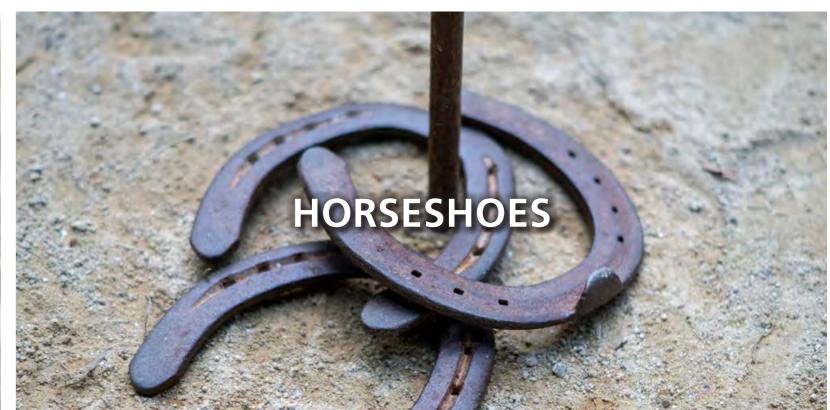




















POTENTIAL OPTION 1







REMOVES A LARGE FIELD AREA BUT MAINTAINS 3
LARGE FIELD AREAS CLOSEST TO PARKING

POTENTIAL OPTION 2

RELOCATES LOOP ROAD NEAR SKATE PAVILION, BUT NO IMPACT TO EXISTING PARKING



OPPORTUNITY FOR LARGE COMMUNITY SPACES ALONG WATERFRONT AND AT REC CENTER

REMOVES A LARGE FIELD AREA BUT MAINTAINS 3
LARGE FIELD AREAS

POTENTIAL OPTION 3

MIGHT REQUIRE ROADWAY AND SOME PARKING AREAS TO MOVE

NO IMPACT TO EXISTING WATERFRONT ACCESS

OPPORTUNITY FOR LARGE COMMUNITY SPACES ALONG WATERFRONT AND AT PENN. AVE.

CREATES 4 LARGE FIELD AREAS











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



Early comments show that park visitors want to enjoy the park differently:

- Preserve & teach the river's history & ties to the community
- Provide educational signage
- Create outdoor classrooms
- Offer more places to sit and rest in the park
- Plant more trees for shade in the park
- Provide space to be in nature (peace & quiet desired)
- Provide more covered spaces like pavilions
- Offer indoor, air-conditioned spaces
- Build an amphitheater or pavilion for performances & meetings

- Offer more flexible-use spaces
- Install public art, especially sculptures
- Offer opportunities for local concessions
- Dedicate spots to empty coals
- Provide spaces that can be reserved
- Provide places to refill water bottles
- Provide more picnic shelters and BBQ grill areas
- Provide a space for community gardens
- Provide additional play areas for all age groups



How can we improve opportunities for social, cultural, community gatherings and events?

The Park is considering improving community fellowship spaces in the park and adding new ones for the community to enjoy. Examples include: picnic pavilions, an amphitheater area, gathering areas, outdoor classrooms, event lawns, and rest areas.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Community spaces can be scattered throughout the park or grouped together.
- Improvements like lighting, shade, and access are all being considered.
- An amphitheater will be part of the 11th St Bridge project; however, there is room for a second amphitheater in the park.

HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

- Park visitors would see improvements to existing community gathering spaces.
- Park visitors would have more opportunities for gathering with friends and family at the park.
- Existing community areas may be relocated to provide larger spaces and better access.





















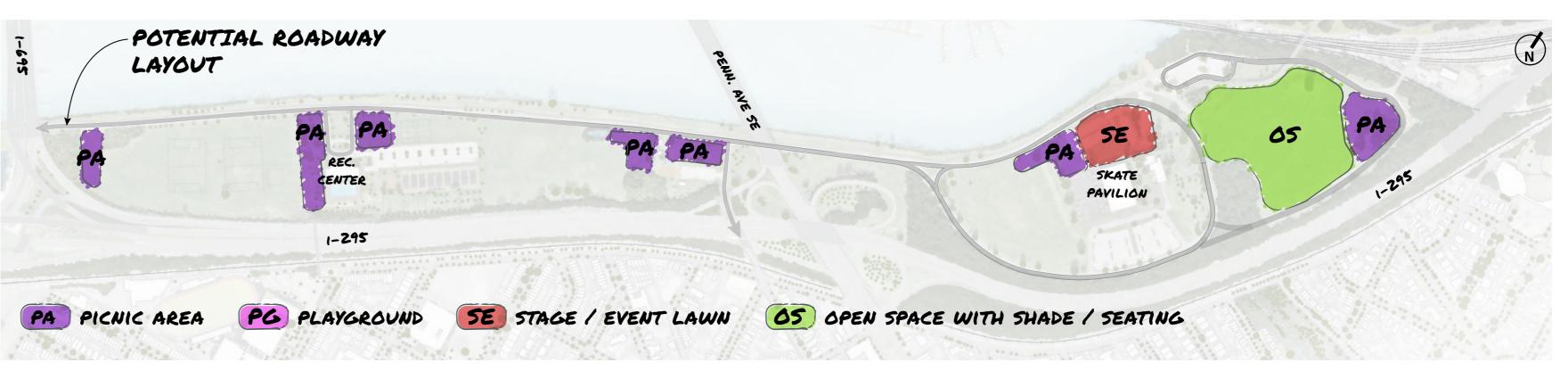




POTENTIAL OPTION 1



- NO IMPACT TO EXISTING WATER ACCESS
- PROVIDES A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY GATHERING AREAS THROUGHOUT THE PARK
- REMOVES A LARGE FIELD AREA BUT MAINTAINS 3
 LARGE FIELD AREAS CLOSEST TO PARKING



POTENTIAL OPTION 2





- OPPORTUNITY FOR LARGE COMMUNITY SPACES NEAR REC. CENTER AND SKATE PAVILION
- REMOVES A LARGE FIELD AREA BUT MAINTAINS 3
 LARGE FIELD AREAS

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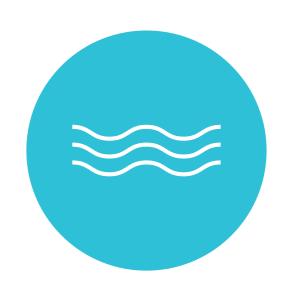
POTENTIAL OPTION 3



- PROVIDES WATERFRONT ACCESS AT THE REC CENTER AND IN FRONT OF THE SKATE PAVILION
- CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY GATHERING ALONG THE WATERFRONT
- REMOVES A SMALL FIELD AREA BUT MAINTAINS 3 LARGE FIELD AREAS







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



Early comments show park visitors want to engage with the river differently:

- Provide additional boat launches
- Provide kayak / paddle-board launches
- Provide fishing piers
- Restore and preserve wetlands
- Create a living shoreline
- Preserve & teach the river's history and ties to the community
- Renovate seawall
- Remove seawall
- Transform excess fields into wetlands

- Daylight underground stream
- Provide more space to be in nature
- Provide a river pool
- Provide more places to sit & rest near the river
- Expand trails so that bicyclists are separated from walkers
- Widen the Anacostia River Trail



Would you prefer a natural shoreline, the historic seawall, or a combination of both?

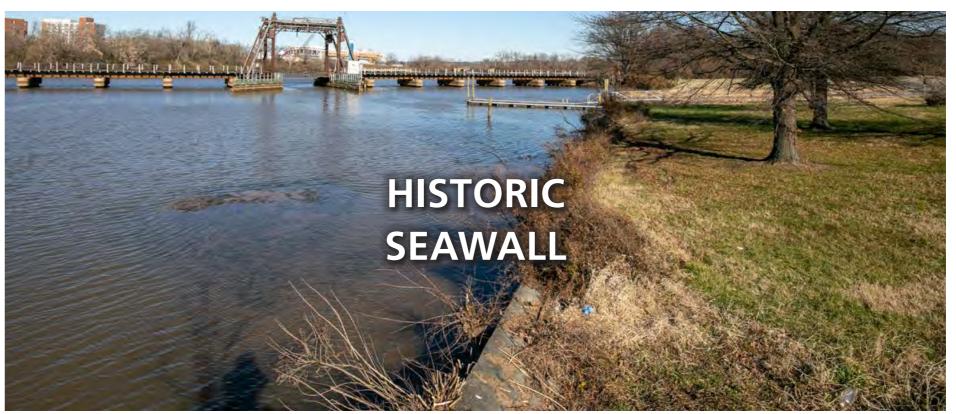
The park is considering options for the waterfront edge that might include a natural shoreline and repairing and replacing portions of the historic seawall.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Both natural shorelines and seawalls can provide recreational access to the water, including fishing, wading, and kayak/canoe launch points
- Both natural shorelines and seawalls can provide flood protection and stormwater management for the park
- Natural shorelines offer educational opportunities to learn about native landscapes,
 wildlife, and ecologies
- The seawall is a character-defining feature of the park's cultural landscape
- The road and trail could follow a natural shoreline, though in some locations, the road or trail might need to move inland to accommodate the design of naturalized shoreline conditions (depending on site-specific conditions)
- The seawall could be repaired to its original condition or could be rehabilitated to a higher elevation in response to sea level rise

HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

• The visual character of the waterfront could vary greatly, depending on the waterfront treatment. For example, a seawall would be a hardened (human-made) edge to the river while a natural shoreline would have a softer edge with more vegetation.









PAVILION

POTENTIAL OPTION 1









POTENTIAL OPTION 2

ROADWAY MAY NEED TO MOVE NEAR REC. CENTER TO MAKE SPACE FOR NATURAL SHORELINE





SLIGHT CHANGES NEEDED TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW WATERFRONT SPACES NEAR REC. CENTER

REC. CENTER 1-295 1-295 1-295

1-295

MAINTAIN / REPAIR SEAWALL

POTENTIAL OPTION 3







CHANGES NEEDED TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW WATERFRONT SPACES





Would you like to enhance existing wetlands and introduce new, nature-based stormwater facilities to help with flooding?

The park is considering restoring the existing wetlands on site and introducing additional nature-based stormwater facilities in low areas of the park that are prone to flooding.

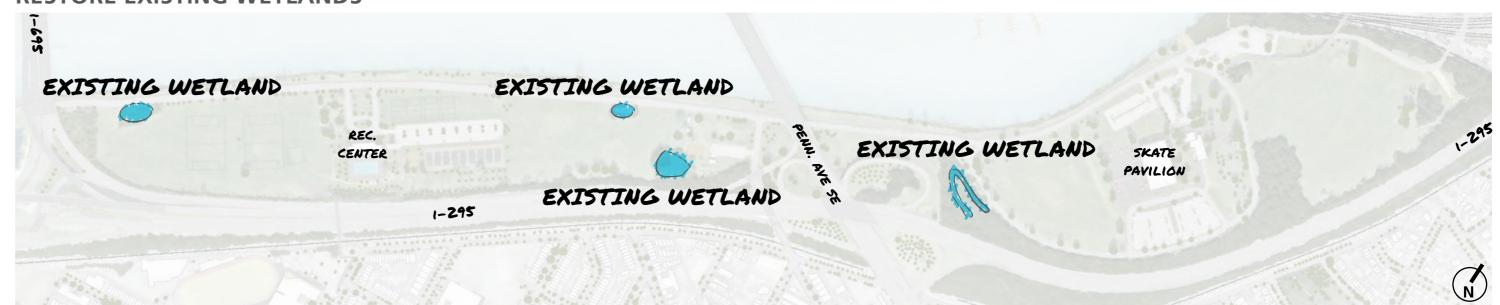
CONSIDERATIONS:

- Enhanced wetlands and new stormwater facilities could create recreation opportunities for additional walking trails, seating areas, and natural play areas
- These facilities provide natural flood protection and stormwater management for the park
- These facilities are habitat for wildlife
- These facilities help to keep sports fields dry
- Space from existing sports fields may need to be used, which might require relocating some of the fields

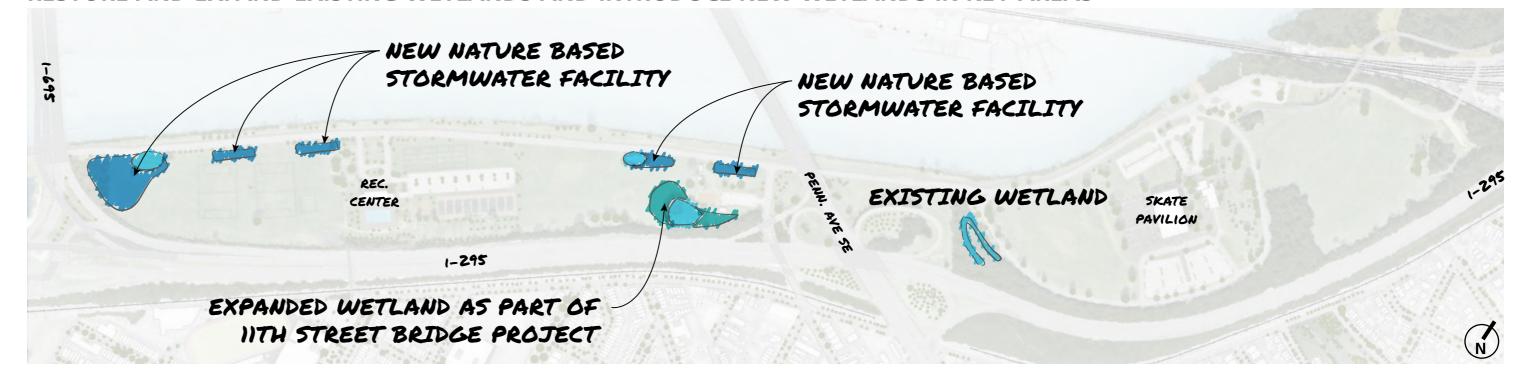
HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

- Park visitors would notice drier grass areas for the sports fields
- Existing sport field locations may change and minor impacts to existing picnic table areas. These areas would be replaced and relocated nearby

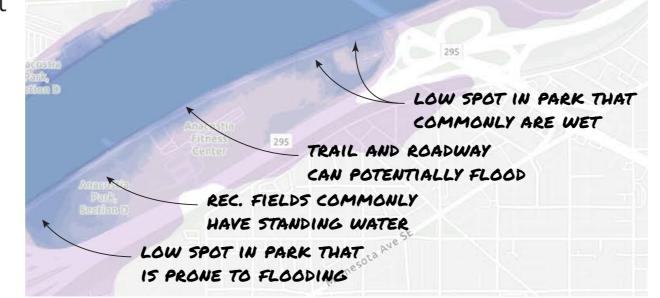
RESTORE EXISTING WETLANDS



RESTORE AND EXPAND EXISTING WETLANDS AND INTRODUCE NEW WETLANDS IN KEY AREAS



FLOOD RISK AREAS









What experiences on or by the water are important to you?

The park is considering enhancing the existing dock and boat ramp and maybe adding additional docks or piers to the park.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Piers and boat ramps offer direct access to the water.
- Some activities benefit from different kinds of water access (for example: piers, seawalls, and natural shorelines all provide different fishing experiences).
- Additional piers and/or trails create stronger connections to the water.
- Parts of Anacostia Drive and the Anacostia River Trail might move in some locations to make space for new waterfront activities

HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

- With additional piers and/or boat ramps, park visitors would have more recreation options along the river.
- Some parking along the river might be removed.
- Expanding the boat ramp provides an opportunity to relocate and expand the Aquatic Resources Education Center (AREC) to be closer to the river.

REHAB EXISTING BOAT LAUNCH AND PIER



EHAB EXISTING BOAT LAUNCH AND PIER ADD NEW WATER ACCESS POINT NEAR REC CENTER



REIMAGINE EXISTING BOAT RAMP AREA AND ADD WATER ACCESS NEAR REC CENTER AND UNDER BRIDGE













Would you like to see Pope Branch Stream flow through your park?

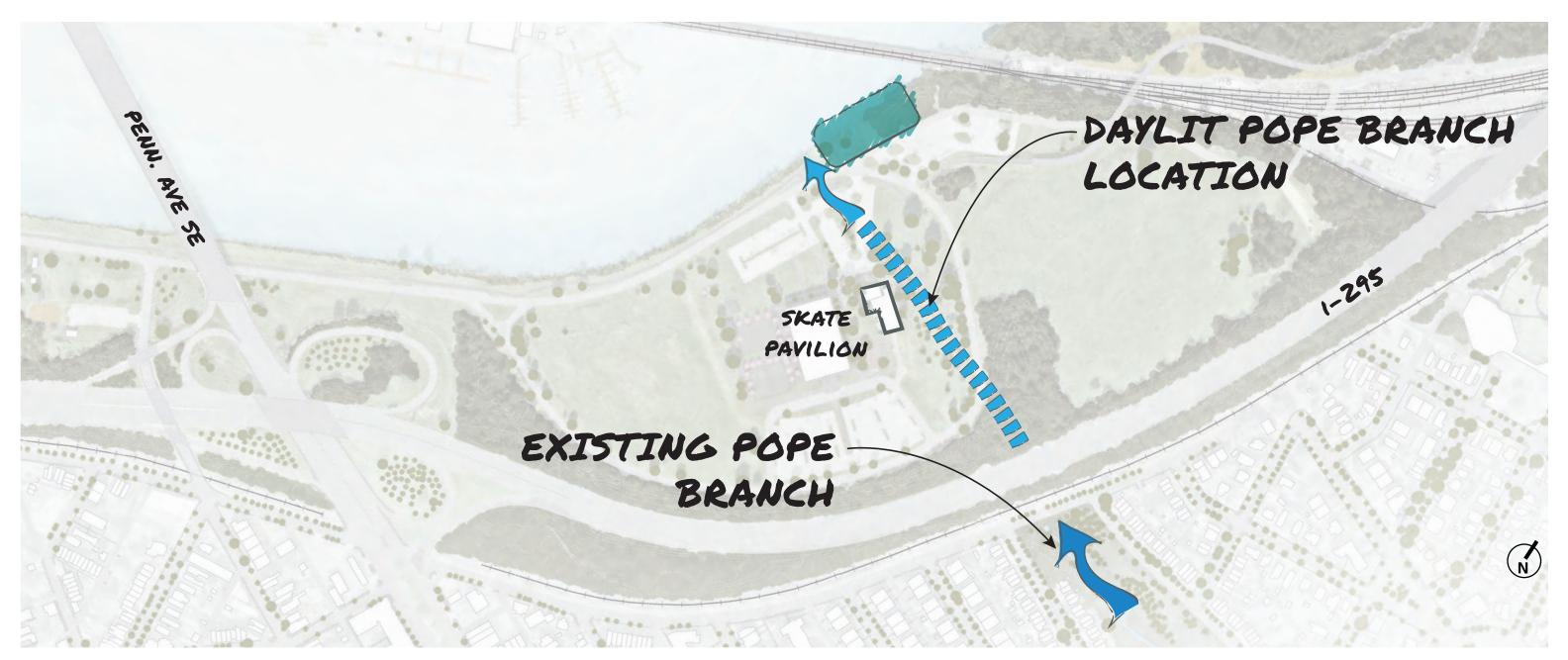
Pope Branch is currently hidden beneath Anacostia Park in a pipe. Daylighting would reveal the Pope Branch Stream once again through a naturalized corridor, providing new wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, and improved stormwater and flood management.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Daylighting the stream creates recreation opportunities for additional walking trails, seating areas, natural play areas, and community spaces next to the stream.
- Daylighting the stream creates additional habitat for wildlife
- The park could add educational opportunities to learn about the value of urban streams.
- Some open lawn area around the Anacostia Resources
 Education Center (AREC) would be changed to the stream

HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

- Park visitors would notice slightly less lawn area and more natural habitat for birds and other wildlife to enjoy.
- Park visitors would get to experience a small, urban stream and a large, urban river.













GOAL: Improve the safety, accessibility, and directness to the project area from neighboring communities and within the park between activity nodes and park areas.



Early comments show people want to access the park in different ways:

- Add signage announcing you're entering a national park
- Install more streetlamps along trails, especially under the overpasses
- Create a fully accessible park
- Provide easy access for vehicles
- Repair Good Hope Road at the railroad tracks
- Provide an internal transportation system like a trolley
- Provide a safe access point from the Arboretum
- Add additional pedestrian bridges or tunnels to cross I-295

- Enhance and/or increase entrance portals
- Provide parking adjacent to the recreation fields & courts
- Remove some parking
- Increase parking
- Disperse parking
- Add additional parking under the Sousa Bridge
- Keep Anacostia Drive in current location
- Relocate parts of Anacostia Drive



What specific improvements would you like to see around access? What is your experience getting to different features of the park? What would you like to have better access to?

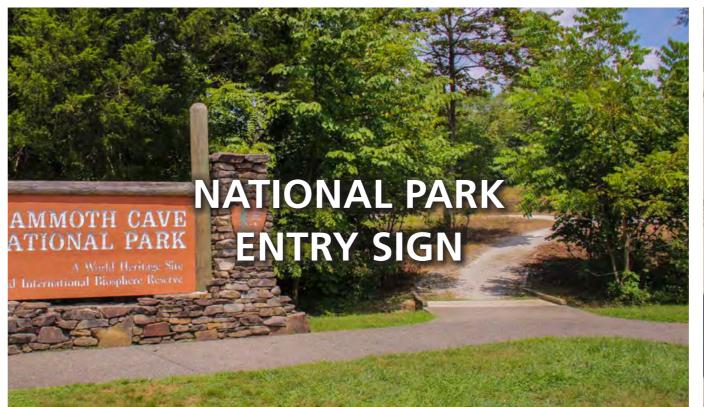
There are two pedestrian access points that connect to the local neighborhoods, which forces many people in the surrounding area to have to drive to the park. The few access points that exist today have poor infrastructure for people walking or biking and can make the experience of entering the park uncomfortable.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Improving sidewalks and lighting promotes pedestrian safety and universal accessibility when entering the park from sidewalks and trails.
- Additional signage will help visitors navigate the park easier
- Opportunity for additional access points for bicycles and walkers with stronger links to the surrounding communities.
- Coordination with other government authorities will be needed to make updates to entrance areas not owned by the Park.

HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

- Park visitors would have more options for how they want to access the park, whether by foot, bicycle, or vehicle.
- Park visitors would be able to navigate the park more easily with landmarks and way-finding signage.









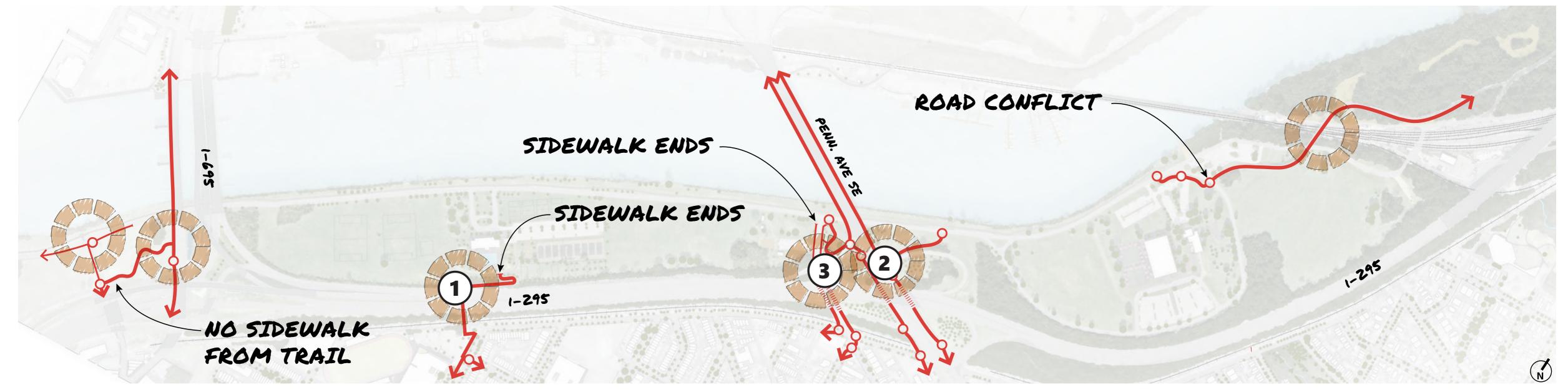






ENTRANCE

EXISTING ENTRANCES



- PED / BIKE ACCESS



Deteriorated infrastructure | Steep ramps | No sidewalk connection inside park

UNDERPASS



Minimal signage | Overgrown landscaping | Poor lighting

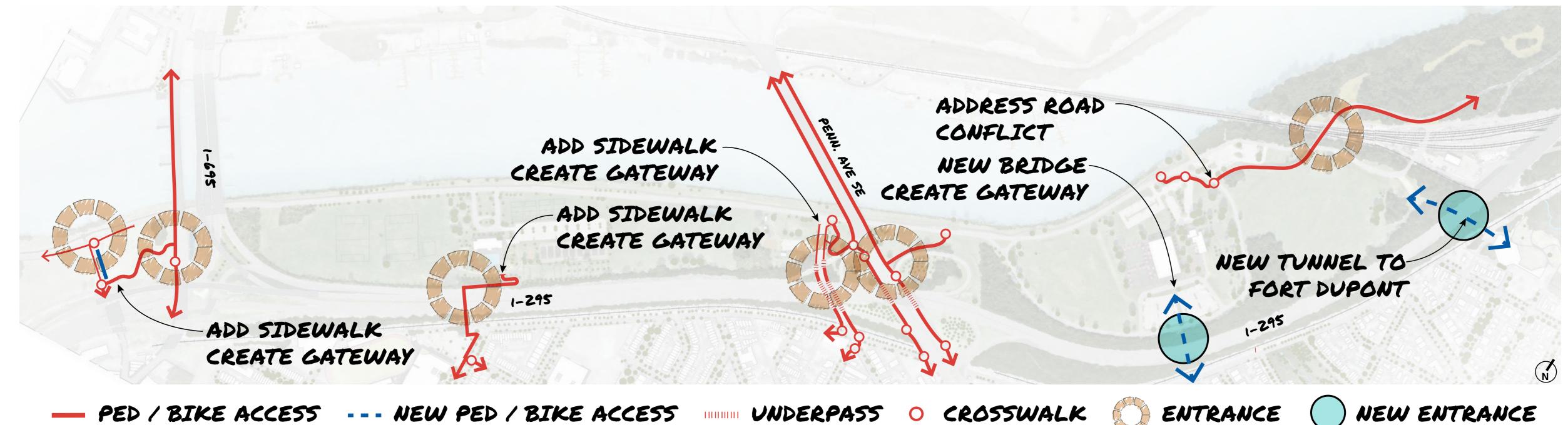
O CROSSWALK



Narrow sidewalks | Poor lighting | Harsh infrastructure



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS AT EXISTING ENTRANCES AND POTENTIAL NEW ENTRANCE LOCATIONS



EXAMPLES OF PARK GATEWAYS









Would you prefer to keep Anacostia Drive in its existing location or locate it away from the river for portions of the park?

The Park is considering realigning parts of Anacostia Drive. Currently, Anacostia Drive runs along the waterfront through the park. Moving the road would make space for waterfront activities and a natural shoreline and would provide vehicular access to more areas of the park.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Moving parts of Anacostia Drive near or away from the river makes space for other waterfront activities and a natural shoreline.
- Keeping parts of Anacostia Drive near the river preserves vehicular parking and access to the water.
- Moving or adding parts of the road could help with pedestrian and biker safety by reducing crosswalks.

HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE:

- Moving parts of the road away from the river would provide more choices for waterfront activities for park visitors and provide closer vehicular access to other parts of the park.
- Keeping parts of the road near the river would preserve a park visitor's current riverfront experience.









POTENTIAL OPTION 1





- OPPORTUNITIES FOR PICNIC TABLES ALONG WATERFRONT AND NEW ROAD
- NO IMPACTS TO EXISTING FIELDS. EASIER CONNECTIONS TO FIELDS WITH NEW ROAD

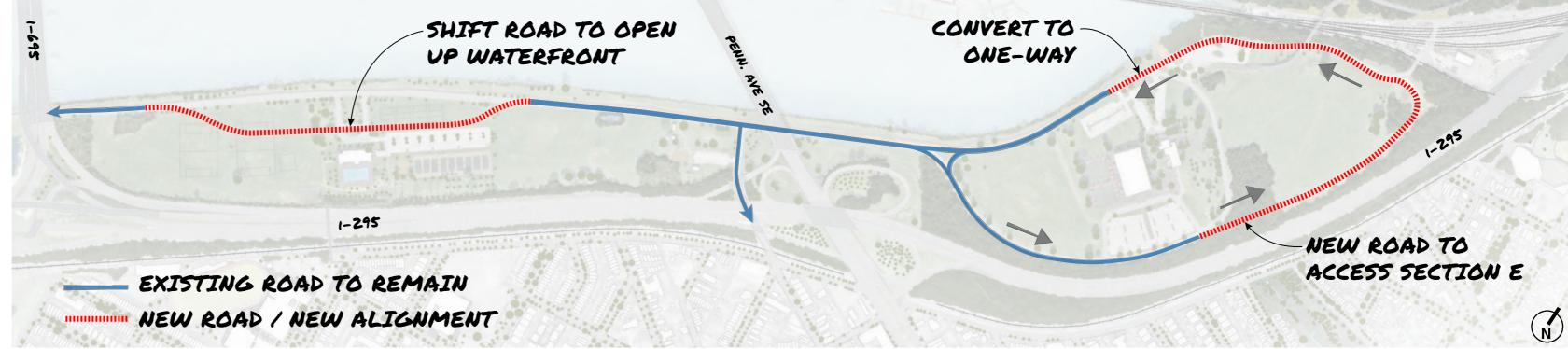
REMOVE ROAD TO ALONG WATERFRONT REMOVE ROAD TO ELIMINATE CONFLICT NEW ROAD TO ACCESS SECTION E NEW ROAD / NEW ALIGNMENT

POTENTIAL OPTION 2





- OPPORTUNITIES FOR PICNIC TABLES ALONG WATERFRONT AND NEW ROAD
- RELOCATE/SHIFT EXISTING FIELDS NEAR REC. CENTER. EASIER CONNECTIONS TO FIELDS WITH NEW ROAD



POTENTIAL OPTION 3



- PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR NUMEROUS WATERFRONT ACCESS AREAS THROUGHOUT PARK.
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR PICNIC TABLES ALONG WATERFRONT AND NEW ROAD
- MINIMAL IMPACT TO EXISTING FIELDS. EASIER CONNECTION TO FIELDS WITH NEW ROAD.



HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON PEPC

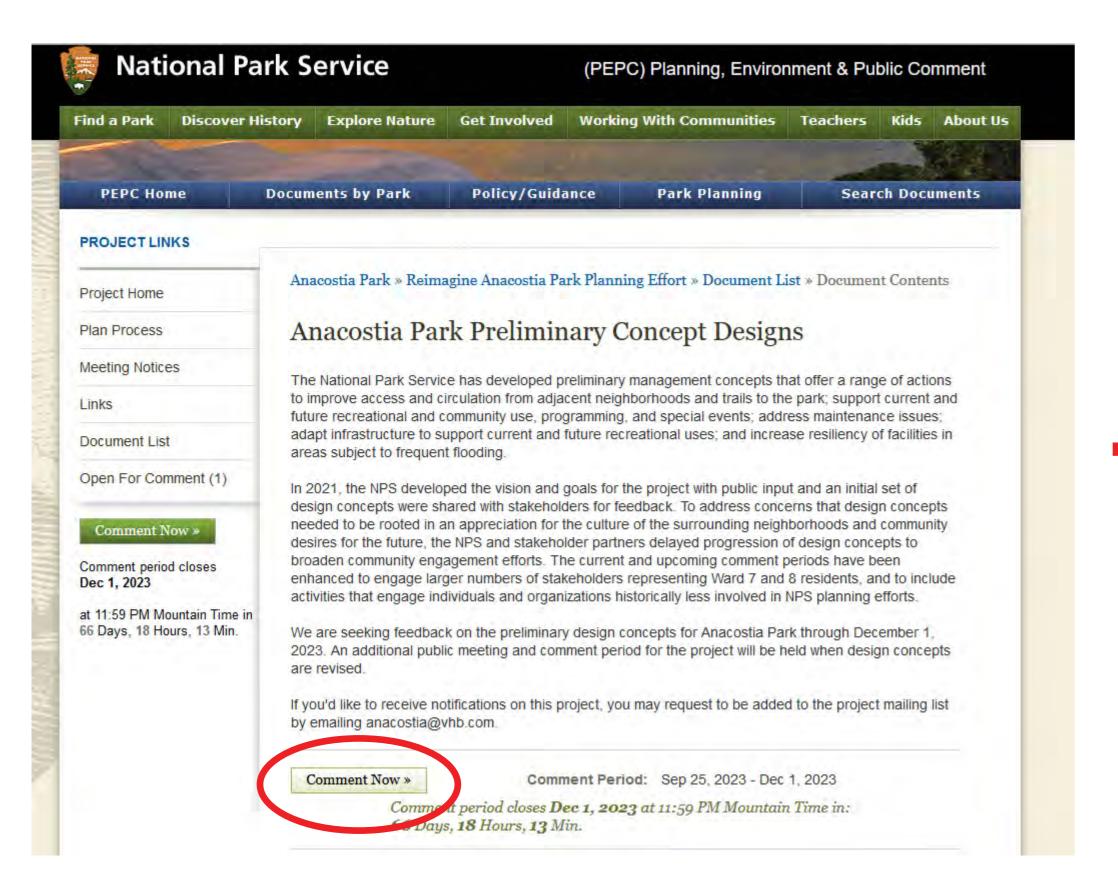
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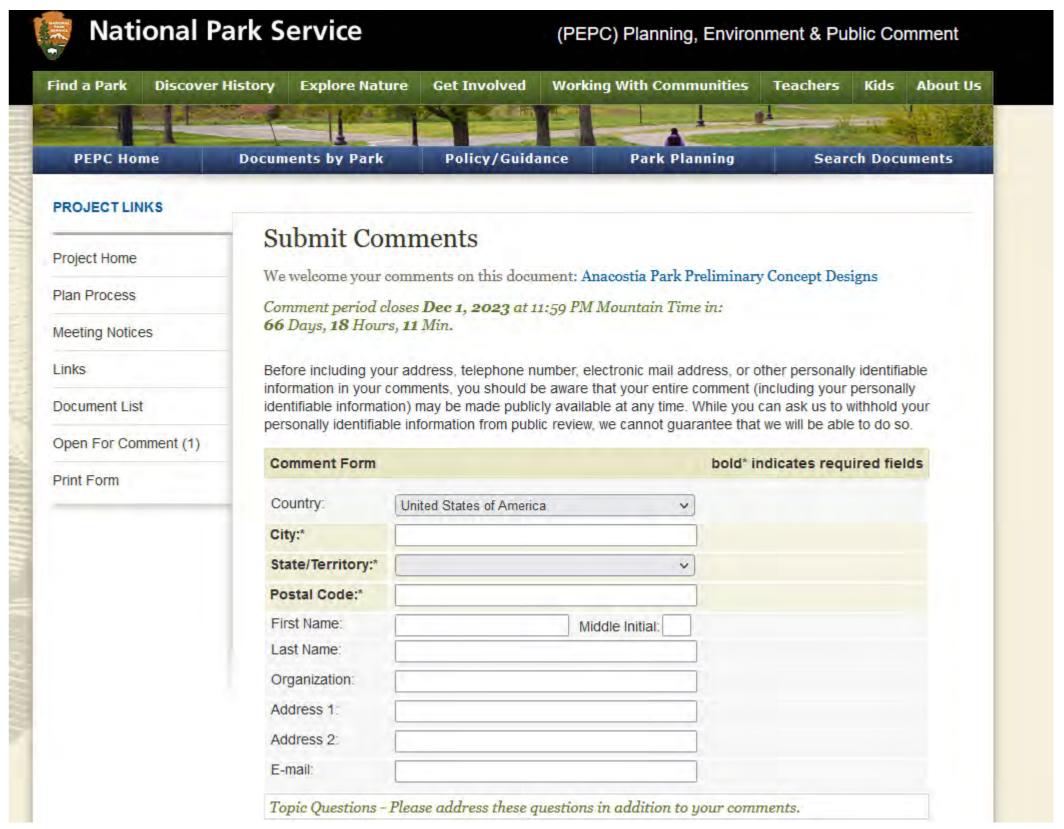
Comments can be submitted to the Park via QR Code:



https://qr.link/xzauvj



Step 1: Click "Comment Now"



Step 2: Fill Out the Form with Your Comments

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

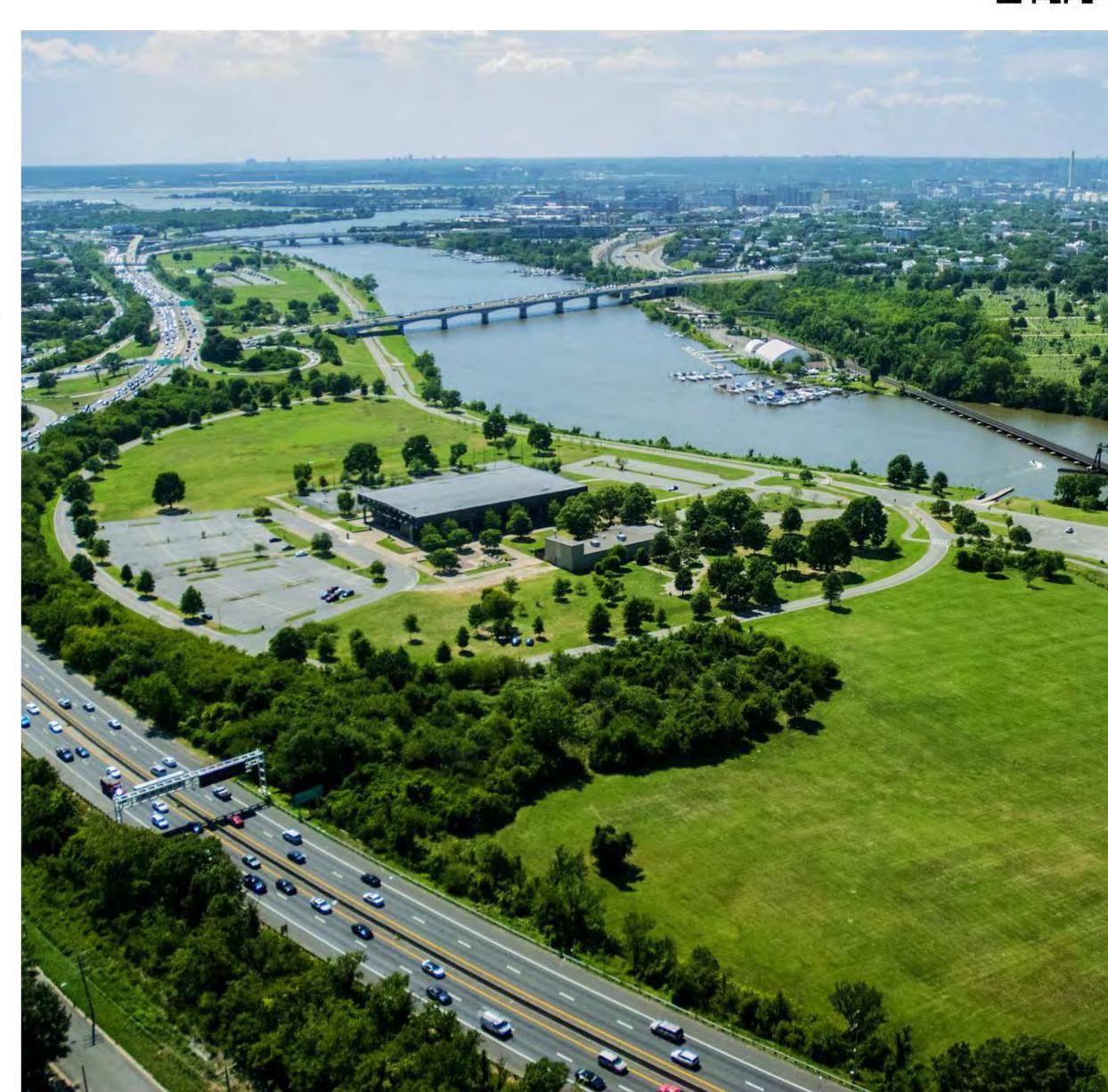


Upcoming events to learn more about the project:

- September 27 at 6 p.m. <u>Development concept plan</u> <u>virtual meeting</u>
- September 30 at 3 to 7 p.m. <u>Late Skate at Anacostia</u>
 <u>Park</u>
- October 14 at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. <u>Frederick Douglass</u> <u>Family Day</u> at Frederick Douglass National Historic Site located at 1411 W St SE, Washington, DC 20020
- October 28 at 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. <u>Late Skate at</u> <u>Anacostia Park</u>

Next steps:

- 60 days for public comment period (September-December 1, 2023)
- NPS and the design team will use feedback to develop three concepts (late 2023-early 2024)
- The concepts will be presented to the public for review in summer 2024



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



