

Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Extension: Bridging the Anacostia



**ANACOSTIA
RIVERKEEPER®**

**ANACOSTIA PARKS &
COMMUNITY
COLLABORATIVE**



**ANACOSTIA WATERSHED
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

October 16, 2022

Anacostia Park

2016 MANAGEMENT ZONES

- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Golf Course Zone
- Organized Sport and Recreation Zone
- Community Activities and Special Events Zone
- Park Administration / Operations Zone
- Special Permit Zone

- Water Taxi - Existing
- Water Access (River Trail) - Existing
- Water Access (River Trail) - Proposed
- Water Trail
- Anacostia Riverwalk Trail - Existing
- Anacostia Riverwalk Trail - Proposed
- Other Trail - Existing

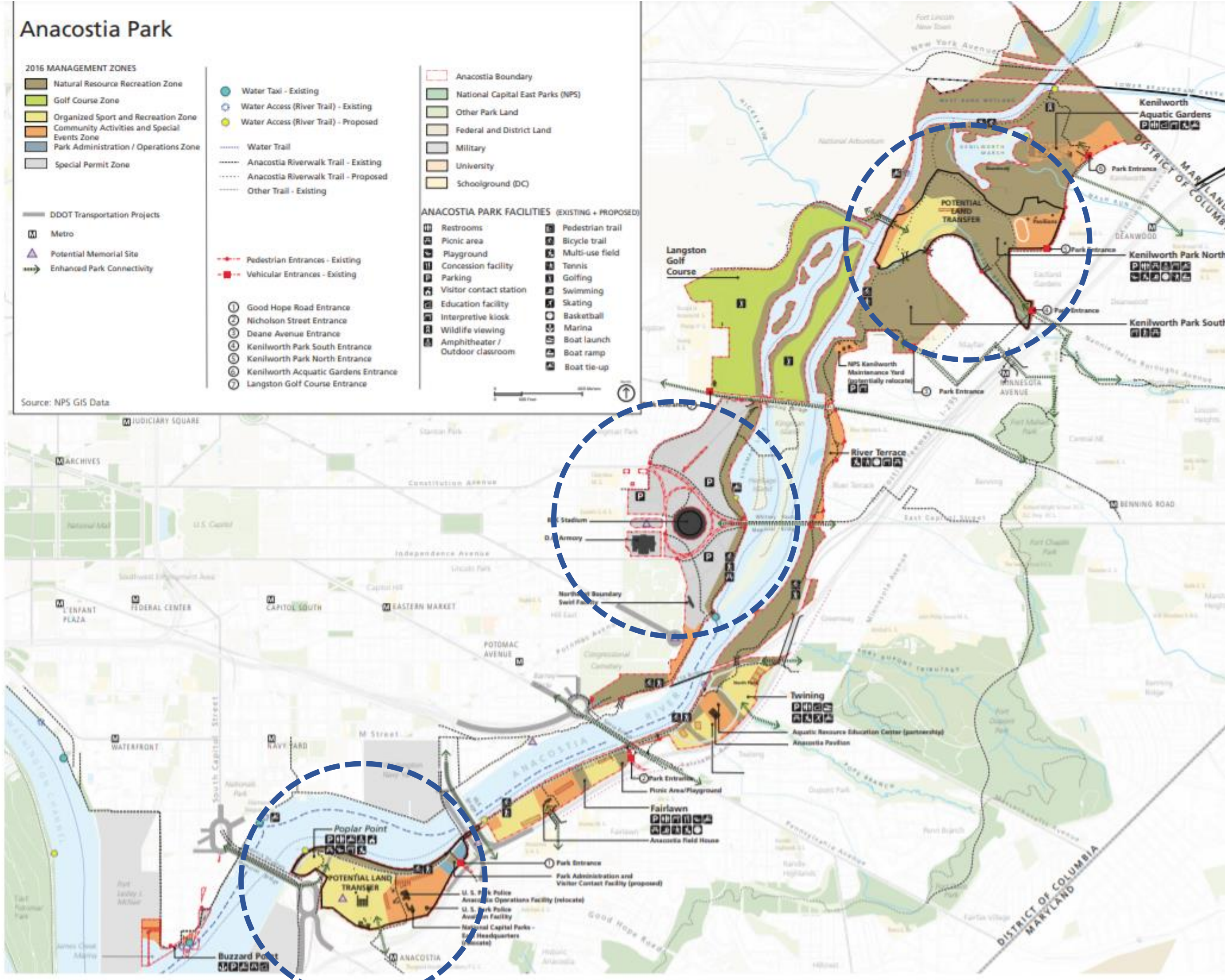
- Anacostia Boundary
- National Capital East Parks (NPS)
- Other Park Land
- Federal and District Land
- Military
- University
- Schoolground (DC)

ANACOSTIA PARK FACILITIES (EXISTING + PROPOSED)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Restrooms | Pedestrian trail |
| Picnic area | Bicycle trail |
| Playground | Multi-use field |
| Concession facility | Tennis |
| Parking | Golfing |
| Visitor contact station | Swimming |
| Education facility | Skating |
| Interpretive kiosk | Basketball |
| Wildlife viewing | Marina |
| Amphitheater / Outdoor classroom | Boat launch |
| | Boat ramp |
| | Boat tie-up |

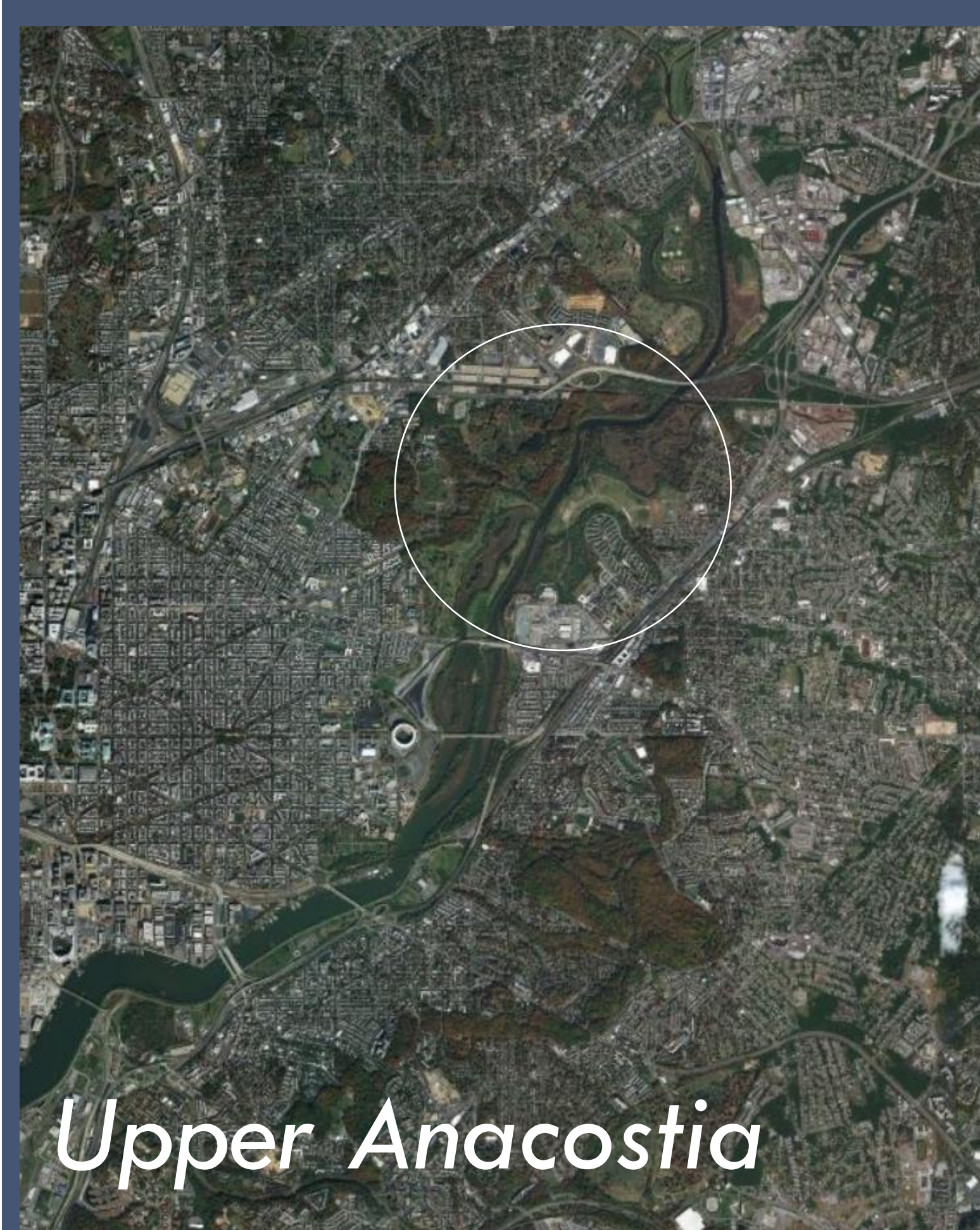
- Good Hope Road Entrance
- Nicholson Street Entrance
- Deane Avenue Entrance
- Kenilworth Park South Entrance
- Kenilworth Park North Entrance
- Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Entrance
- Langston Golf Course Entrance

Source: NPS GIS Data



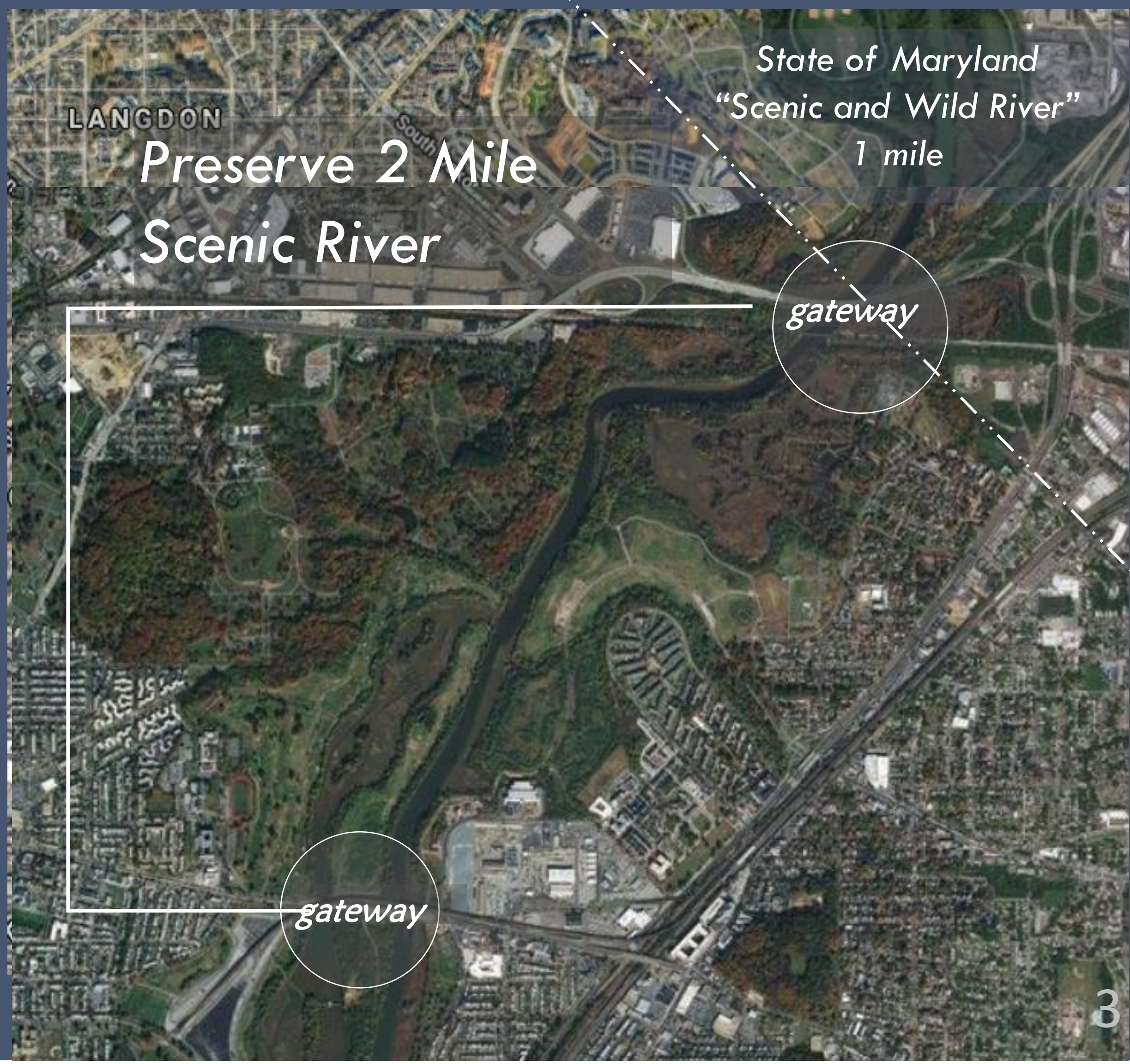
Management Plan Environmental Assessment

FIGURE 3
Alternative 3



Upper Anacostia

The upper River has the most beautiful and naturalistic reaches of the Anacostia - it must be preserved, protected and restored.



LANGDON

Preserve 2 Mile

Scenic River

State of Maryland
"Scenic and Wild River"

1 mile

gateway

gateway

1942

The District of Columbia establishes a landfill on site, initially a temporary measure, and begins dumping and burning waste. Traffic peaks at 350 truckloads per day.



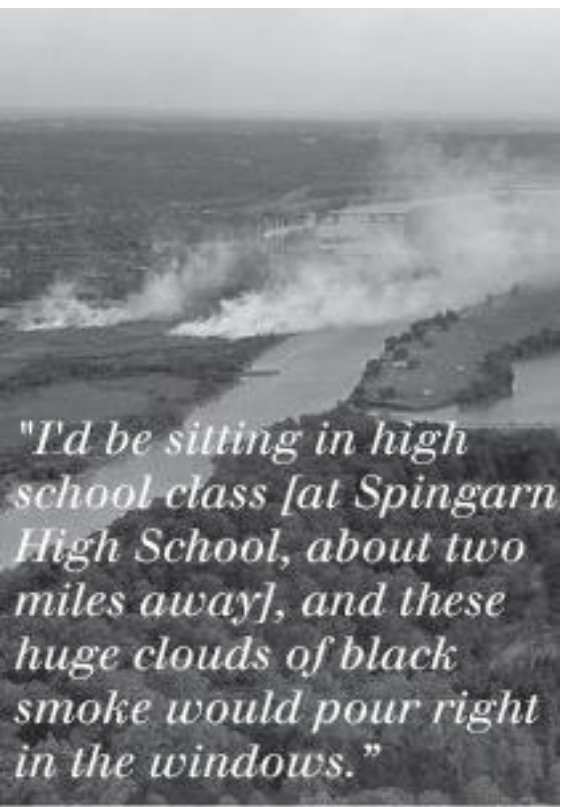
Benning's Track was used by horse owners as a spring training track well into the 1930s. Popular Labor Day auto races were also held there. Around 1940 Elder Solomon Lightfoot Michaux, a popular African-American radio evangelist known as the "Happy Am I" preacher, bought the site and built Mayfair Mansions. Designed by Howard University-trained architect Albert Cassell and built with federal loans, Mayfair Mansions' "garden apartments" became the fashionable address for young, professional African-Americans.



A race car rounds the turn at Benning's Track. Note the large grandstand on the left. (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, 1816)

1966

Nearby residents gather to protest the landfill and the nuisance it causes. The District assures them that it will soon be removed but continues to burn and dump trash.



"I'd be sitting in high school class [at Spingarn High School, about two miles away], and these huge clouds of black smoke would pour right in the windows."

—Michael Shirley, 64

1968

The landfill reaches its historical full extent, built upon the former route of the Anacostia river.

1968

Kelvin Tyrone Mock, age 7, is burned to death in a trash fire while playing in the landfill with his friends.

The District responds and ceases burning operations at Kenilworth, but continues to dump waste at site.

1970

Landfill operations ceased. Landfill is capped with polluted sediment dredged from the Anacostia and reclaimed for recreational purposes, granted to the National Park Service.

1973

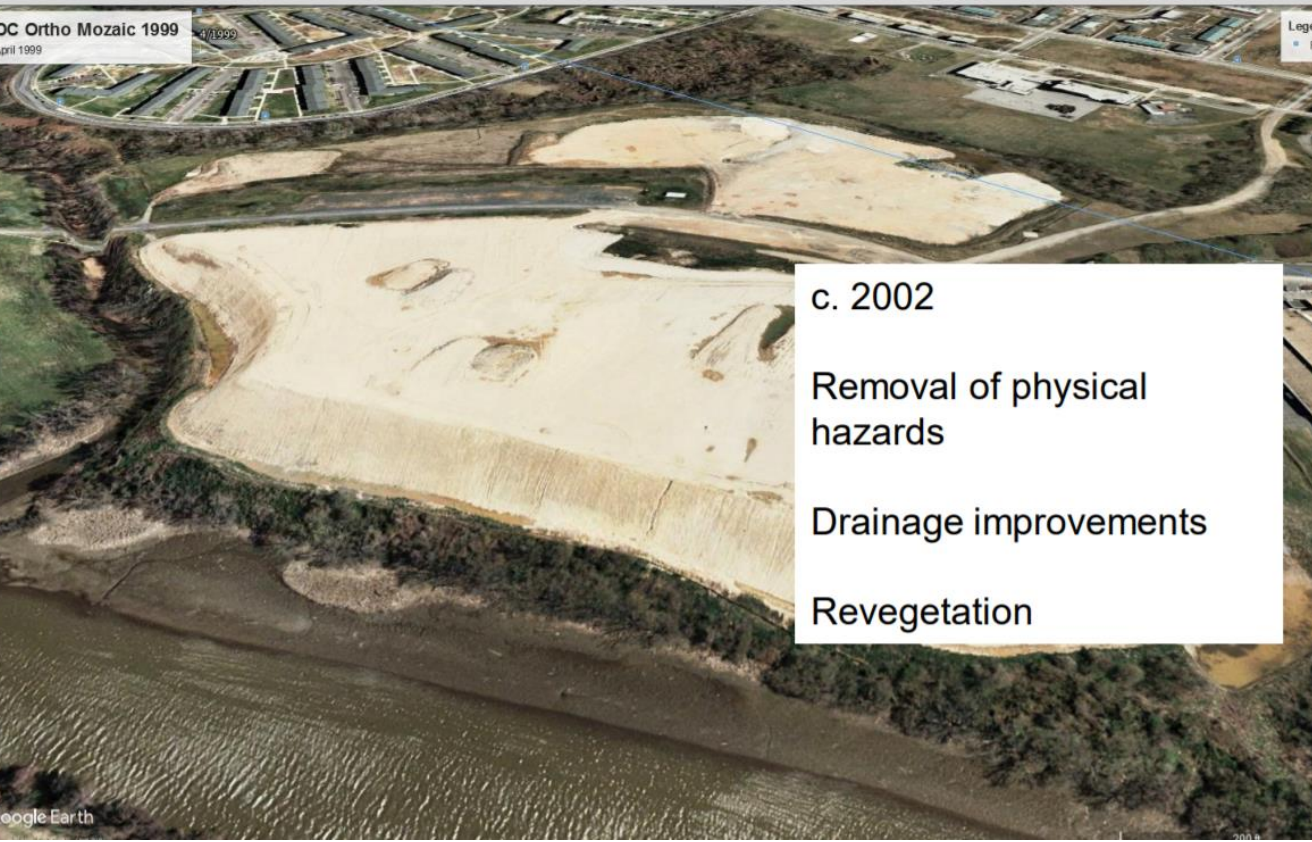
District Department of Parks and Recreation opens Kenilworth-Parkside Community Center and builds athletic fields.

1976

RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act), a law that would have made the landfill illegal, is passed by Congress.

Kenilworth Landfill

1999 Aerial Photo - KPS



DC Ortho Mozaic 1999 April 1999

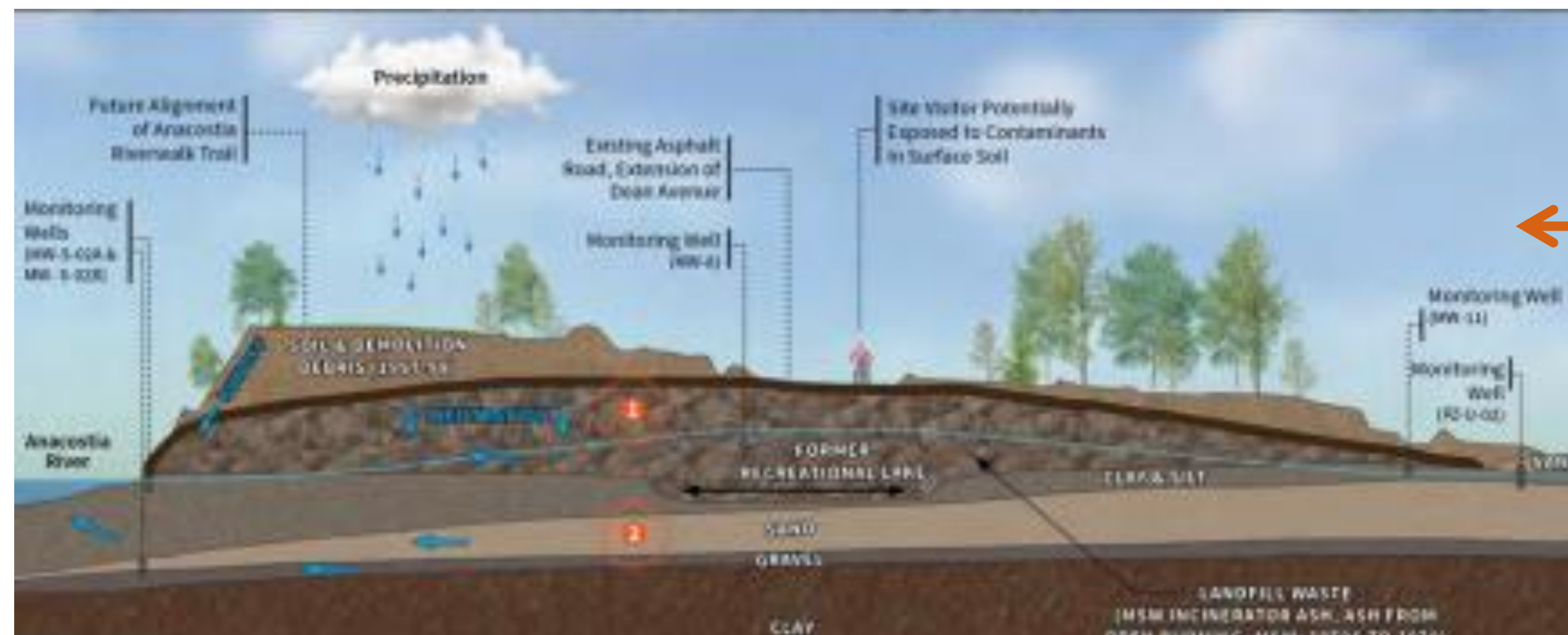
- c. 2002
- Removal of physical hazards
- Drainage improvements
- Revegetation



"It was like a sale at Wal-Mart or something. Every single day, in the summertime, the kids went there. At 6 a.m., we'd hit the dump. Then we'd fish. Then we'd play basketball. The dump was part of our itinerary, like a camp schedule."

Portion of River lost to landfill


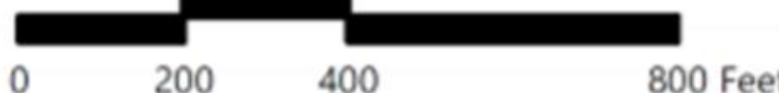








KENILWORTH PARK NORTH **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

PHYSICAL IMPACTS:


- ***River disconnected from flood plain***
- ***Hydrology disrupted, poor drainage***
- ***Toxics and fill material remained a threat to human health***

-  5 ft Contour (USACE 2000)
-  1 ft Contour (USACE 2000)
-  Stream Channel
-  KPN and KPS Landfill Boundaries



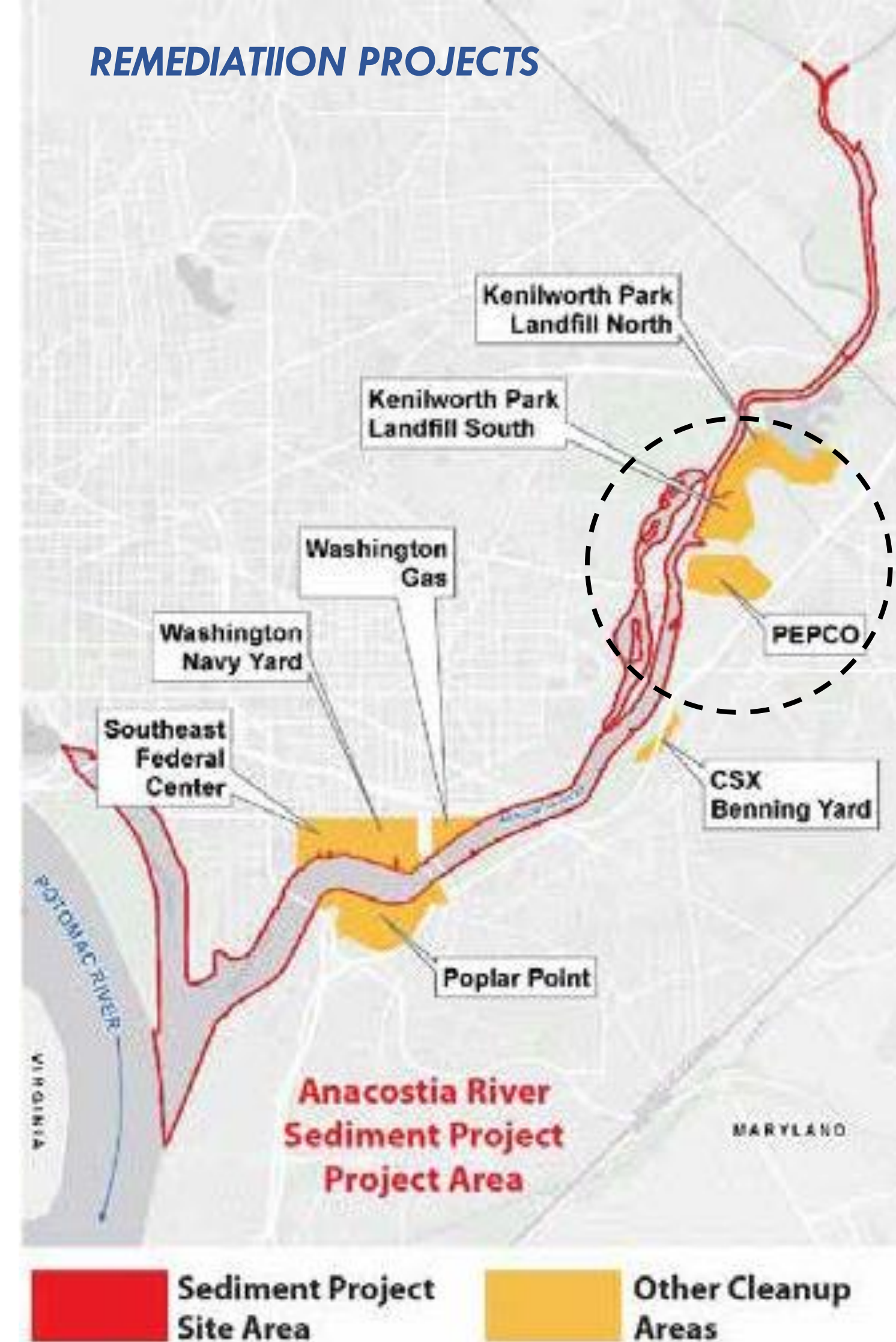
Key Elements Of Remedial Alternative 5

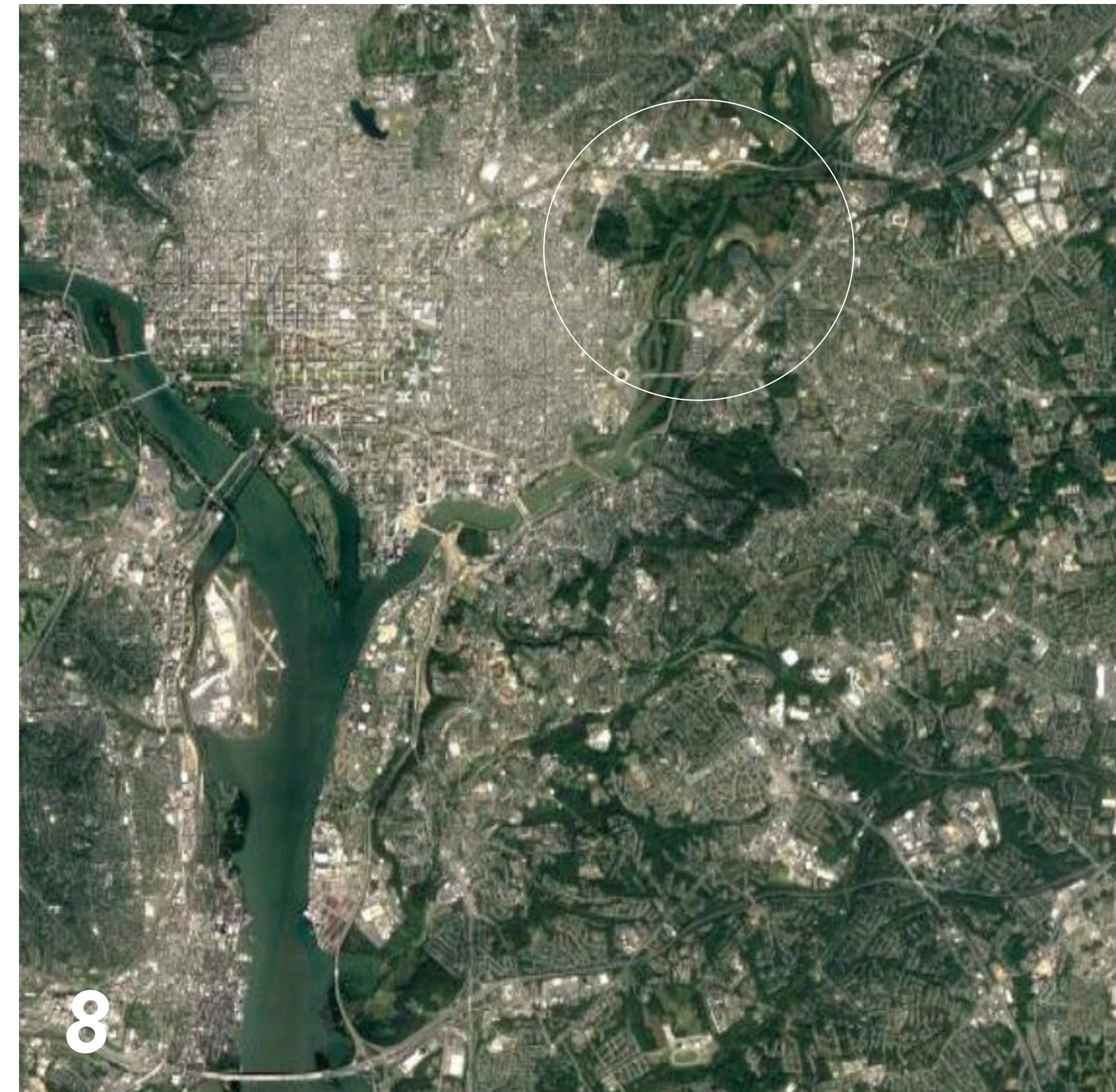
 Area of Excavation

REGIONAL INVESTMENT

REMEDIATION

- A. Wetland Creation – occurring river wide
- B. Anacostia River Sediment Project: 15 Potential Environmental Clean-up Sites
 - 1. Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (NRDARP) in progress.
 - 2. PEPCO Power Plant decommissioned: 2014
\$57M settlement October 2023
- C. DC Clean Rivers Project: \$2.6B opened 2018
- D. Kenilworth Park: CERCLA completed 2020



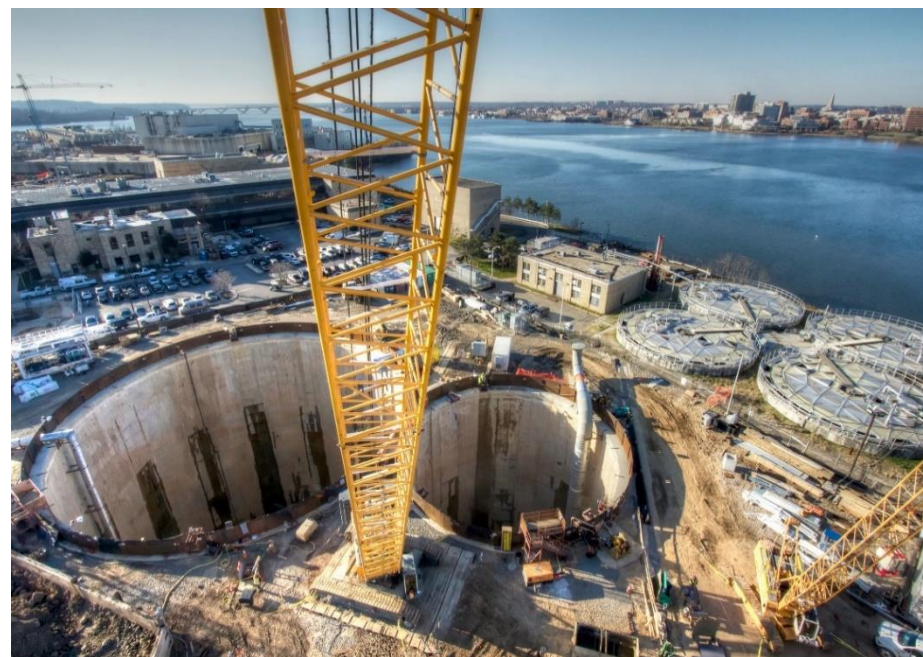
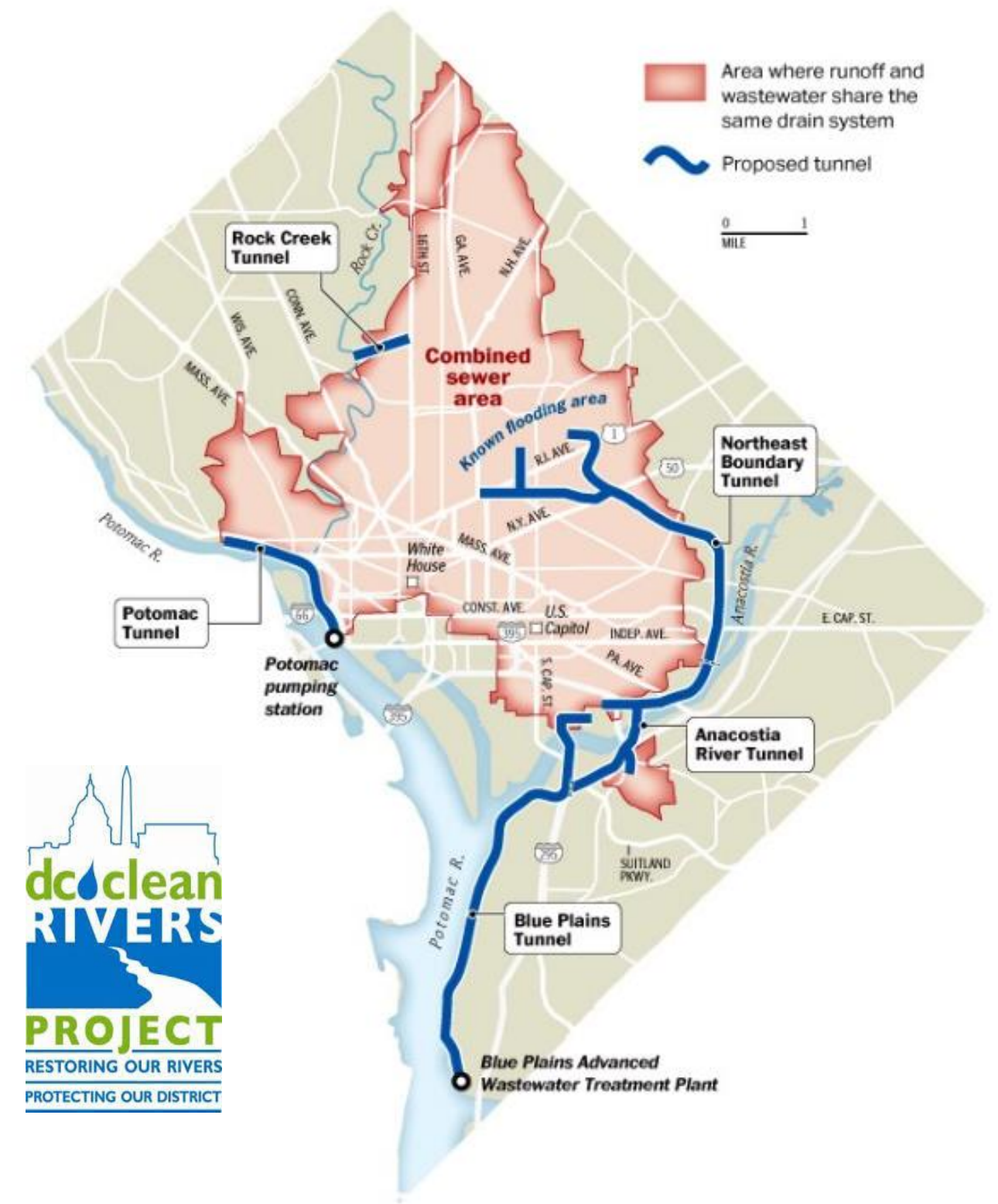


D.C.'s Attorney General announced ***an historic environmental settlement with a local energy company over the company's alleged contamination of the Anacostia River, with the company agreeing to pay \$57 million for cleanup and penalties.***

In a Tuesday news conference, Attorney General Brian Schwalb announced the agreement with the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco).

“For far too long, District residents have been deprived of fully enjoying one of our greatest environmental resources – the Anacostia River – due to chronic, illegal, and intentional pollution.

For decades, Pepco routinely discharged hazardous chemicals into soil, groundwater, and storm sewers, which fouled the Anacostia River, deprived us of the river's many benefits, and endangered public health and safety. And as is too often the case, communities of color East of the River bore the brunt of the company's illegal conduct,” said AG Schwalb in a statement.



A third of the District relied on the same drain system for both sewage and storm water. During heavy rains, this system was overwhelmed and raw sewage was released into D.C. waterways. At a cost of \$2.6 billion, the District built 13 miles of new tunnels and made system upgrades that will reduce 98% percent of the overflow to the Anacostia River.

Kenilworth Reach after decommissioning of Dump and PEPCO Plant



REGIONAL INVESTMENT IN ANACOSTIA RIVER: RECREATION

- A. Bladensburg Waterfront Park: opened 1996**
- B. Anacostia River Trail: map published, 2 docks complete**
- C. Anacostia Riverwalk Trail: connected 2016**
- D. Kingman Island State Park established 2018, dock complete, planning in progress**
- E. Anacostia Park Management Plan: EA 2017**
 - 1. Reimagine Parts D & E: listening session Oct 20. Comments due Dec. 1, 2023.**
- F. Anacostia River Corridor Assessment in progress**



**KENILWORTH
REACH:
ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION
AREA**

**PRESERVE
NATURALISTIC QUALITY**

ANACOSTIA RIVER CORRIDOR RESTORATION PLAN

- *Increase understanding of the history and ecology of the Anacostia River Corridor*
- *community consensus solutions to improve health, resiliency and access to the river*
- *identify projects to improve water quality, restore habitat and enhance river resiliency*
- *increase equitable access to the Anacostia River Corridor*

- *Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan*
- *Remediation Plan Kenilworth Landfill*
- *DC Code Section 2-1226.38 (wetland, buffer, and tree planting)*

Environmental Assessment

Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Section 3 Realignment

Anacostia Park



December 2011

Kenilworth Section:
the “missing link”

- *Environmental Assessment December 2011 (13 comments)*
- *NCPC Review Nov 2017*
- *30% Design Review July 2019*
- *60% Design Review July 2023*
- *NCPC Review November 2023*

FLAWED PROCESS: warrants full Environmental Impact Statement (only Assessment was prepared)

- *Failed to anticipate progress of landmark projects*
- *Failed to anticipate increased recreational opportunities offered by pollution reduction/elimination*
- *Failed to anticipate progress of active transportation routes and to consider design in that context*
- *Out of sequence with larger projects*
- *Alternatives were omitted*
- *Inadequate public outreach and involvement*
- *Unresponsive to environmental and safety concerns*

An aerial photograph of a city, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. A prominent river or canal winds through the center of the city, flanked by green spaces and parks. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a white, cursive font.

*Transforming city
rivers into wildlife
sanctuaries, to
provide spaces where
people of all
backgrounds can
connect with nature
in new and
innovative ways*

Alternative #2: CLEAR SPAN

- *Appropriate to natural areas*
- *Unimpacted by debris, high water flow and velocity*
- *Reduces obstruction of view*



The Bow River Pedestrian Bridge was the first new crossing of Banff's Bow River since the 1920s-era vehicle overpass. It addresses the pressing needs for emergency vehicle access, as well as increasing pedestrian traffic in one of Canada's oldest national parks.



Streicker Bridge Princeton, NJ



- *Allows continuous aquatic habitat, free flow of water, wetland creation*
- *Preserves visibility and allows safe navigation on entire length and width of river*
- *Allows future work including dredging, living shoreline*



Schoder Overcrossing Contra Costa, CA 600 ft clear span pedestrian and cyclist bridge

“Our society should aim to produce civic works on par with cherished landmarks from the New Deal or the Carnegie libraries of the generation before.”

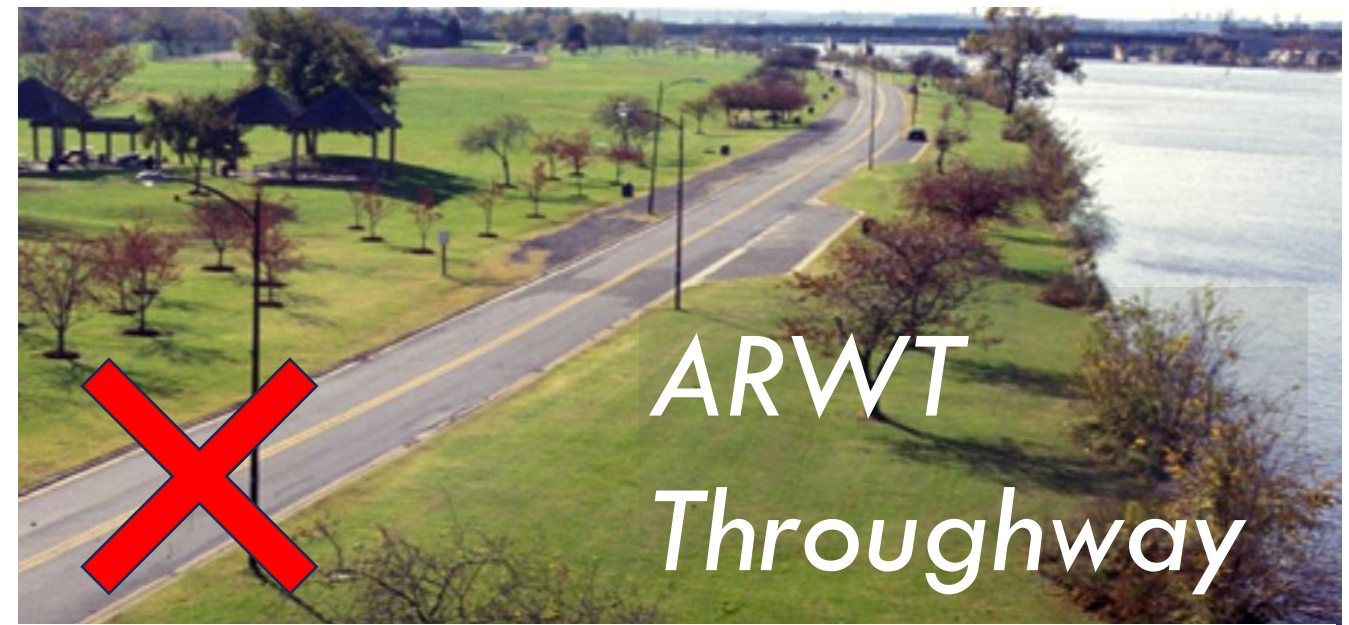
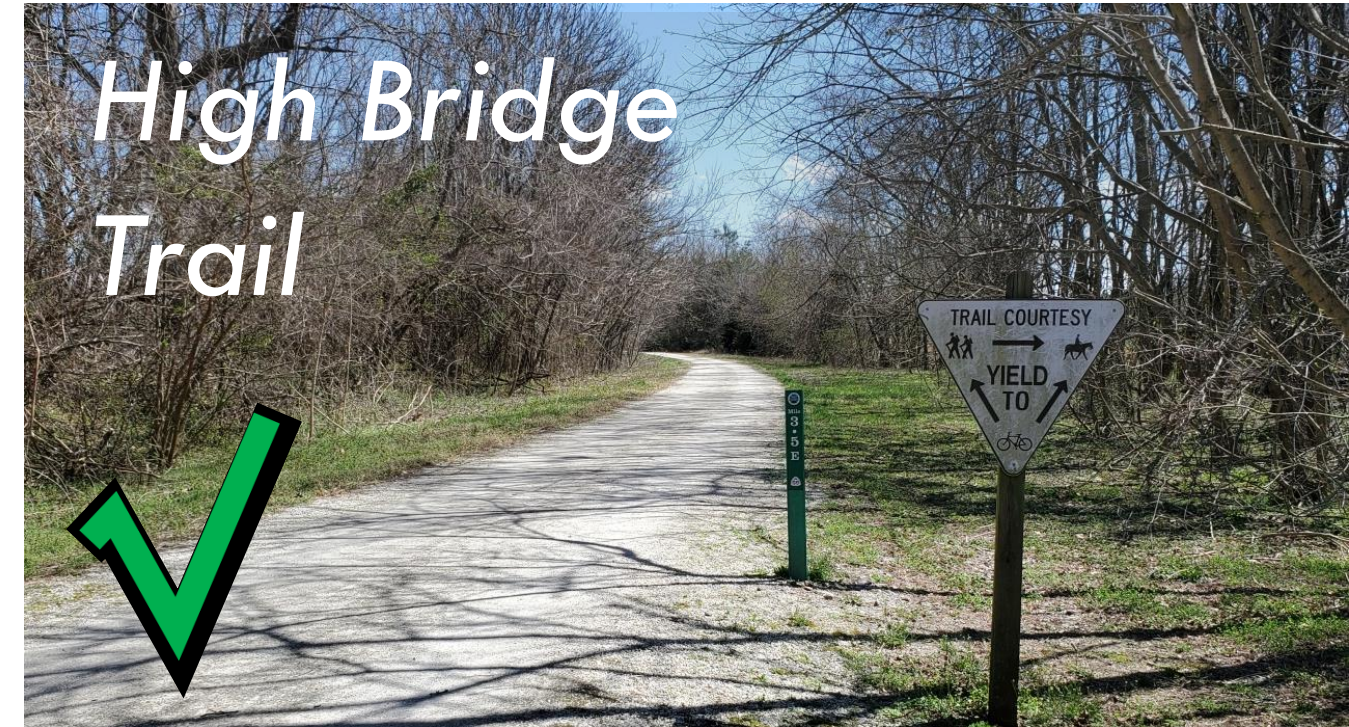
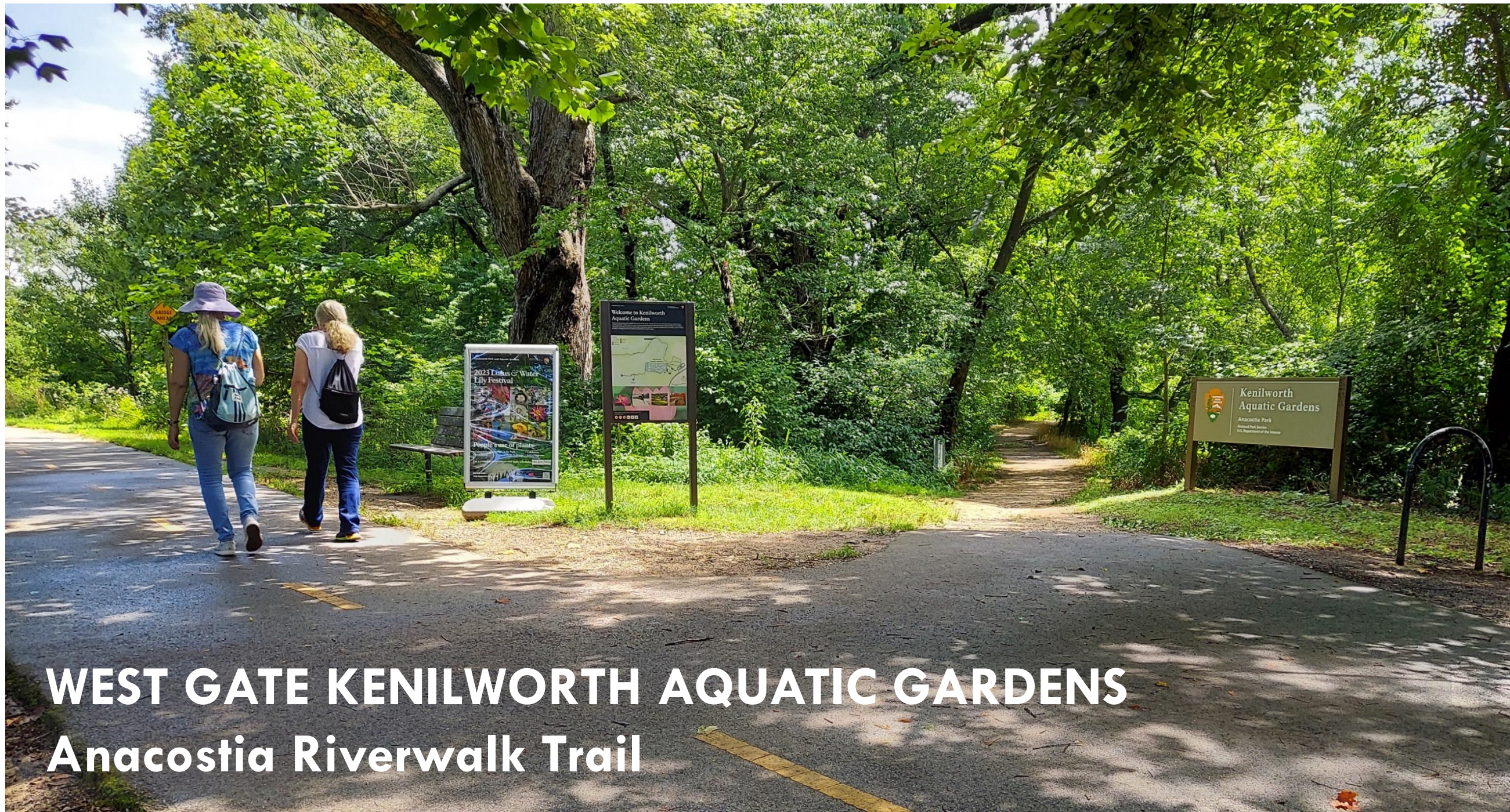
PRIORITY: enhance access to park

MAIN (east) GATE KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS

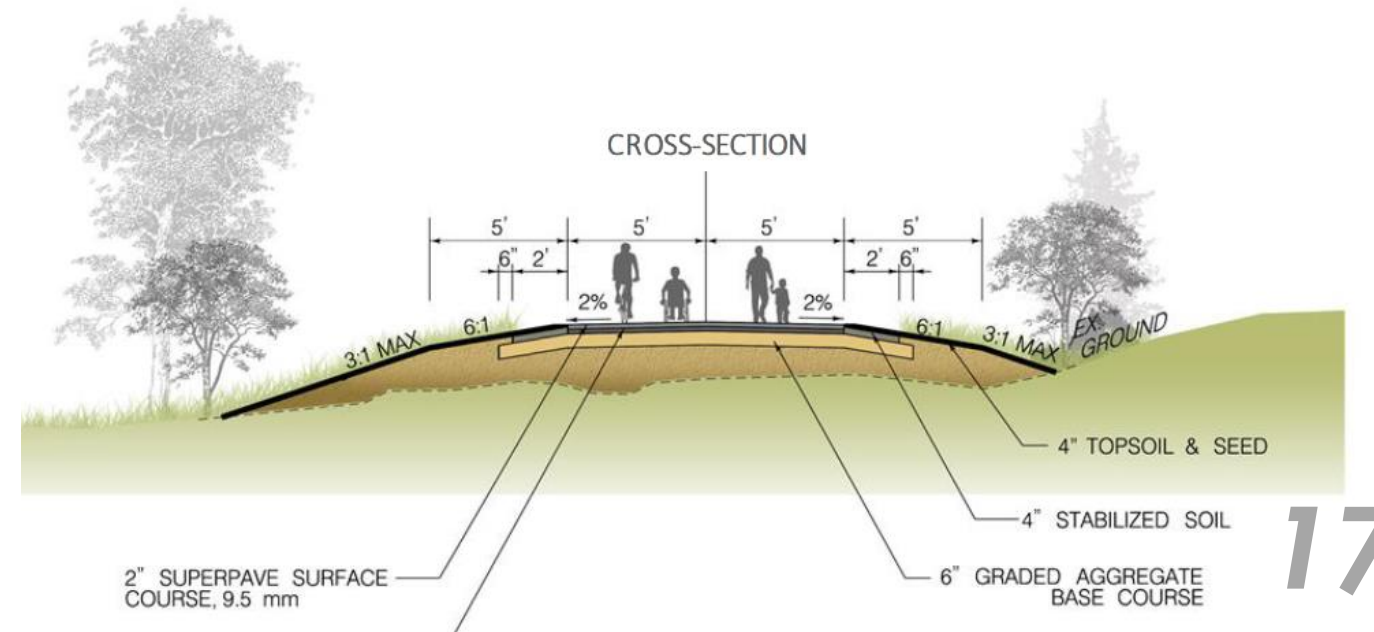


- *Barbed wire fence is inappropriate interface between neighborhood and National Park. (see Racialization Along the Emerald Necklace, Boston)*
- *Anacostia Park Management Plan promises world class parks, rejects piecemeal approach*

PRIORITY: enhance experience and preservation of nature



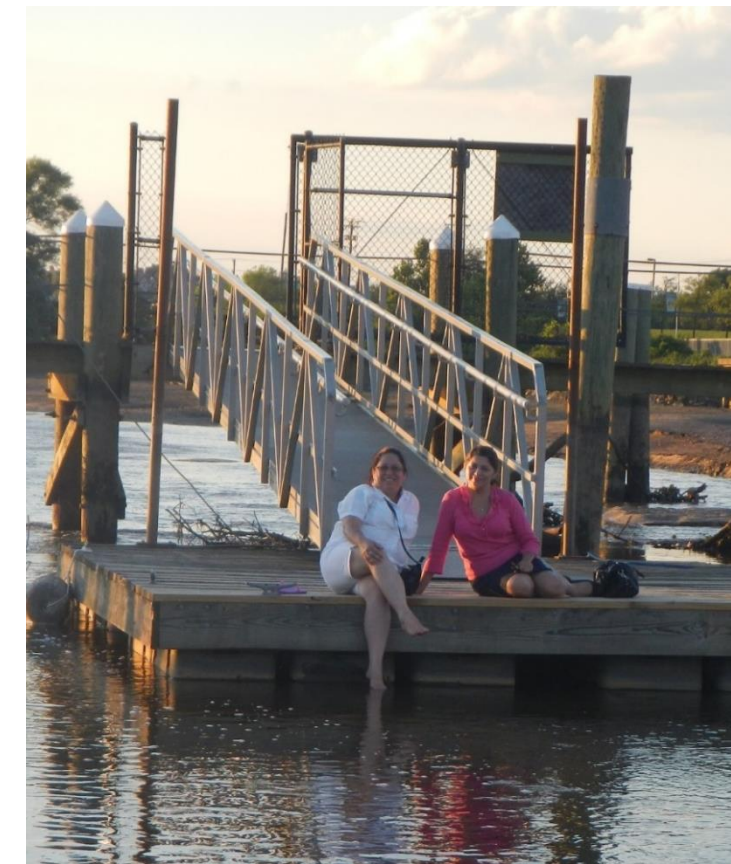
Use natural materials and a light hand in natural areas. Trails in the Aquatic Gardens feel comfortable in natural areas. Asphalt is highway material, not appropriate for a nature park.



PRIORITY: opportunity for water dependent activities

THE ANACOSTIA RIVER POOL

A Feasibility Study for a Swimming Facility in the Anacostia River, Washington DC



What does water contact look like for non-swimmers?



PRIORITY: restoration of natural areas



- *Restoration of wetlands reduces flood risk, traps sediment, cleans water, creates habitat*
- *Living shoreline supports wildlife*
- *Rewild Watts Branch*



Environmental Initiatives

The environmental agenda charts the course for environmental healing and the rejuvenation of water-dependent activities. Pollution must be eliminated, run-off controlled, streams and wetlands restored and water activities promoted.

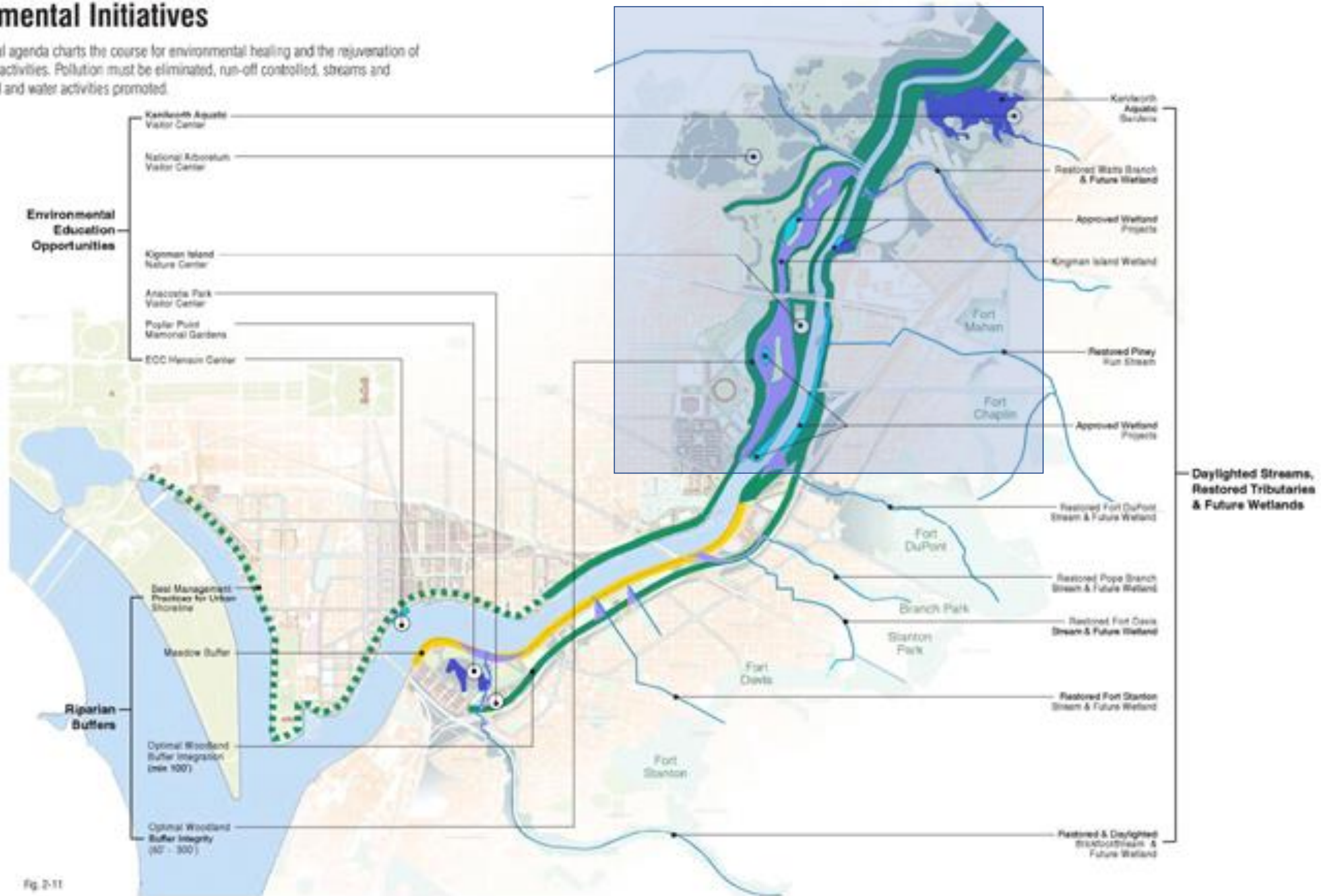


Fig. 2-11

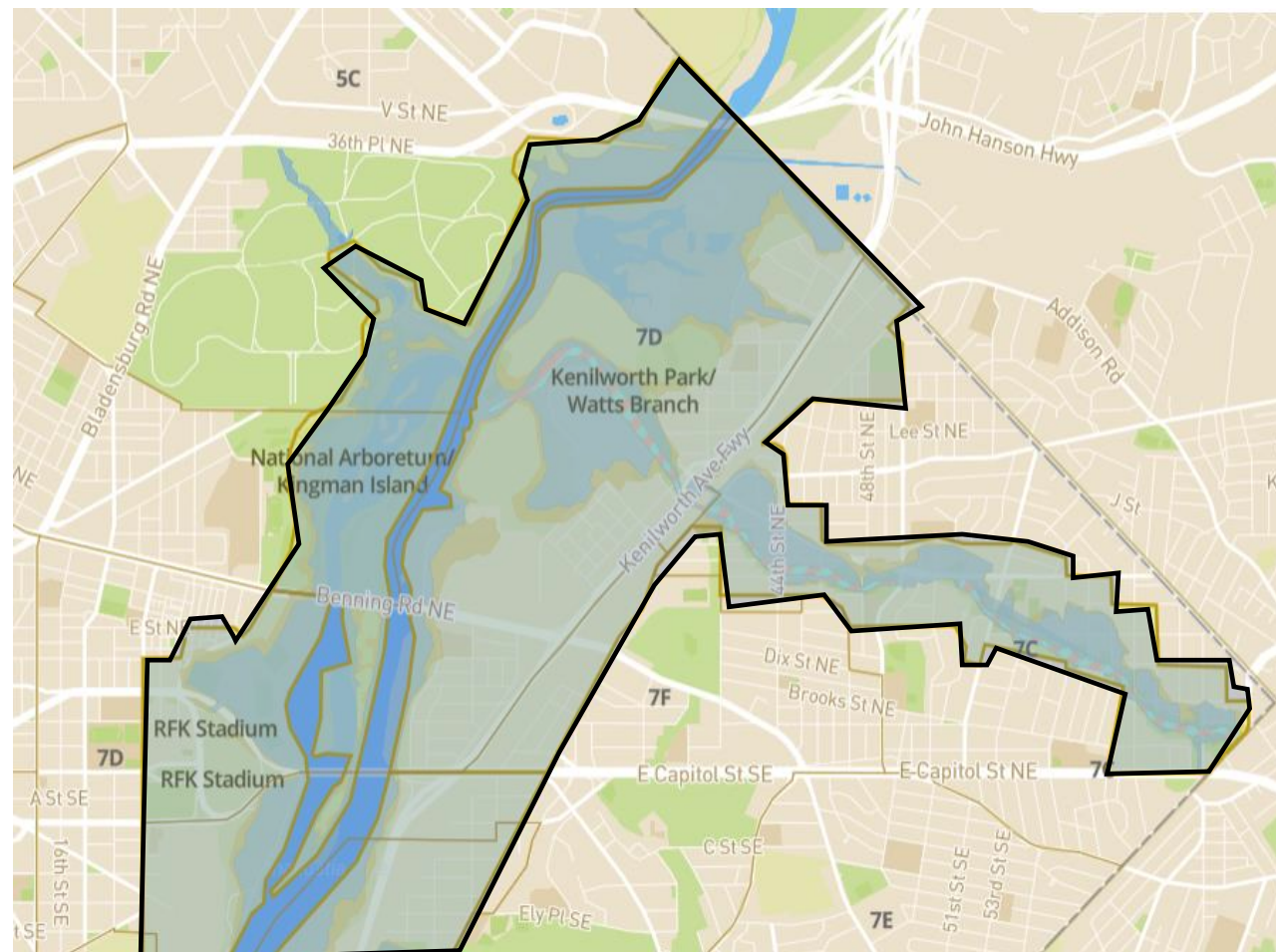
PRIORITY: achieving a resilient Anacostia

RESILIENT DC

“By examining our challenges and vulnerabilities, we will not only build a more resilient DC, but also create new opportunities for residents and ensure that every Washingtonian - whether their family has been here for five minutes or five generations - gets a fair shot.”

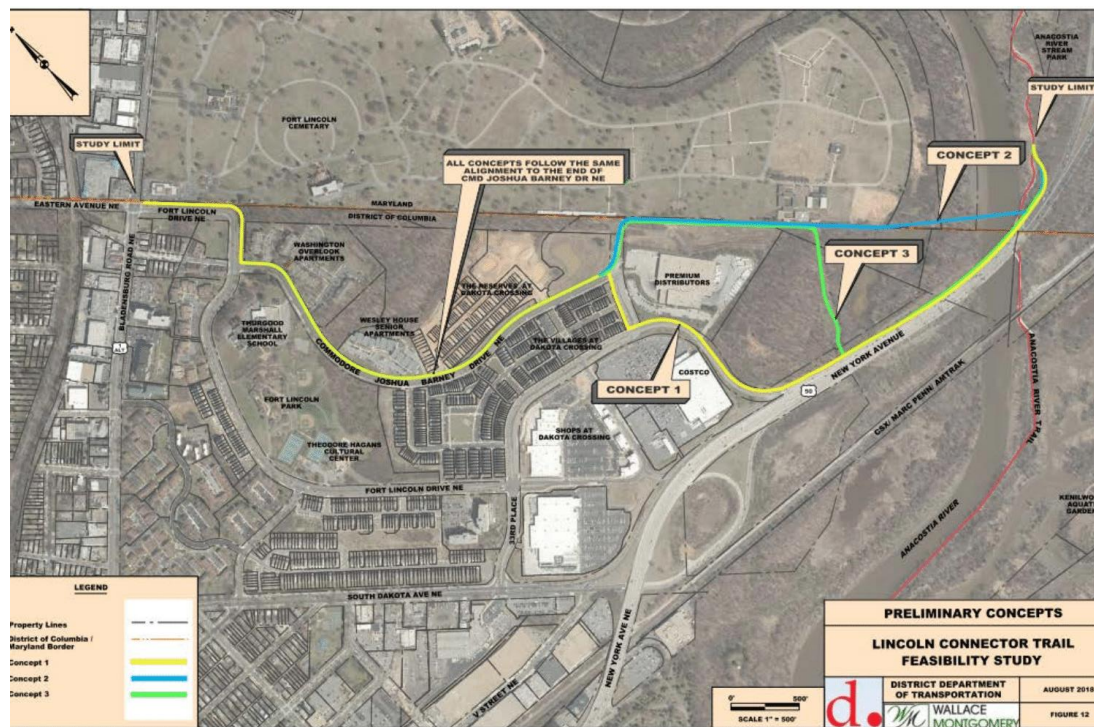
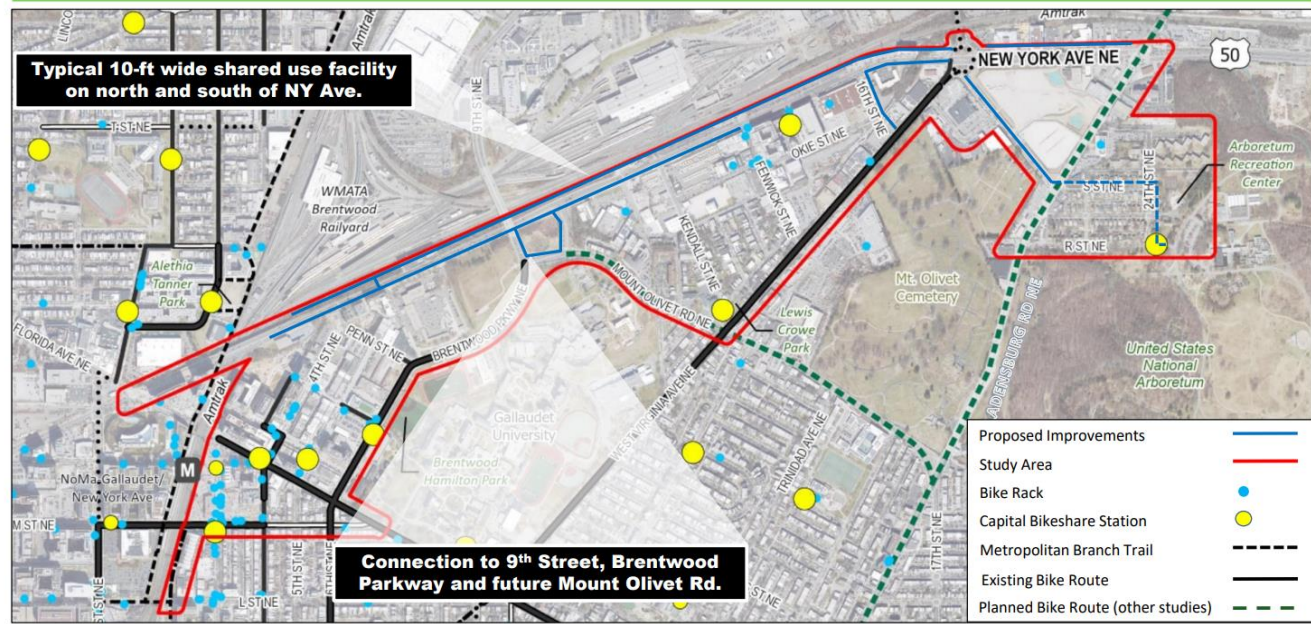


MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

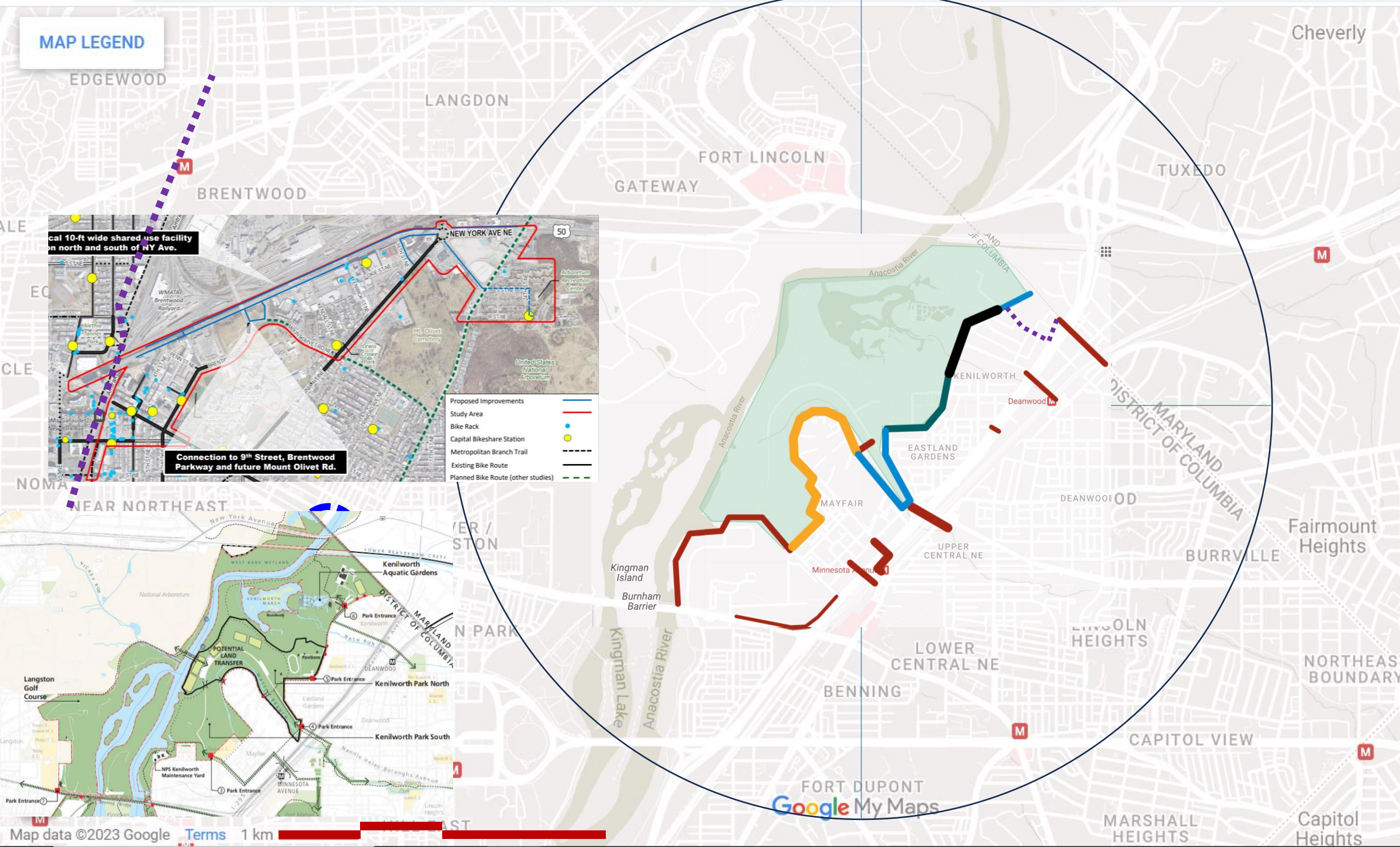


FLOOD RISK – WARD 7

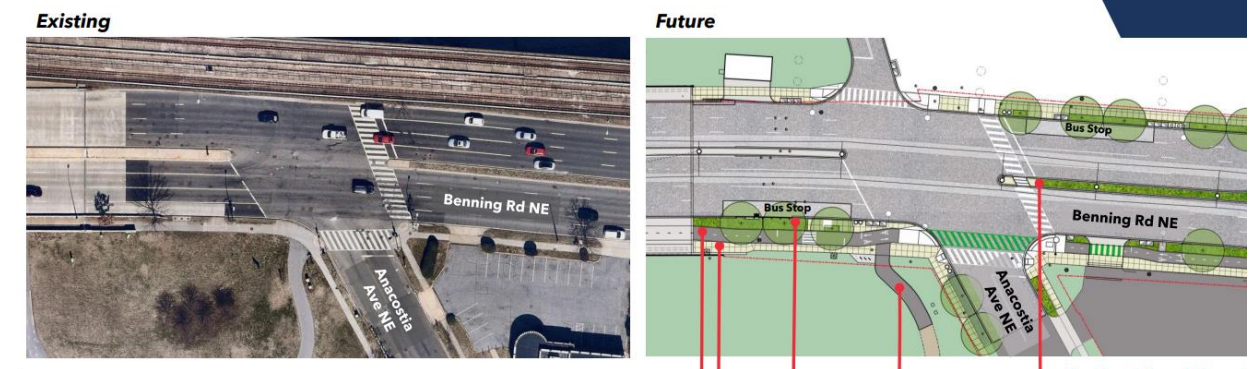
Alternative 2 – 2023 Updated Design



Douglas Street Entrance
(ped/bike) cross 295 and CSX on Eastern Ave



Hayes Street Bridge (from Metro)
Intersection Improvements
Anacostia Avenue NE



ANACOSTIA PARK CONCEPT PLAN

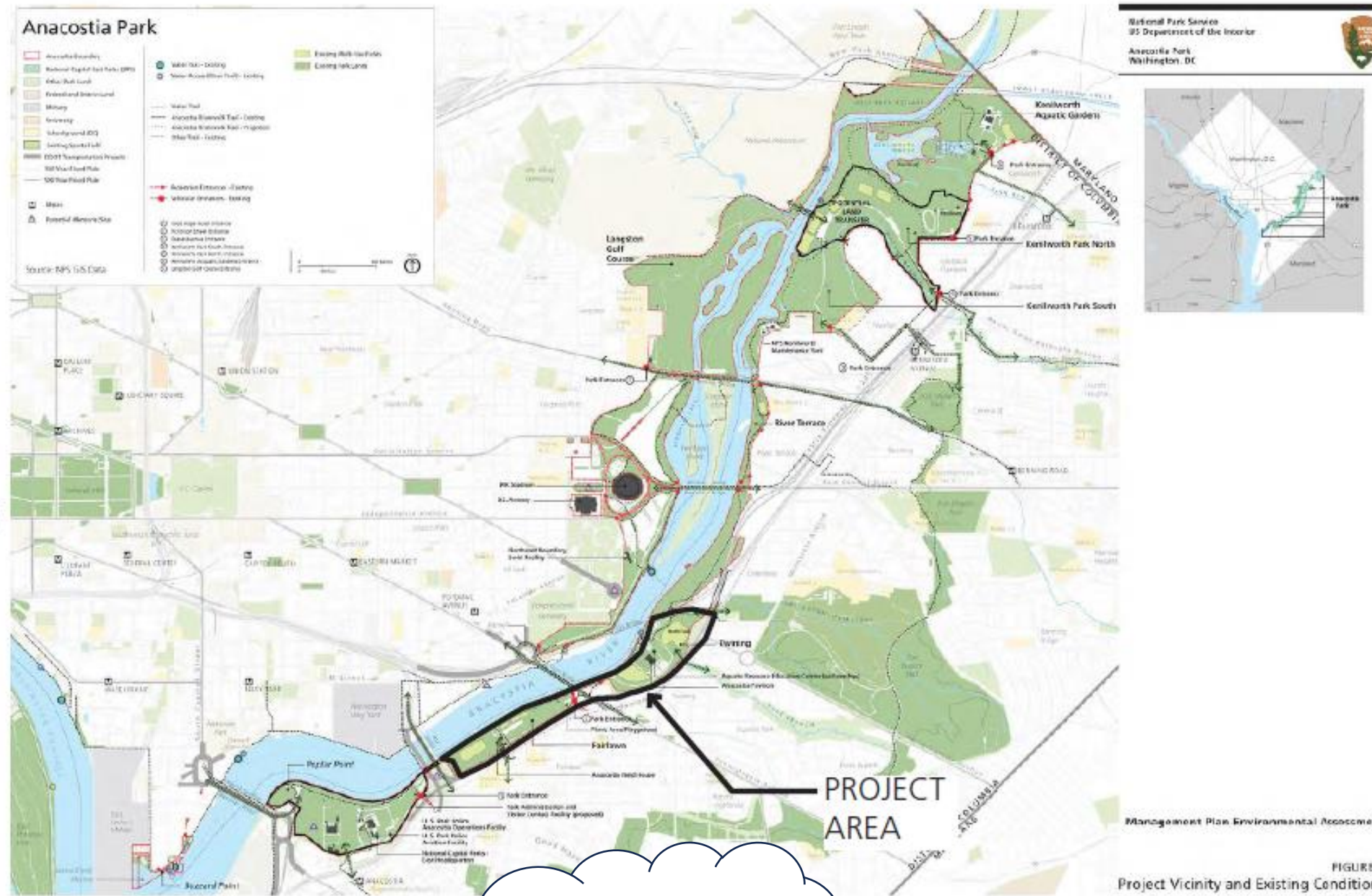
<https://qr.link/xzauvj>



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

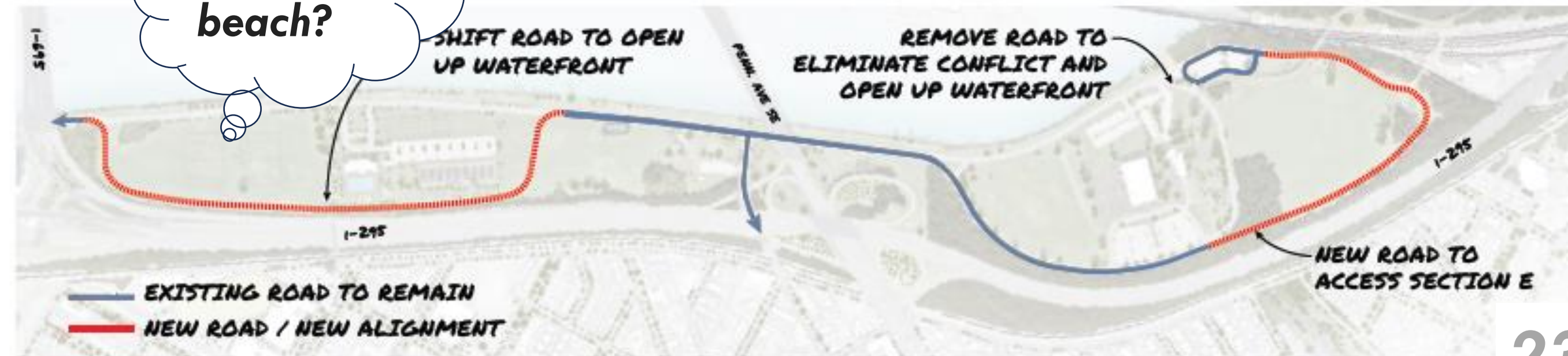
The concept plan is the first step in the overall decision-making process for the future of Anacostia Park. Certain proposed actions in the concept plan will require additional environmental and historical preservation compliance prior to implementation. Implementation may occur over time as funds become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



how about a beach?

POTENTIAL OPTION 3

- CONNECTION TO NEW TUNNEL ENTRANCE. REMOVES TRAIL CONFLICT
- 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.



Reimagine Anacostia Park Planning Effort

Anacostia Park » Reimagine Anacostia Park Planning Effort » Document List



The National Park Service is preparing a plan for the portions of Anacostia Park, bounded by the 11th Street Bridge and the CSX railroad bridge. The plan will provide a framework for future development and use of the park. Throughout the development of the plan, the NPS would like to hear from park users, the surrounding neighborhood, and the public about how visitors currently use the space and your ideas for the future of this unique landscape in the heart of DC.

Contact Information

Catherine Dewey
Acting Chief of Resource Management
National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive SE
Washington, DC 20020
catherine_dewey@nps.gov

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=425&projectId=102870&documentID=131983>

RE-IMAGINE ANACOSTIA PARKS: Sections C and D

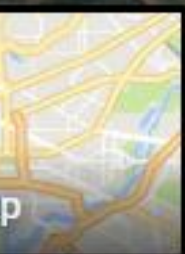
Comment Period: Sep 25, 2023 - Dec 1, 2023

Comment period closes Dec 1, 2023 at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in: 46 Days, 19 Hours, 16 Min.

- ANACOSTIA RIVER - 11 existing bridges
- POTOMAC RIVER - 6 existing bridges



*Plan bridges for
safety, connection
and resiliency*



Contacts:

National Capital Planning Commission

NCPC7936 ARWT Trail Extension

<https://www.ncpc.gov/review/agenda/>

Meeting 1pm Thursday December 7, 2023

Brenda Richardson

Anacostia Parka and Community Collaborative

brendarichardson724@gmail.com

Trey Sherard

Anacostia Riverkeeper

trey@anacostiariverkeeper.org

Marian Dombroski

Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee

mdombros@gmail.com

This is a lot to digest. We have received so many thoughtful responses and begun so many conversations. We hope to gather people and ideas to preserve and restore Ward 7's natural areas for the health and future of its many residents.

- What is the urgency? This Bridge Proposal is premature. Kenilworth Park must come first.*
- No context was presented. Need to consider and evaluate ARWT in context of adjacent trails.*
- No Alternatives were presented.*
- Photos and diagrams are inaccurate and misleading.*

Thanks for watching. Feel free to contact us anytime. We would love walk, bike or boat and share thoughts about the Anacostia.