



# Anacostia Park

## National Park Service Seeks Input on Future of Anacostia Park

*The National Park Service (NPS) is initiating a Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Anacostia Park and needs your help in charting a course for the future management of the park. We are inviting you to participate in a public process to determine the potential alternative uses of the park, issues to be addressed, and impacts that need to be analyzed in this process.*

*Anacostia Park has numerous opportunities to showcase urban recreation, environmental restoration and management, and civic engagement. In recent years the Anacostia River and adjacent park lands have been the focus of public and government attention, resulting in new and improved recreational facilities, wetland reconstruction, and lingering environmental issues being addressed while balancing the natural and cultural resources and providing recreational and educational opportunities.*

*We need a comprehensive plan to help us make decisions about the issues and concerns confronting Anacostia Park, to ensure park resources are preserved, and to provide quality visitor experiences.*

*I encourage you to get involved with the process and add your voice to the planning for Anacostia Park. You can attend the upcoming public open house on March 27, 2013 or you can submit comments to the park as indicated in this newsletter. Updates on the process and additional information can be found on our web site at [www.nps.gov/anac](http://www.nps.gov/anac) or [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/anacostiagmp](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/anacostiagmp).*

*Sincerely,*

Alexcy Romero  
Superintendent  
National Capital Parks - East



### How You Can be Involved

The park welcomes your input on what kinds and types of uses you would like to see in the park, important environmental resources, and other considerations you would like included in the plan. Please join National Park Service staff for a public open house at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum (details below), where park staff will provide information on the current status of the project and be available to answer your questions. While at the museum, the public is welcome to view the exhibition, *Reclaiming the Edge: Urban Waterways and Civic Engagement*, which explores the history, public use, and attitudes toward the Anacostia River and its watershed. For more information on the exhibition and the museum, please visit the museum's website at [www.Anacostia.si.edu](http://www.Anacostia.si.edu).

### Meeting Details

March 27, 2013  
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Smithsonian's Anacostia  
Community Museum  
1901 Fort Place, SE  
Washington D.C.

### How to Comment

The park will provide comment forms at the open house. You can also provide written comments through the NPS on-line service at [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/anacostiagmp](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/anacostiagmp) or mail your comments to:

National Capital Parks – East  
Alexcy Romero, Superintendent  
Re: Anacostia Management Plan/EA  
1900 Anacostia Drive SE  
Washington, D.C. 20020

**Comments are requested  
by April 27, 2013**

# Previous Planning Effort and What We Hope to Accomplish Now

In 2001, the NPS initiated a General Management Plan (GMP) for Anacostia Park. A park's GMP serves as the basic foundation for decision-making, providing a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use. A GMP accomplishes this objective by defining the park purpose, significance, and goals and analyzing alternatives for site-specific land uses and facilities. In 2002, the NPS moved ahead with the GMP process and presented to the public the draft statements of purpose, significance, and goals for Anacostia Park. Two action alternatives were developed at that time, as well as the "no-action" alternative, which would continue existing management. These alternatives were presented to the public in 2003 and further revised through 2005. An internal review draft GMP was prepared but never released for public review.

At this point in time, the NPS is reinitiating the process to prepare a Management Plan for Anacostia Park, as the previous GMP was never completed. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), along with other laws, NPS policies, and related regulations will help guide the process in developing the Management Plan and its corresponding environmental assessment. Our new planning process will build upon the previously developed statements of purpose, significance, and goals, as well as the GMP alternatives. The Management Plan will consider conditions that have changed and other relevant regional planning efforts, such as the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan, the Kingfisher Water Trail, and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Through the planning process, the NPS will analyze alternatives, evaluate environmental impacts, and provide for opportunities for public involvement. At the end of this process, an alternative will be selected for implementation.

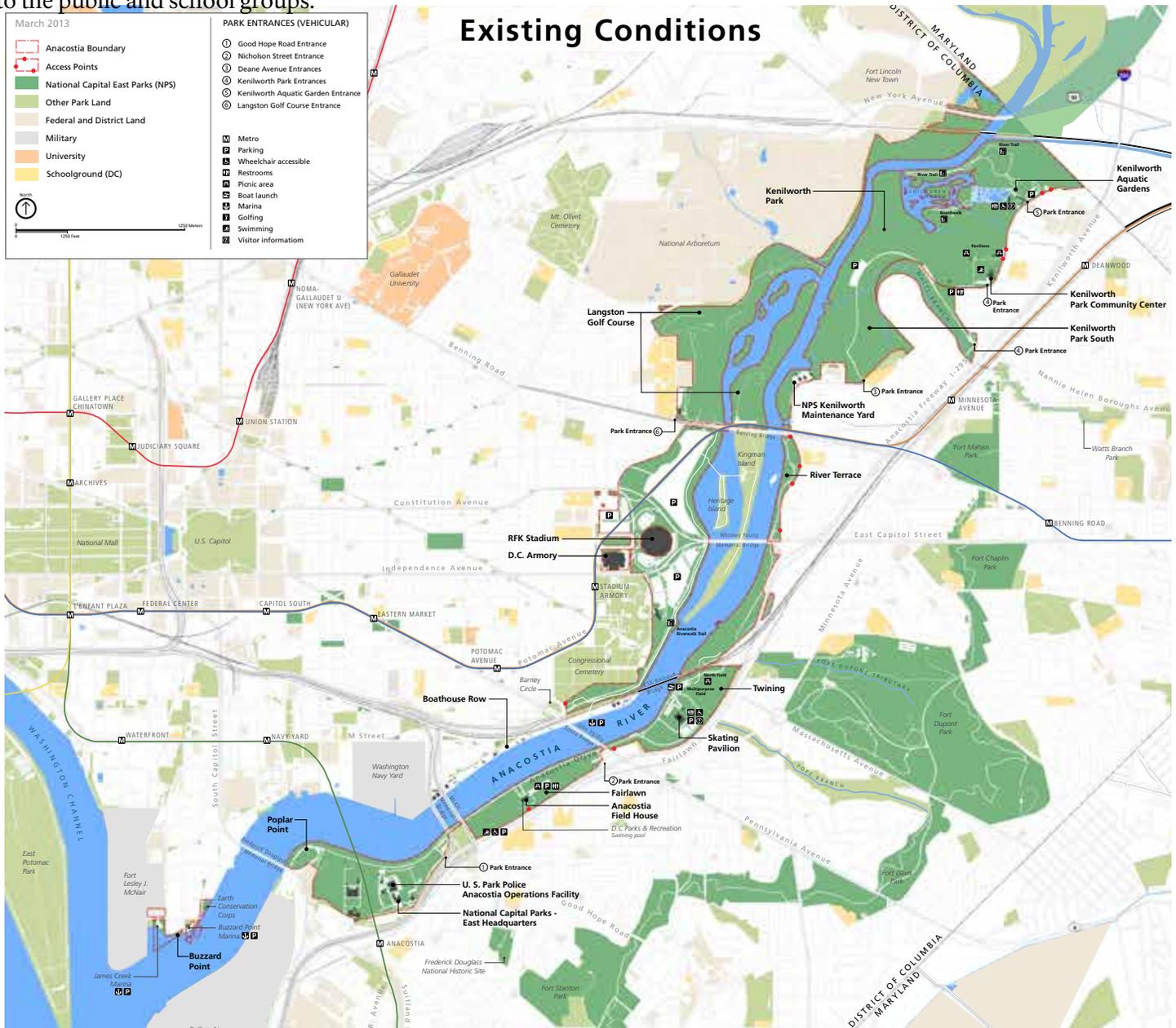
## The Purpose of the Management Plan/EA

- provide broad guidance and long-term strategies for management of the park and for protection and restoration of its resources
- provide for public understanding and use
- promote partnership opportunities that will support and complement management of the park
- provide a framework for decision-making that will assist NPS staff in determining whether future actions proposed by NPS or others are consistent with the goals for Anacostia Park
- reaffirm the significance of Anacostia Park and establish the direction and values that should be considered in present and future park plans and management to achieve the purposes defined in the legislation that established Anacostia Park
- generally define and apply management approaches so that desired resource conditions and visitor experiences in different areas of the park can be achieved
- use public and NPS knowledge to determine how to balance the needs of diverse stakeholders



# Study Area

Authorized in 1918 as part of a river project to protect water quality and recreation opportunities, Anacostia Park covers approximately 1,200 acres extending along 5 miles of the Anacostia River. The park encompasses the area from the District of Columbia/Maryland border, south to the mouth of the Anacostia River and includes a number of valuable natural and cultural resources. Anacostia Park serves as one of Washington D.C.'s largest and most important recreation areas. An extensive network of recreation facilities is available for athletic training and events, including ballfields and swimming pools. The park is a popular destination for picnicking, jogging, and hiking, offering the general public many diverse opportunities for enjoying the waterfront setting for passive recreation and exercise. Access to the river is available for motorboats, sail boats, canoes, and kayaks from a public boat launch, as well as the James Creek and Buzzard Point Marinas. Anacostia Park Pavilion offers a protected venue for roller skating and special events. The historic Langston Golf Course includes an 18-hole course and driving range open for play to the general public. Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens and Kenilworth Marsh are special attractions within Anacostia Park where the public can view unique aquatic plants and wildlife, and where environmental education programs are offered to the public and school groups.



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## Statements of Park Purpose, Significance, and Goals

During the previous GMP planning effort, the NPS developed the following statements of purpose, significance, and goals for Anacostia Park. For the current Management Plan/EA, we will use these statements to help guide the development of alternatives.

### Park Purpose

Anacostia Park was created when the banks of the Anacostia River were reclaimed for park purposes. It is part of the comprehensive, systematic, and continuous development of the park system of the national capital, and provides waterfront recreation and access for public enjoyment. Within this system, the park provides opportunities for a variety of recreational activities that are compatible with the resources of the Anacostia River. Legislation covering Anacostia Park gives specific direction to preventing pollution in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and to preserving forests and natural scenery in and about Washington. The park protects natural and nationally significant historic resources, promoting and regulating the use of the area in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. The park provides opportunities for the understanding of these resources and values to the American people.

### Park Significance

Anacostia is significant as a unit within the national park system as an urban park in the nation's capital where significant natural resource areas remain and where diverse opportunities exist for recreation by the city's residents and visitors. The following set of park significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to the national capital's natural and cultural heritage:

- Anacostia Park is a river gateway to the national capital and an important waterfront component of the city's unique design
- Anacostia Park has a variety of recreational opportunities and provides important public waterfront access
- Anacostia Park contains naturalized shoreline that provides natural habitat for a diverse population of plant and animal species and that connects with natural and historic corridors outside of the city's boundaries
- Anacostia Park protects the few remaining tidal wetlands in the nation's capital and reflects changing attitudes towards wetlands
- Anacostia Park provides educational opportunities for the public to learn about the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Anacostia River

### Park Mission Goals

Park mission goals articulate the broad ideals and vision that the NPS is trying to achieve at Anacostia Park. They are conceptual descriptions of future Anacostia Park desired resource conditions and appropriate visitor experiences.

Anacostia Park's mission goals are as follows:

- recreational and leisure activities are offered where appropriate
- resources and scenic values associated with Anacostia Park are protected
- the park and stakeholders cooperate to protect the watershed and the river environs
- visitors (including those in motorized vehicles) have adequate and safe access
- visitors understand the value of park resources and their relationship to the Anacostia River and the natural and cultural heritage of the nation's capital
- park landscape, facilities, and services complement and enhance visitor's experience

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## Previously Developed Alternatives and Issues to Consider

After the initial scoping in 2003, the park continued to develop alternatives for the GMP until 2005. The 2005 alternatives will be the starting point for this planning process. These previously developed alternatives are depicted on the following pages, using the concept of “management zones,” which define the desired visitor experiences and resource conditions within the park and establish the kinds of activities or facilities within each zone that will achieve the targeted conditions. The NPS will revisit these alternatives to determine what about the existing conditions at the park has changed, whether or not these alternatives still make sense, and where management approaches might need to be revised.

We need your help in determining what resources and values need to be considered in planning for the future management of the park. As we move forward with the current planning process and you review the previously developed alternatives, please consider the following issues, which focus on visitor use and experience, resource conditions, and park operations.

- What is the appropriate mix, intensity, and location for different visitor experiences that should be offered at Anacostia Park?
  - How can the park better serve the local community while maintaining the legislative purpose and direction given to the park by Congress?
  - What other developments or opportunities should be provided for visitors to use and experience the park’s recreational, educational, and open spaces?
  - What other areas can the park look to as successful examples of urban parks?
- Where and how should environmental restoration management actions be implemented in Anacostia Park?
  - What actions should be taken to protect and/or restore natural and cultural resources?
- Where and how should access be enhanced to Anacostia Park from adjacent communities and from the region?
- Where and how should public access to the waterfront and the river be enhanced?
- What management actions should be taken to reduce or eliminate non-park uses on the waterfront within Anacostia Park?

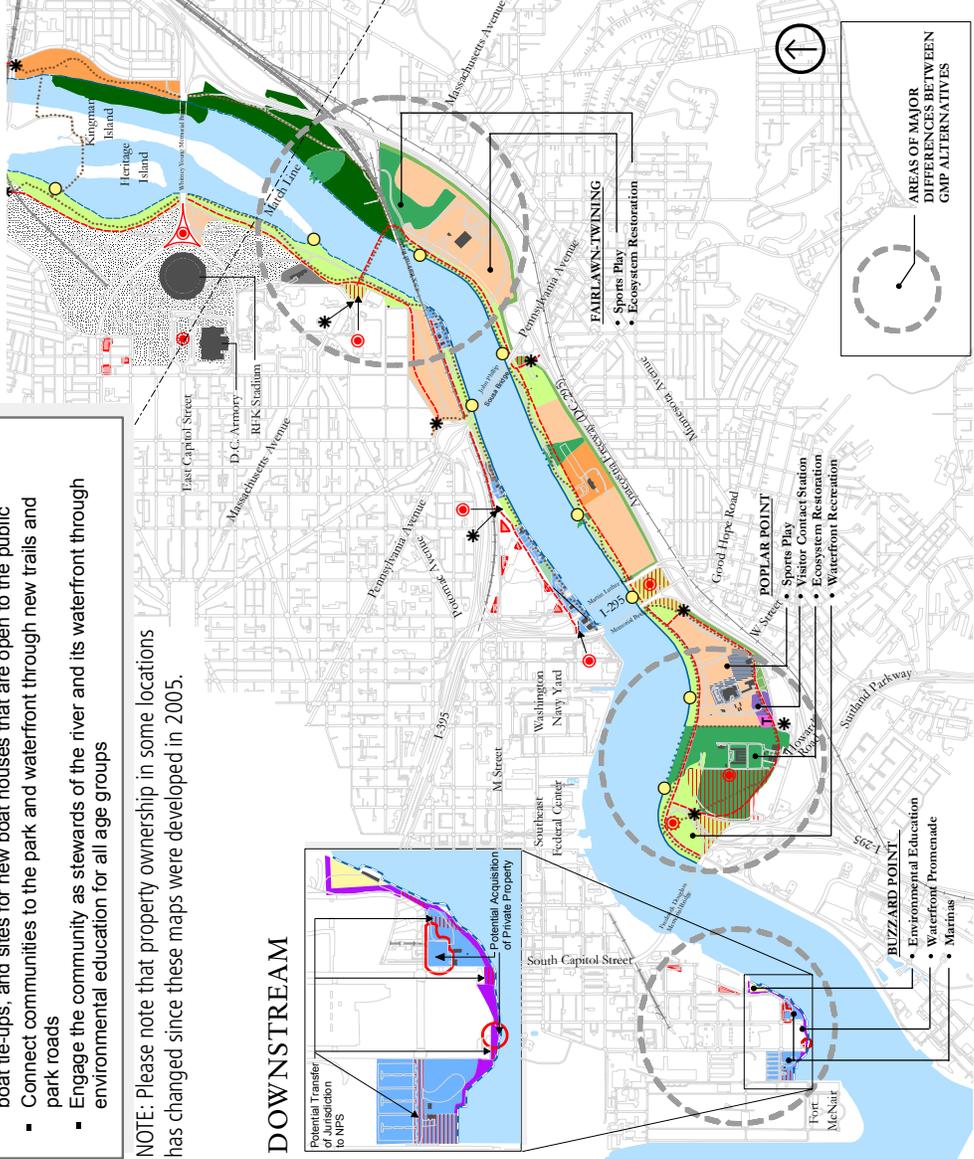
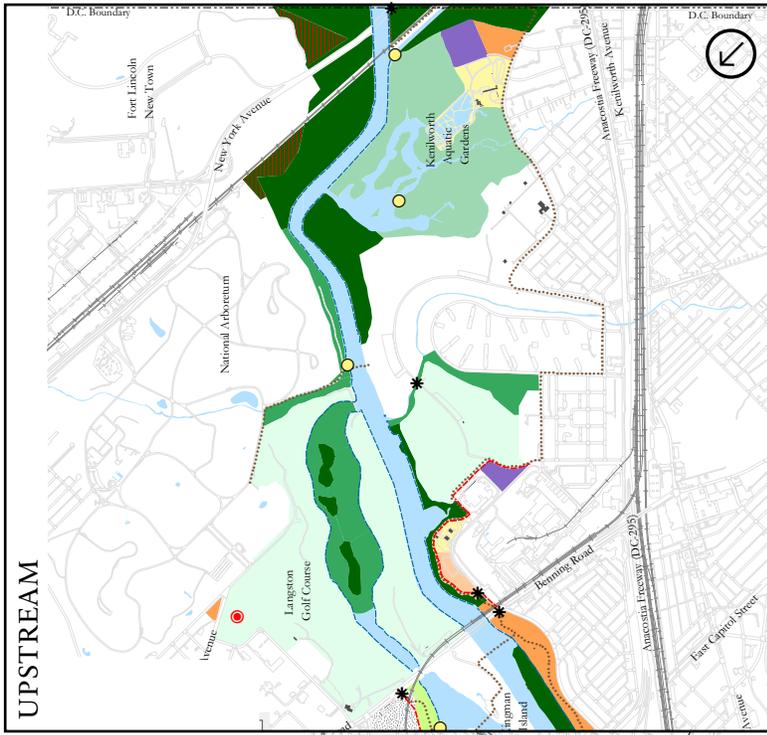


# 2005 GMP Alternative 1

## GMP ALTERNATIVE 1 CONCEPT

- Transform Anacostia Park into Washington, D.C.'s primary recreation - based park with a focus on small scale facilities for sports league play, neighborhood recreation, small group special events, and nature - based recreation
- Restore the park's woodlands, streams, wetlands, meadows, and landscaped areas
- Bring existing recreation facilities up to NPS standards and add new sports fields and neighborhood recreation facilities on both sides of the river
- Reserve sites for future monument and memorial sites in the park
- Enhance public access to the river by boating by providing boat launches, boat tie-ups, and sites for new boat houses that are open to the public
- Connect communities to the park and waterfront through new trails and park roads
- Engage the community as stewards of the river and its waterfront through environmental education for all age groups

NOTE: Please note that property ownership in some locations has changed since these maps were developed in 2005.



**Environmental Protection Zones**

- Riparian Forest and Wetland Protection
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Highway Buffer
- Riparian Edge (seawall rehabilitation)
- Riparian Edge (bulkhead)
- Riparian Edge (erosion control/restoration)
- Riparian Edge (bioengineered edge)

**Passive Recreation Zones**

- Natural Area Exploration
- Waterfront Recreation

**Active Recreation Zones**

- Neighborhood Recreation
- Sports Play
- Golf Course
- Recreational Boating

**Heritage and Environmental Education**

- Grand Waterfront Park
- Waterfront Celebration
- Environmental Education
- Memorial

**Access and Circulation Zones**

- Entrance
- Park Road
- Riverwalk Trail
- Waterfront Promenade
- River Access
- Transit Center

**Special Function Zones**

- Special Permitted Lands
- Municipal Infrastructure

**Administration**

- Administration
- U.S. Park Police (Temporary Use)

**Potential Boundary Modifications**

- Potential Transfer of Jurisdiction to NPS
- Potential Acquisition
- Potential Exchange Lands
- Miscellaneous Properties Administered by the Secretary of the Interior

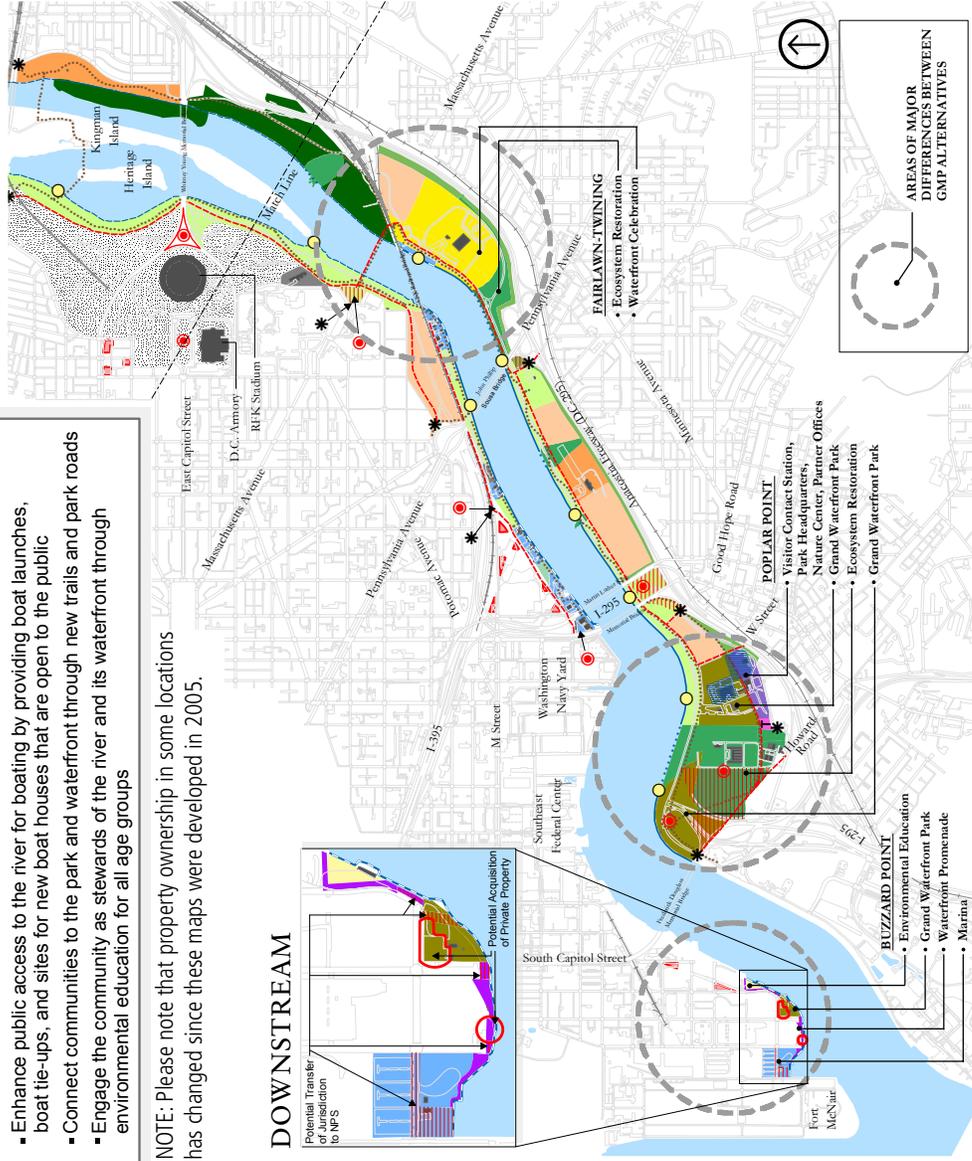
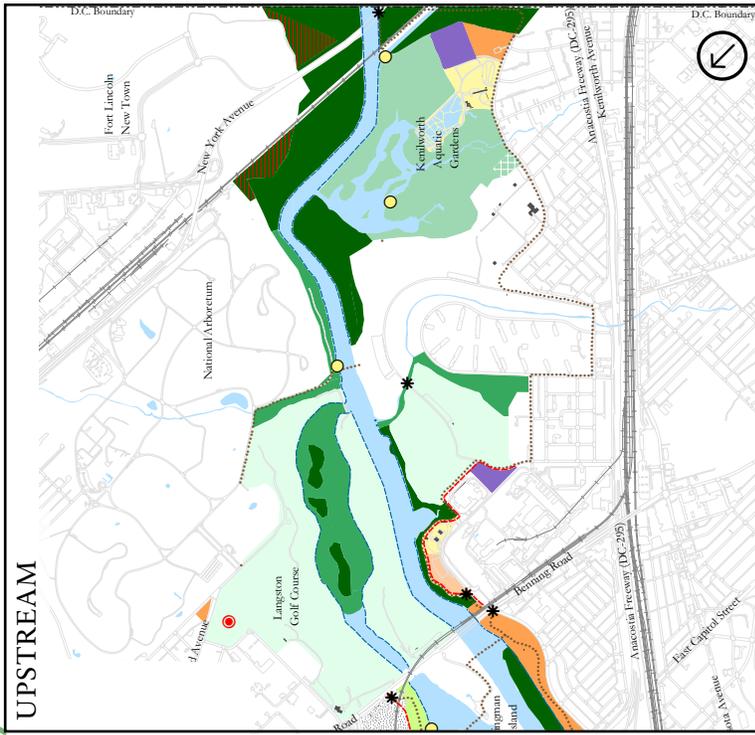
# 2005 GMP Alternatives

## Alternative 2 (Preferred)

### GMP PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

- Transform Anacostia Park into one of Washington, D.C.'s premier waterfront parks with a diverse river landscape that provides open spaces, recreation facilities, cultural attractions, and civic spaces worthy of the nation's capital city
- Restore the park's woodlands, streams, wetlands, meadows, and landscaped areas
- Bring existing recreation facilities up to NPS standards and add new sports fields and neighborhood recreation facilities on both sides of the river
- Create new major waterfront destinations at Poplar Point and Twining
- Create new unique public places at future monument and memorial sites
- Enhance public access to the river for boating by providing boat launches, boat tie-ups, and sites for new boat houses that are open to the public
- Connect communities to the park and waterfront through new trails and park roads
- Engage the community as stewards of the river and its waterfront through environmental education for all age groups

NOTE: Please note that property ownership in some locations has changed since these maps were developed in 2005.



- Access and Circulation Zones**
- Entrance
  - Park Road
  - Riverwalk Trail
  - Waterfront Promenade
  - River Access
  - Transit Center
- Special Function Zones**
- Special Permitted Lands
  - Municipal Infrastructure
- Administration Zones**
- Administration
  - U.S. Park Police (Temporary Use)
- Potential Boundary Modifications**
- Potential Transfer of Jurisdiction to NPS
  - Potential Acquisition of Private Property
  - Potential Exchange Lands (Miscellaneous Properties Administered by the Secretary of the Interior)
- Environmental Protection Zones**
- Riparian Forest and Wetland Protection
  - Ecosystem Restoration
  - Highway Buffer
  - Riparian Edge (seawall rehabilitation)
  - Riparian Edge (bulkhead)
  - Riparian Edge (erosion control/restoration)
  - Riparian Edge (bioengineered edge)
- Passive Recreation Zones**
- Natural Area Exploration
  - Waterfront Recreation
- Active Recreation Zones**
- Neighborhood Recreation
  - Sports Play
  - Golf Course
  - Recreational Boating
- Heritage and Environmental Education**
- Grand Waterfront Park
  - Waterfront Celebration
  - Environmental Education
  - Memorial

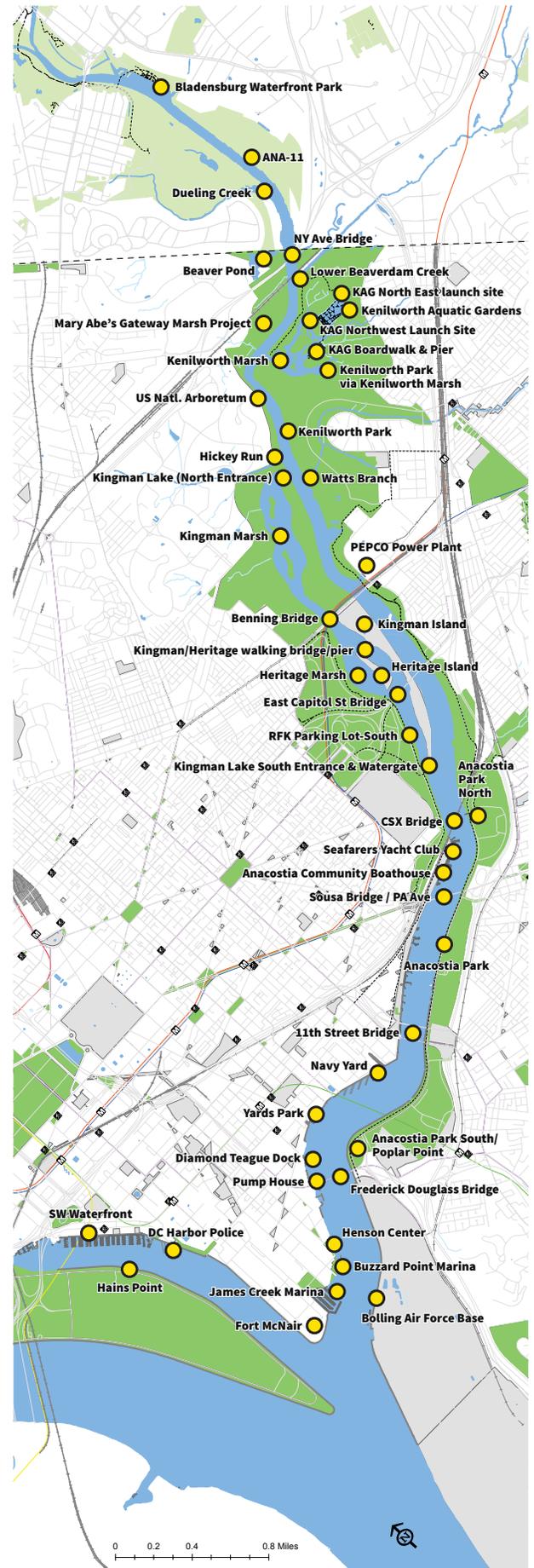
# Anacostia Kingfisher Watertrail Master Plan & Public Access Project

Included as part of the Management Plan/ EA is the Anacostia Kingfisher Watertrail Master Plan and Public Access Project. Through the Anacostia Kingfisher Watertrail Master Plan & Public Access Project, the Anacostia Watershed Society and partner organizations will complete an Anacostia Watertrail Master Plan and develop a prioritized list of potential watertrail access sites and interpretive locations for further study and development. This master planning, done in collaboration with the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office, will serve as a segment plan and aid in mapping the Anacostia Watertrail to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail) and the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.

The development planning for the Anacostia Kingfisher Water Trail underway now will incorporate public and stakeholder input to develop a coordinated inventory of current conditions and recommendations for improvements. The associated map represents sites that currently provide or could provide access and programming along the Anacostia Kingfisher Water Trail.

## How Can You Help?

The Anacostia Kingfisher Water Trail is everyone's water trail, and we want to hear your ideas on how it should continue to grow and develop. Your comments will help shape the future of the Anacostia Kingfisher Water Trail. For more information, please visit: [parkplanning.nps.gov/kingfisher](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/kingfisher).



## Management Plan/EA Schedule

The table below outlines the key steps in the planning process, highlighting where we are now. Items in color represent opportunities for public involvement, which is a key component in the preparation of the Management Plan/EA for Anacostia Park.

Fall/Winter 2012	Initiate Management Plan/EA Process
Spring 2013	Public and Agency Scoping Period <b>*WE ARE HERE</b>
Spring 2013	Review Public/Agency Input and Develop Alternatives
Summer 2013	Agency Scoping Period to Review Alternatives
Fall 2013	Evaluate Alternatives and Select a Preferred Alternative
Winter 2014	Prepare Management Plan/EA
Spring 2014	Public Review of Management Plan/EA
Summer 2014	Review Public/Agency Input
Summer 2014	Announcement of Decision