

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the interior

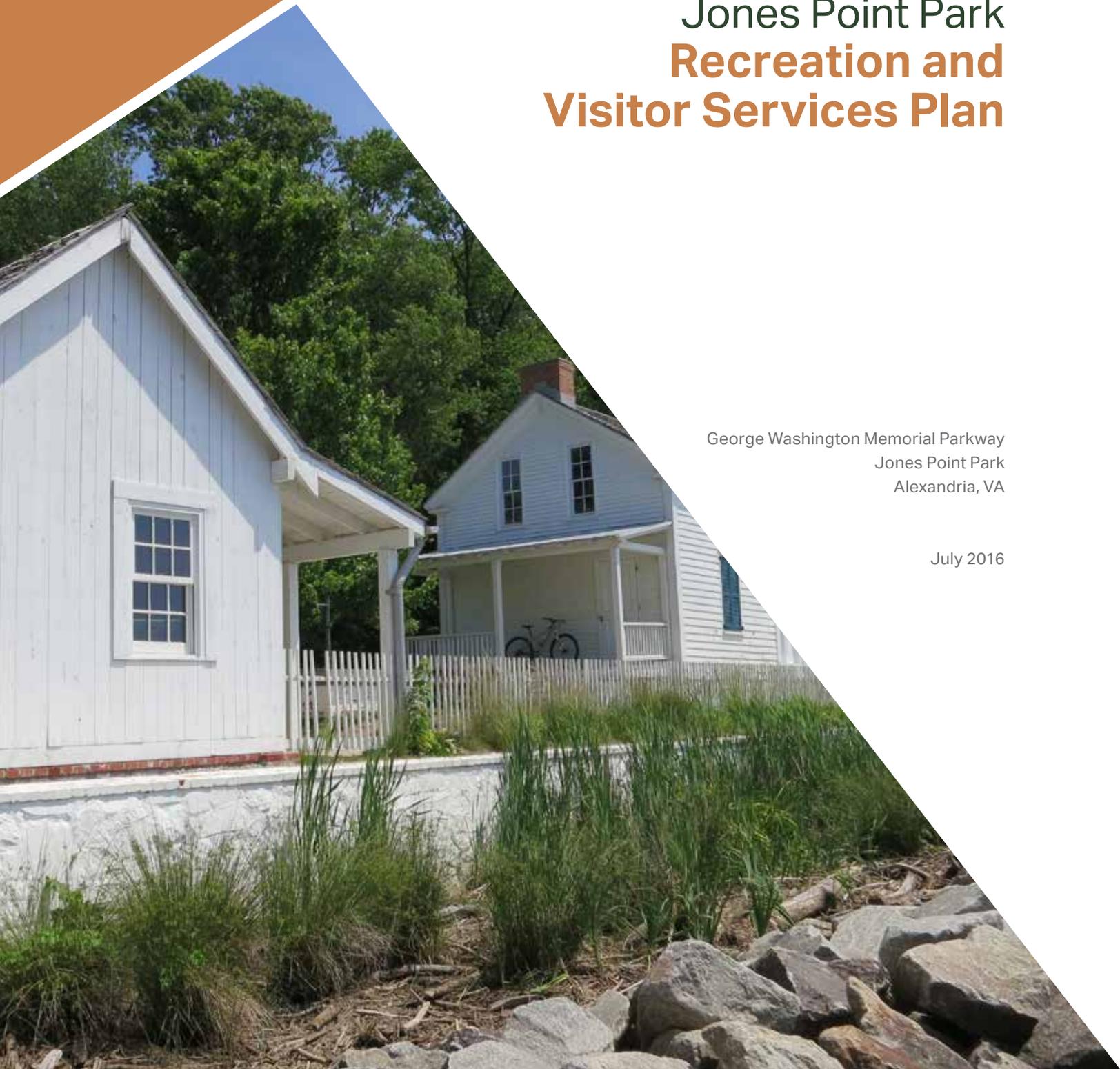


DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT-NOT FINAL

Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitor Services Plan

George Washington Memorial Parkway
Jones Point Park
Alexandria, VA

July 2016



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➤ Introduction

Jones Point Park has evolved over the past 15 years from an unprogrammed area of open space and cultural sites into a destination park with active recreation fields, interpretive trails for exploration, and water access points. One substantial section of the park, the large open area underneath the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, remains underutilized because of changes to security requirements. This unexpected change has created new challenges for effective use of the park in its entirety. The National Park Service (NPS) seeks to expand both passive and active recreation opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds through changes to facilities, operations, and partnerships.

In order to identify uses desired by the public, the NPS solicited input from the public via the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, as well as by hosting three public meetings. At the meetings, presentation boards displayed a variety of potential uses. The NPS invited members of the public, including key stakeholders such as the City of Alexandria and the Washington Area Bicycle Association, to indicate their preferences for potential uses on the boards. The NPS also encouraged the public to make suggestions for other activities not listed on the boards. The NPS and the contractor assisting in the development of this plan used input received, via both PEPC and the public meetings, to identify desired facilities, programs, and management strategies within the framework of existing policies and regulations.

Purpose and Need

As recreation tastes have changed, new activities have appeared as traditional park uses fade in popularity. The purpose of this plan is to evaluate the existing conditions of Jones Point Park, develop a range of possible recreation opportunities, and identify needed facility, operational, and programming ideas desired by the community and the NPS.

Furthermore, the current configuration of the park does not fully take advantage of the covered area under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The park neither provides appropriate connections to natural resources, nor does it fully interpret and allow access to the cultural resources in the park. The goal of this plan is to offer recreational opportunities at the park by enhancing underutilized spaces for public enjoyment.

Project Background

Jones Point Park is an NPS park along the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia. The George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) unit of the NPS operates and maintains the park, which straddles the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, a major highway crossing of the Potomac River.

A plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for Jones Point Park and its recreation facilities were prepared, in conjunction with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project, and released on September 10, 2001. The subsequent security requirement changes stemming from September 11th, 2001, demanded alteration of the planned recreation facilities. As a result, a new plan and EA was released in 2007. The



Jones Point Park offers opportunities to interact with the Potomac River

plan evaluated in the 2007 EA incorporated parking and a secure area, as well as several trails, playfields, and landscaped improvements. Trails included interpretive trails, both historic and natural, and the Mount Vernon trail; playfields include playgrounds, basketball courts, multi-purpose fields; and landscape improvements include comfort stations. The 2007 EA documented existing conditions at Jones Point Park including available activities at the park, natural resources and wildlife on the site, historic and archeological resources, existing utilities, and vehicular traffic noise studies.

The NPS Urban Agenda seeks to introduce a new generation of visitors, especially those in urban areas, to the National Parks. Jones Point Park is located in Alexandria, Virginia, within the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Within Alexandria and its neighboring community of Arlington, Virginia, hundreds of new housing units are under construction, and just across the Potomac River in Maryland, development at National Harbor continues to attract visitors and growth in hospitality services. These areas all place pressure on Jones Point Park as a needed respite in the urban setting, but also provide the opportunity to help fulfill the Urban Agenda by reaching new populations and offering a variety of recreational opportunities that reach a broad audience.

This Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitor Services Plan works within the framework of the 2007 EA, and the actions called for within this current effort are largely consistent with the 2007 EA. In some cases, improvements identified in the plan could be beyond the scope of the 2007 EA. In such cases, this plan notes these occurrences and identifies the needed

consideration in order to meet applicable regulatory requirements.

Recreation Concept

The Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitor Services Plan seeks to build upon the current recreation spaces and varied history of this popular park, and enhance it as a distinct destination in Alexandria and along the Mount Vernon Trail. The new facilities, programming, and maintenance and operations practices would broaden and improve the spectrum of recreation offerings provided at the park. The key goals of the plan are to:

- **Activate underutilized areas of the site through new facilities and programs**
- **Reuse space more efficiently through the creation of flexible and adaptable spaces**
- **Increase accessibility of Jones Point Park for new and existing users of all ages and backgrounds**
- **Enrich the experience of existing users**

The subsequent sections of this document explore and build upon these tenets.



➤ Current Conditions

Current Park Recreation Opportunities

Jones Point Park combines historic interpretation and recreation in the shadow of a major piece of infrastructure, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The strength of Jones Point Park lies in its ability to offer multiple recreation opportunities in an urban environment and along a riverfront setting.

The site's history spans from the area's earliest human habitation to its role in shipbuilding and navigation. Interpretive features along a gravel trail explain these historic periods and accomplishments as visitors wind their way to a lighthouse and the south cornerstone of the District of Columbia, which set the original boundary for the nation's capital.

Jones Point Park offers multiple ways to experience the Potomac River: fishing, canoe facilities, and trails. Two fishing piers make excellent spots to cast for American catfish, rock bass, and American eels. A canoe launch offers access to the Potomac River, but does not readily accommodate kayaks.

Formal spaces for recreation include two playgrounds (targeting younger and older age groups) and two basketball courts. Two multi-use fields offer space for soccer, softball, football, or other games. These areas are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and cannot be reserved. One of the biggest attractions to the park is its ability to serve as a trailhead connecting to the Mount Vernon Trail. This multi-use paved trail provides connections to Old Town Alexandria and the Mount Vernon estate, as well as access to Maryland across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. This and other trails total approximately 11, 750 linear feet in Jones Point Park.

The bridge and the roughly 252,000 sq ft paved area beneath it offer unique recreation opportunities, and the bridge provides shade and protects areas below from the elements. As a result, the paved area is popular with runners, walkers, and basketball players on hot days and during inclement weather. The large paved surface is also a popular site for exercise classes and provides a site to teach bicycle skills in a safe, car-free environment out of direct sunlight. A

* The GWMP Cultural Landscape: The George Washington Memorial Parkway was designed for recreational driving as the national Capital expanded. It links sites that commemorate important episodes in American history, preserve habitat for local wildlife, and the parkway and its associated trails provide a scenic place to play and rest in the busy Washington, DC metropolitan area.

EXISTING PARK RESOURCES

Recreational Resources

- Historic interpretive trail
- Natural interpretive trail
- Fishing piers
- Canoeing launch
- Basketball courts
- Multi-use fields
- Mount Vernon Trail
- Playgrounds
- Riverfront promenade & boardwalk
- Picnic areas

Natural Resources

- River access
- Woodlands
- Wetlands
- Open lawn

Cultural Resources

- District of Columbia cornerstone
- Boundary markers
- Jones Point Lighthouse
- Shipway
- GWMP Cultural Landscape *



EXISTING PROGRAM

- a** Outdoor Seating
- b** Playground
- c** Historic Rudder
- d** Soccer Field
- e** Bike Racks
- f** Comfort Station
- g** Basketball Court

- h** Historic Light House and Corner Stone
- i** Craneway
- j** Fishing Pier
- k** Ship Lawn
- l** Canoe Launch
- m** Parking Lot
- n** Multi-use Field

- o** Tot Lot
 - p** Constructed Wetland
- LEGEND**
- Mt. Vernon Train (Bike and Pedestrian)
 - Pedestrian Only Path
 - Interpretation / Wayfinding Signage

EXISTING PAVED AREA UNDER THE BRIDGE

A1	A1: 180'X70'	B1	B1: 200'X70'	C1	C1: 220'X70'	D1	D1: 80'-135'X70'
A2	A2: 180'X70'	B2	B2: 200'X70'	C2	C2: 220'X70'	D2	D2: 80'-130'X70'



community garden is located outside the boundary of this planning effort.

Policies and Park Management and Operations

Several policies and documents, ranging from national laws to park-specific plans, guide the management and operation of the GWMP and accordingly, Jones Point Park. Two of the most important documents relating to GWMP policies are the Foundation Document for the GWMP (draft 2014) and the GWMP Long-Range Interpretive Plan. The Foundation Document identifies the following statements of significance related to Jones Point Park:

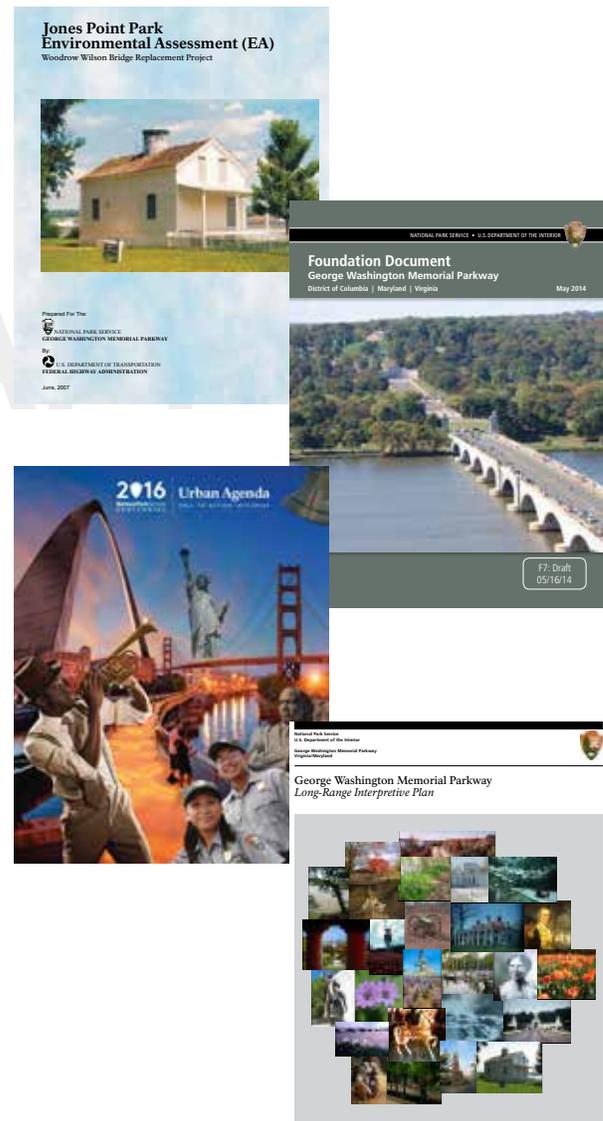
- By protecting the natural shoreline of the Potomac River, the George Washington Memorial Parkway protects a defining feature of the nation’s capital and provides opportunities to experience iconic scenic vistas of and from Washington, D.C., and the Potomac Gorge
- Jones Point Lighthouse, located in Jones Point Park, is one of the last riverine lighthouses in the United States and the only remaining inland lighthouse in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Jones Point Park contains the south cornerstone of the District of Columbia, which was the first stone set for the 1791 survey that carved the original boundary of the nation’s capital from the states of Maryland and Virginia

Additional, the Foundation Document identifies the following fundamental resources and values for GWMP and Jones Point:

- **Recreational Opportunities.** The George Washington Memorial Parkway contains a diverse array of recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, climbing, kayaking, fishing, picnicking, living history, visiting historic sites, cultural activities, wildlife and wildflower viewing, organized sports, and opportunities for solitude. These recreational activities are supported by a wide variety of amenities such as the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (including the Mount Vernon Trail), multi-purpose playing fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, boat launches, marinas, and expansive natural areas

- **Potomac River Shoreline and Gorge.** The George Washington Memorial Parkway includes the protection of large segments of the Potomac River shoreline between Great Falls and Mount Vernon

Overall, the table on the following pages outlines the policies that govern Jones Point Park operations and management.



Summary of Policies and Guidance for Jones Point Park

Policy and Guidelines	Summary
<p>36 CFR Part 2: Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation</p>	<p>Fishing should be in accordance with existing federal and state regulations.</p> <p>The taking of wildlife except in accordance with regulations is prohibited, as is the disturbance of wildlife nesting, breeding, or other activities.</p> <p>Special events are allowed, provided that there is a meaningful association between the park area and the events, and the observance contributes to the visitor understanding of the significance of the park area, and a permit has been issued by the superintendent.</p> <p>Pets must be leashed or physically constrained.</p>
<p>36 CFR Part 5 Summary, Commercial and Private Operations</p>	<p>Commercial operations within the park require permits.</p>
<p>NPS Urban Agenda</p>	<p>Outlines efforts to engage a wider variety of people, especially those living in urban areas, to parks in and around their community. The agenda specifically calls for engaging the next generation of park visitors, expanding community activities, increased collaboration, building relevancy and value, promotion of healthy outdoor recreation, and leadership in heritage conservation.</p>
<p>George Washington Memorial Parkway Long-Range Interpretive Plan</p>	<p>Provides for continuity for the implementation and future development of the parkway’s interpretive programming.</p>
<p>National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 1969, as Amended</p>	<p>NEPA provides the tools to implement intended goals by requiring that every federal agency prepare an in-depth study of the impacts of “major federal actions having a significant effect on the environment” and alternatives to those actions. It required that each agency make that information an integral part of its decisions. NEPA also requires that agencies make a diligent effort to involve the interested and affected public before they make decisions affecting the environment.</p>
<p>National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended through 2000</p>	<p>NHPA of 1966, as amended through 2000, protects buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that have significant scientific, historic, or cultural value. The act established affirmative responsibilities of federal agencies to preserve historic and prehistoric resources.</p>
<p>Architectural Barriers Act-Accessibility Standards</p>	<p>Standards guide design to provide universal access for people of all ages and backgrounds to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered.</p>
<p>Standoff Area</p>	<p>FHWA, in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, have determined that a minimum 80-foot standoff distance is required to any abutment, pier support, and bridge superstructure.</p>
<p>Alexandria Open Space Plan</p>	<p>This City of Alexandria plan includes a goal to review and complete implementation of the Potomac Waterfront Plan, for which Jones Point is the terminus, and to enhance streetscapes and gateways, which also references Jones Point Park.</p>



Operational, Maintenance, and Environmental Challenges

While Jones Point Park offers numerous recreation opportunities as both a destination and neighborhood use, maintenance and ongoing pressures on the natural environment present challenges. Recreation facilities rendered unusable by poor drainage, ecology compromised by litter, and reduced visual quality can diminish the overall visitor experience. The following items outline many of the challenges facing Jones Point Park.

Woodrow Wilson Bridge

The spans of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge cut across Jones Point Park and separate portions of the park and disrupt the otherwise consistent open space of the area. Previous plans had envisioned parking under the bridge, but this use has not materialized due to security and budgetary concerns. As a result, large areas of pavement within the park remain underutilized.

User Conflicts

The Mount Vernon Trail, running through Jones Point Park and connecting Arlington to Mount Vernon, is an extremely popular path for cyclists, joggers, rollerbladers, and those simply out for a stroll. Within Jones Point Park, the trail cuts through a wide paved area near the comfort station, which is frequently used as a gathering space or for other recreation. As a result,

use conflicts can arise between those speeding through on bicycles and those engaged in less mobile activities. Another area of conflict is along the Potomac River in the northern portion of the park, where bicyclists typically accelerate after leaving the urban environment of old Town Alexandria.

Turf Quality

The improvements identified in the mitigation for the construction of the Woodrow Wilson bridge included two turf fields: one north and one south of the bridge. Unfortunately, the fields' turf does not provide a suitable play surface due to uneven turf growth. Pooling water after rains can make the fields unusable.

Inaccessible Lighthouse Interior

The Jones Point Lighthouse is one of the last riverine lighthouses in the country, and the only inland lighthouse in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. While it offers multiple opportunities for interpretation outdoors, the interior space is not publically accessible.

Limited Water Access

Jones Point Park features a canoe launch on the Potomac River, but kayaks cannot use this facility. The difference in height between the water and the launch effectively prohibits kayaks from landing at the park.



Litter

Litter at Jones Point Park can come from within the park or from the waters and land outside the park boundaries. This litter comprised of small materials such as food wrappers, straws, plastic water bottles, cans, and styrofoam cups can accumulate in park swales and drainage channels throughout the site, detracting from the visitor experience. Vegetation can also trap detritus washed ashore from the Potomac River as high tides recede, leaving debris behind. While the smaller material from the river collects in thick layers, large-size materials, such as plywood boards and fiberglass boat panels, accumulate in the park as well.

Used fishing line also tends to collect in and around fishing areas, and when left in the water can cause damage to aquatic life, entangle birds, and cause further ecological harm.

Loose debris from the Jones Point Recycling Center provides an unsightly experience to visitors at the park’s entrance. Frequently, the recycling collection area overflows with cardboard boxes, loose papers, and metals. These materials can then escape from the contained area and collect in adjacent wetland swales and shrubs lining the park’s entrance road.

No Recycling

Related to litter, the lack of a recycling area means that park trash cans overflow with cans and bottles rather than waste, leading to spillover on high volume visitor days. The lack of recycling options conveys the message that environmental steward of public resources is not a priority. Similarly, the lack of facilities shows the public that it is acceptable to dispose of materials rather than recycling them.

Drainage

Stormwater drainage in and around Jones Point Park can temporarily limit recreation opportunities, as well as contribute to long-term deterioration of park facilities. Rain funneled through Woodrow Wilson Bridge downspouts pummels park grounds without being directed into an appropriate location. As a result, runoff scours and erodes grasses, plantings, and soils alongside park trails. In addition, roadway debris from the bridge can accumulate within the park.



Water runoff collects near the trail



Water runoff results prevents use of sheltered pavement during icy conditions

Poor drainage along park paths can impede accessibility, and damage park paths, site soils, and vegetation. Pooling water may block visitor accessibility and mobility during wet and icy times of year. Poor drainage also exacerbates damage to planted areas and, over the course of time, erodes path structure. Furthermore, poor drainage on the play fields restricts use during wet periods associated with rain events.

Unclear Operational Hours

The working hours of the restroom are not consistent with the operating hours of the rest of the park. This can confuse visitors or people riding through who find the restrooms closed while the park is open. Over



time, this inconsistency can lead people to believe that the restroom facilities are unreliable.

Maintenance

Several areas within Jones Point Park present ongoing maintenance challenges. The security gate controlling access to area beneath bridge is frequently out of order, which requires frequent visits by repair vehicles that can create a safety hazard for bikers and pedestrians passing by. When the gate is broken in an up or down position, it conveys a message that park facilities are broken and not well-maintained. Also, the frequency with which the gate malfunctions indicates to visitors that security of the bridge area is not consistently a high priority.

Overflow Parking

The existing parking lot has spaces for approximately 95 vehicles, and on days when the park receives many visitors, the number of vehicles can exceed existing parking spaces. As a result, overflow parking occurs along the entrance road edge, which in turn can damage vegetation. Excess cars parked on site can

increase chances of conflict among users competing for crowded parking areas, as well as potential increases in pedestrian, bicycle, and driver conflicts.

Perception of Park as Underutilized

Jones Point Park has many recreation features that may not be readily apparent. As such, the park could face pressures from outside agencies and organizations to reuse or reprogram space for non-recreation purposes, such as transportation facilities or inappropriate events.

Pet Management

As it is close to several residential areas, Jones Point Park is a popular destination for people and their pets. However, pet activity and waste can damage park property and the surrounding environment if not properly regulated and enforced. While federal regulations require that animals in National Parks be leashed or controlled by their owners, it may be difficult to enforce this in practice and so some sort of designated pet area could be a viable alternative.



Jones Point Park contains large, unprogrammed paved areas that add to the perception that the park is underused

➤ Recommendations

While Jones Point Park currently presents opportunities for recreation activities for a variety of users, new ways to access the park and experiences would benefit new and existing visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. The park also contains areas that could be better utilized through adaptive or creative programming. Furthermore, activities could be expanded to reach a broader set of visitors through facilities, programming, and alterations to maintenance and operations. Facilities recommended below offer a variety of recreational opportunities, which are not exclusive; many of the spaces within the park would be flexible use areas that would accommodate a wide variety of recreational activities. Similarly, the programming described below offers a range of options that NPS, its partners, and other organizations could offer at Jones Point Park. The opportunities discussed below do not represent an exhaustive list, but rather identify types of activities possible at Jones Point Park. Furthermore, this plan is designed not to preclude other programming options. It should be noted that some options could require additional staffing from either the NPS or partner organizations. The following recommendations seek to capitalize on the opportunities at the park:

Activate underutilized areas of the site through new facilities and programs

New facilities and programs would increase opportunities for recreation within the park and encourage more use of existing facilities. An enhanced ranger station would improve the NPS's presence in the park and could serve as a focal point. Enhanced walking trails, particularly through the natural areas north and south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, would offer a new experience at the park. Identifying activity-specific areas (including the re-stripping of pavement) under the bridge would offer additional ways for people to enjoy the space, rather than simply see a vast area of uninviting pavement. To the south, the historic resources would be further elevated via interpretation and an additional trail.

Partnering with a variety of organizations would enliven the park by bringing in new activities and programs. Organized recreation users, such as futsal leagues, could use marked pavement for games.

Designated flexible space could host festivals, movie nights, and other gatherings. The development of an arts program within the Jones Point Lighthouse could reinvigorate the building and grounds.

Reuse space more efficiently through the creation of flexible and adaptable spaces

Activity areas within Jones Point Park should be reconfigured in order to use the space efficiently and provide a better visitor experience for both active and passive recreation for people of all ages. More active recreation uses would be concentrated under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, while the area around the river would focus on water-based activities. An enhanced trail around the southern portion of the park would emphasize nature-based recreation. Picnic facilities could augment the re-establishment of a multi-use field.



Increase accessibility of Jones Point Park for new and existing users

Jones Point Park should offer expanded opportunities that would introduce the park to a broader range of visitors. Facilities and programs would accommodate a range of ages, from the young with playgrounds and outdoor classrooms, to the old with bocce and horseshoe courts. Those interested in active recreation could participate in kayaking, cycling, field sports, or other activities, while those looking for a less strenuous experience could walk new trails or utilize expanded picnic facilities. The NPS could improve or increase its branding presence throughout the site, especially at the ranger station and bulletin boards.

Programming would be expanded to address a wide variety of interests by partnering with outside organizations. In addition to recreation leagues and bicycle advocates, programming would be expanded to include non-profit organizations focusing on areas not traditionally addressed at Jones Point Park, such as arts, education, and specialized skills. Additionally, special events, such as classes or festivals, could introduce the park to new users.

The transportation network should support access to Jones Point Park in multiple ways. A Capital Bikeshare station at the park would offer a connection to area transit, as well as support the use of the existing bicycle route network that connects to the park. Transit agencies, such as DASH and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), should include Jones Point Park in its routes.

Enrich the experience of existing users

Building on its existing resources, Jones Point Park should improve the visitor use activities that it currently provides. The replacement of the existing paddle boat launch would accommodate kayaks in addition to canoes. The NPS should re-establish existing recreation fields to enable proper drainage and turf growth. Additional interpretation and access to the Jones Point Lighthouse would enhance understanding of the history of the site. The re-routing of the Mount Vernon Trail to the edge of the park would avoid user conflicts between cyclists and other park users. The designation of areas for particular uses, such as a bicycle training course, would improve

the existing use. The relocation of the playground would help focus children's activities and expand their use. Finally, the basketball courts underneath the bridge have proven to be one of the park's most successful and popular features. Improved maintenance of the basketball courts and other facilities would also improve the visual experience at the site.

New Projects and Programs

In order to expand the recreational offerings of Jones Point Park, the installation of new facilities and programs would be necessary, as well as possible additional staffing. Some facilities would build upon existing park resources through expansion or relocation, while others would introduce new equipment, infrastructure, or uses to the park. Facility improvements could also include design elements that reflect the significance of park resources, such as replica boundary markers at court or field boundaries, lighthouse motifs in night lighting, shipyard skids on paths or lot edges, public sculptures reflecting Dyke Marsh wildlife, or murals on bridge pylons. New programming, either through NPS directly or through partnerships, would bring fresh experiences to Jones Point.

Even with new projects and facilities, many popular facilities such as the existing basketball courts, the comfort station, playground, fishing piers, constructed wetlands, and lighthouse and cornerstone would remain.

Facilities

- **Paved Recreation Uses:** New, year-round, active recreational elements would attract new visitors, enhance their experience and keep visitors returning to the park. These active recreation uses are proposed primarily for the underutilized core paved areas of the site, both directly beneath and adjacent to the bridge. While the paving would be marked with dimensions for different activities, users would need to bring their own temporary structures, such as goals, railing boards, and other equipment. Activities could include the following:
 - **Futsal** – a version of soccer, growing in popularity among youth programs, that is designed for small spaces, featuring five players



COURTS / FIELDS

- 1 Street Hockey / Roller Rink (1)
- 2 Horseshoe Courts (4) or Bocce Courts (2)
- 3 Sand Volleyball Court (1)
- 4 Futsal Court (1)
- 5 Flexible Space for Exercise Classes
- 6 Flexible Space for Bike Safety Course
- 7 Kids Bicycle Court
- 8 Flexible Festival / Event Space
- 9 Playground
- 10 Soccer Field (improve turf)

SECTION NAME (TBD)

- 11 Picnic Tables and Shelters

- 12 Bike Fix-it Station / Bike Racks / Capital Bike Share
- 13 Flexible Space for Night Programs (Movie Night & Urban Camp Fire; Temporary lighting to be provided for safety)
- 14 Outdoor Classroom

WATER RECREATION

- 15 Canoe / Kayak Launch
- 16 Seating and Shade Structure for Fishing

CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

- 17 Interpretative Ship Lawn (add interpretative ship structure and signage)
- 18 History Interpretation Path (improve visibility and accessibility of existing path and add interpretative signage)
- 19 Interpretative DC Boundary (embed interpretative elements into the ground to mark DC boundary lines)

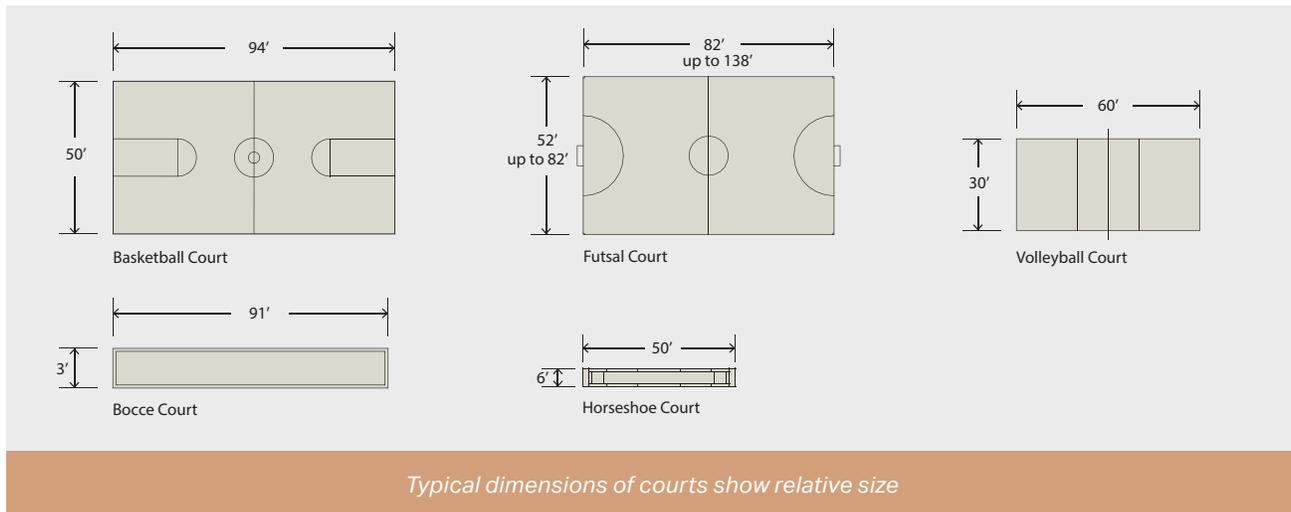
TRAILS

- 20 Walking Trails (with nature/history interpretation)
- 21 Rerouted Mt. Vernon Bike Trail

EXISTING PROGRAM

- a Historic Light House and Corner Stone
- b Fishing Pier
- c Basketball Court
- d Tot Lot
- e Constructed Wetland

* Parking lot, historic rudder, comfort station and pedestrian path to remain



per side defending smaller-than-regulation soccer goals

- **Roller hockey** – a version of rink hockey played on dry, paved surfaces with users wearing different versions of inline skates, pads and helmets and aiming to strike a small ball into one of two goals, at either end of a rink
- **Tennis** – a rebound wall near a pier with painted half-courts could accommodate multiple users, including lacrosse
- **Flex Space:** Flexible spaces accommodating a variety of temporary programs, year-round and during rain events, would grow the number of visitors by offering diverse types of uses, including:
 - **Bicycle safety courses** – safely designated outdoor paved areas for hosting 'How to Ride a bike' classes for adults and kids, without any interference by cars and other cyclists
 - **Festival space on paved area** – the large covered area adjacent to the parking lot and restroom facilities, where the bridge soars high overhead, would accommodate arts in the park festivals, food truck fairs, music events, weekend environmental programs and other thematic events.
 - **Food trucks** – designated spaces could be allocated to food trucks through a concession

or permit process for weekends and special events

- **Courts:** Designating small portions of the paved, covered areas with specific uses would seed consistent groups of visitors and offer additional amenities to family visitors year-round and during inclement weather including:
 - **Horseshoes** – some sand horseshoe tossing pits would be installed, side by side, to allow for family fun games attracting people of all ages
 - **Bocce** – family-friendly game for designated flat, dirt or grass-covered areas beneath the bridge overpass
 - **Sand volleyball** – designated courts would be installed in areas beneath or adjacent to the bridge for family friendly games; leagues could be accommodated, if multiple courts are installed in close proximity to each other
- **Activity-based improvements:** Minor upgrades to existing activities would improve visitor access and increase usage to the bike trail and river by including:
 - **Bike fix-it station** – installing one or two stations proximate to the Mount Vernon Trail would boost the image of Jones Point as one of the key cyclist nodes along the Mount Vernon Trail. The station would provide essential pumps

- and tools for quick fixes that can keep cyclists moving. The NPS could partner with a local bike organization to maintain the facility
- **Kayak launch** – Installation of a kayak-accessible launch adjacent to the park’s existing docks would establish Jones Point Park as a destination along the Potomac River’s Blue Trail, linking the site with riverfront parks throughout the region
 - **Cartop boating area**– Cartop boating includes all watercraft that can be transported safely on the top of a personal vehicle. Similar to a kayak launch area, this type of facility would improve access for visitors interested in this type of recreation
 - **Capital Bikeshare station** – Capital Bikeshare is a region-wide system of bicycles and docking stations that are available for usage by anyone seeking to explore the area. The first 30 minutes are free, with minimal charges for additional time. The network of bike docking stations enables users to bike from one docking station to the next while minimizing costs. A bike docking station, which would be the southernmost station within the Capital Bikeshare network, would offer the “last mile” connections to Metrorail and other major transportation connections. The station would also make Mount Vernon ever-more proximate for Bikeshare users
 - **Ship building** – Jones Point Park could provide opportunities for local boat building organizations to assemble or launch small boats at the waterfront to re-establish the park’s shipbuilding legacy
 - **Dog-related infrastructure** – Federal regulation 36 2 CFR 2.15 prohibits pets off-leash in National Parks, stating it is prohibited to fail to “crate, cage, restrain on a leash which shall not exceed six feet in length, or otherwise physically confine a pet at all times.”. This regulation also prohibits “failing to comply with pet excrement disposal conditions which may be established by the superintendent.” Special infrastructure for dogs could be included as part of a dog management plan. Dog waste and its removal is of special concern, as it can contaminate runoff heading into the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, signage might need to be improved and any type of dog activity must be monitored
 - **Motorized boating facilities:** The NPS should study the potential for motorized boating to accommodate small boats. Emphasis should be placed on avoiding impacts on cartop boating to avoid conflicts
 - **Cultural Resources:** Access to the historic and cultural resource offerings at Jones Point Park could be improved in multiple ways, including trails that are identified separately:
 - **Shipbuilding heritage:** Provide additional interpretation of the shipbuilding heritage of Jones Point Park, including installation of additional features at the ship lanes near the railway
 - **Boundary markers:** Emphasizing the boundary markers would aid the interpretation of their role in history and the present
 - **Outdoor classroom or literacy garden:** Jones Point Park’s unique setting and history offer an excellent location for teaching young people about the outdoors. The forested wetlands, old field succession, upland forest, tidal wetlands and tidal shore lands provide a rich diversity of ecosystems for outdoor environmental education courses. NPS staff would consider joint programming opportunities that celebrate and explore this natural classroom with nearby schools, particularly those in close proximity to the park
 - **Jones Point Lighthouse:** Refurbishing the Jones Point Lighthouse would enable adaptive reuse of the building as a place to host exhibitions, events, and classes. Access to the interior of the building would also offer opportunities to aid the public’s understanding of facility’s historic significance for national and African American history. Furthermore, the historical interpretation at the lighthouse could also support other educational efforts, such as STEM subjects. Restoring the lighthouse light to working order could provide another focal point and resource



CANOEMOBILE YOUTH OUTREACH⁺

Led by adventure company **Wilderness Inquiry**, the **Canoemobile** is a collaboration of federal, state, and local partners connecting urban youth to the natural world through hands-on, outdoor learning in cities across the United States. Wilderness Inquiry crew leaders take urban residents on canoe trips in local waters, teaching them songs and history along the way.

The Canoemobile program is a long-standing partnership between Wilderness Inquiry and the Forest Service that began through an assessment exploring how to improve wilderness area accessibility. The program started in the D.C. area on the banks of the Anacostia River in Kenilworth Park. In 2010, “accessibility” took on a new focus: providing opportunities for urban youth, who typically have limited opportunities to visit wilderness areas, out canoeing on local waters. The kinds of outdoor experiences provided through this program are proven to increase competence and confidence in youth by providing an opportunity to experience something new and challenging. They also help instill an awareness of the importance of natural areas, both near home and farther away, such as national forests. Through this program, capable and enthusiastic partners from local, state,

federal, and non-government organizations join together to introduce urban youth to public lands and outdoor recreation.

The Canoemobile program serves as a great example of partnerships making the most of National Park resources. On a recent program in Duluth, Minnesota, more than 600 students from school districts in Superior, Wisconsin and Two Harbors, Minnesota learned about watersheds, water quality, aquatic invasives, fish dissection, native sturgeon, Voyageur cultural history and wild rice for just under \$9,000 in Forest Service resources, matched by additional funding by Wilderness Inquiry.

✎ This type of program could benefit Jones Point Park by connecting young people with the park, its history, and its environment.

- **Trails:** Expanding the existing trail network would include an ever-greater variety of natural, historic and active recreational trail experiences:
 - **Interpretive trails for history and nature** – Adding additional signage, path features, and structures would boost the ship lawn experience and D.C. Boundary stories. Additional interpretive information could build on research on African American heritage and the role of slavery
 - **Relocated bike trails** – Re-routing the Mount Vernon Trail to the edge of the park would help reduce conflicts and safety hazards among different users within the core program areas of the site. This shift of the trail will also enable Mount Vernon Trail through-cyclists to more comfortably and efficiently move through this area. Signage would indicate the re-routing of the trails
 - **Multi-use perimeter trail** - A natural-surface bike trail is envisioned for circling the perimeter of the site while safely accommodating the existing pedestrian paths
- **Picnicking:** Additional picnic tables and picnic shelters can further activate the proposed recreational and activity improvements by enabling people to center their day around a visit to Jones Point Park. Some units along the GWMP currently allow private grills using gas or propane, which would allow grilling but not require additional permitting operations at the park. This option or others could be explored at Jones Point Park:
 - **Shelters** – Concentrated alongside the northern and southern sides of the area beneath the bridge, small shelters can provide intimate settings for hosting families or groups at clusters of tables (8-10 tables each)
 - **Tables** – These picnic tables could accommodate a variety of outdoor eating/ gathering experiences by locating near active areas (tables near courts and active recreation) as well as tables near some of the passive and natural areas of the site along the river's edge (3-4 tables each)

Programming

- **Reuse of lighthouse as arts center** – The iconic lighthouse that beckons visitors to admire its views and historic beauty could be restored to working condition and re-finished and opened for hosting rotating arts exhibits. Perhaps in conjunction partner organizations the lighthouse could serve as its nautical outpost featuring thematic exhibits relevant to the history and setting of Jones Point Park.
- **Artist residency program:** The NPS has a wide range of Artist-in-Residence programs at parks across the country for visual artists, writers, musicians, and other creative media. Programs vary, but residencies are typically two to four weeks in length and frequently include lodging or studio space. Often artists are invited to participate in park programs by sharing their art with the public
- **Festivals** – The airy covered and paved space beneath the bridge creates the atmosphere of a large outdoor room, ideally-suited to theme-based celebrations and gatherings. The open flexible spaces on both sides of the bridge offer additional areas for festival tents, tables, chairs and temporary activities. Festival topics could include local art and local music, food, history, crafts, harvest, cycling, and the environment.
- **Movie nights** – A regular summer movie night could offer family-friendly opportunities for picnicking in the fresh air followed by an outdoor movie in the park's Great Lawn. Although the site can be noisy, movie audio could be linked to personal audio or handheld devices. If timed correctly, movie-goers could enjoy the summertime evening fireworks launched across the river by Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.
- **Skills-based classes** – Jones Point Park's natural and historic beauty offers a variety of inspiring outdoor classroom settings that can support skills-based classes in painting, photography and nature arts and crafts. The lighthouse, fishing piers, riverside trails, wetland overlooks, covered spaces beneath the bridge, fields and forested uplands can each serve as open-air learning venues for stationary classes (i.e. yoga, painting, camp cooking, etc.) as well as mobile classes (i.e.



Sandy Hook is one of three units of the Gateway National Recreation Area (GNRA) that is located on parts of northeast New Jersey, Staten Island, and Long Island. This narrow peninsula is home to historical Fort Hancock, once a major defensive battery on the Atlantic coast, and seven beaches popular with boaters and swimmers.

Although entrance to the GNRA is free, beach parking or at beach centers costs \$15 for normal vehicles. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, much of the park's infrastructure and food concession buildings were destroyed and the repair timeline was uncertain. In order to fill this gap, when this "people's park" reopened for the following summer season, the Park Service allowed food trucks to take the place of the former brick-and-mortar concessions and even published its own food truck map for the Sandy Hook unit. Four years later, the food trucks have become a popular fixture all along the peninsula, and seem likely to remain.

At the GNRA in New Jersey, the NPS established a Temporary Food Event permit program to facilitate food vendors and food trucks within the park:

"Any vendor or organization intending to sell or give away food or samples of food to the public from a fixed or temporary location for a period of less than 21 consecutive days in conjunction with an event on Gateway property requires a TFE. Examples include festivals, musical and artistic presentations, holiday and ethnic celebrations, trade shows, mobile food trucks, mobile food tents and product introductions at which food is sold, sampled, or given away to the public."

Since then, a longer-term plan has been developed to address food trucks at the GNRA. The NPS issued a request for proposals for food trucks interested in a Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA) within the Sandy Hook Unit. Received proposals were then reviewed by an external committee which selected finalists based on food, service, and sustainable practices, these finalists were then asked for licensing and environmental regulation information as part of CUA materials. Chosen trucks were subject to an initial inspection by the NPS Health Inspector and subsequent spot inspections, and ultimately granted a 2 year contract to vend within the unit.² Online reviews and mentions suggest that these food trucks have successfully filled a need and contributed positively to the park, and the Sandy Hook Unit's experience could serve as a positive example for other parks across the country.

📌 The experience of regulating and accommodating food trucks at Sandy Hook could offer useful lessons for Jones Point Park, and might serve as a welcome amenity to the area.

¹ http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/sandy_hook_may_remain_closed_n.html

² Information from Kim Pepper-Parker, National Park Service.

photography, plant identification, nature interpretation, wildlife tracking, aquatic ecology, wetland science, etc.).

- **Guided nature walks** –NPS ranger-led nature tours, in partnership with the Alice Ferguson Foundation’s “Bridging the Watershed” program, could expose visitors to the diverse trails and habitats within Jones Point Park. A program of guided nature walks could be developed by offering local school groups on short, one-hour walks. One set of walks could cover the tidal wetland and tidal shorelands along the southwestern edge of the park. A separate set of walks could wind through the floodplain forests and wetlands of the northeastern forested section of the park.

Operations and Maintenance Strategies

Although it may seem simple, consistent operations and maintenance of new and existing facilities can pose challenges. The following items outline possible strategies to address current and future concerns, both by identifying priorities and potential partnerships. Actions included in this plan will be reviewed holistically to determine and understand the potential implications of changes to facilities, programming, and operations and maintenance. The NPS will conduct the appropriate level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) analysis to determine which changes would be covered under a Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) or would result in a finding of No Adverse Effect. These projects requiring more analysis would undergo the EA or Section 106 process.

- **Litter Control and Cleanup:** The presence of litter presents an ongoing maintenance challenge at Jones Point Park. The following strategies would help control unwanted trash at the park:
 - **Volunteer cleanups**– Reducing the negative impacts of litter and debris could be achieved by promotion of volunteer clean-up campaigns, such as the annual Alice Ferguson Foundation River Clean-up, scout troop trash collection projects, and the hosting of a monthly park celebration and clean up event

- **School-based stewardship partnerships**– Establishing local stewardship partnerships with schools and youth service organizations could create opportunities to celebrate local NPS resources and promote environmental stewardship. Monthly litter walks followed by picnics, hosted by NPS interpreters, could strengthen the local community and user groups stewardship practices
- **Monofilament recycling**– The installation of monofilament recycling collection bins by the fishing piers would help reduce visual and ecological impacts. NPS sites, such as Cape Hatteras National Seashore, have installed these bins in partnership with a marine conservation organization

- **Improved Drainage:** Improvements to stormwater management on- and off-site would lead to improved conditions of park facilities and of the environment.

- **Bridge run-off improvements**– Coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to implement best management practices on the bridge could reduce runoff velocities, volumes and roadway debris impacts. Establishment of more resilient drainage areas beneath the downspouts could promote infiltration without causing erosion and hardening of park soils. Regular litter removal of drainage areas by VDOT, especially following rain and snow melt, would also reduce impacts
- **Path drainage improvements**– Re-grading paths with improved drainage to adjacent bioswales may help reduce long-term impacts

- **Reduction in Debris at Park Entrance:** Coordination with the City of Alexandria to better manage the recycling center at the park’s entrance would improve the appearance of the park’s primary gateway, as well as offer recycling of visitors’ waste.

- **Recycling collection center use**– The use of the Jones Point Collection Center could serve as a low-cost approach to increasing the park’s recycling activities. Installing recycling bins next to trash could promote more responsible waste management

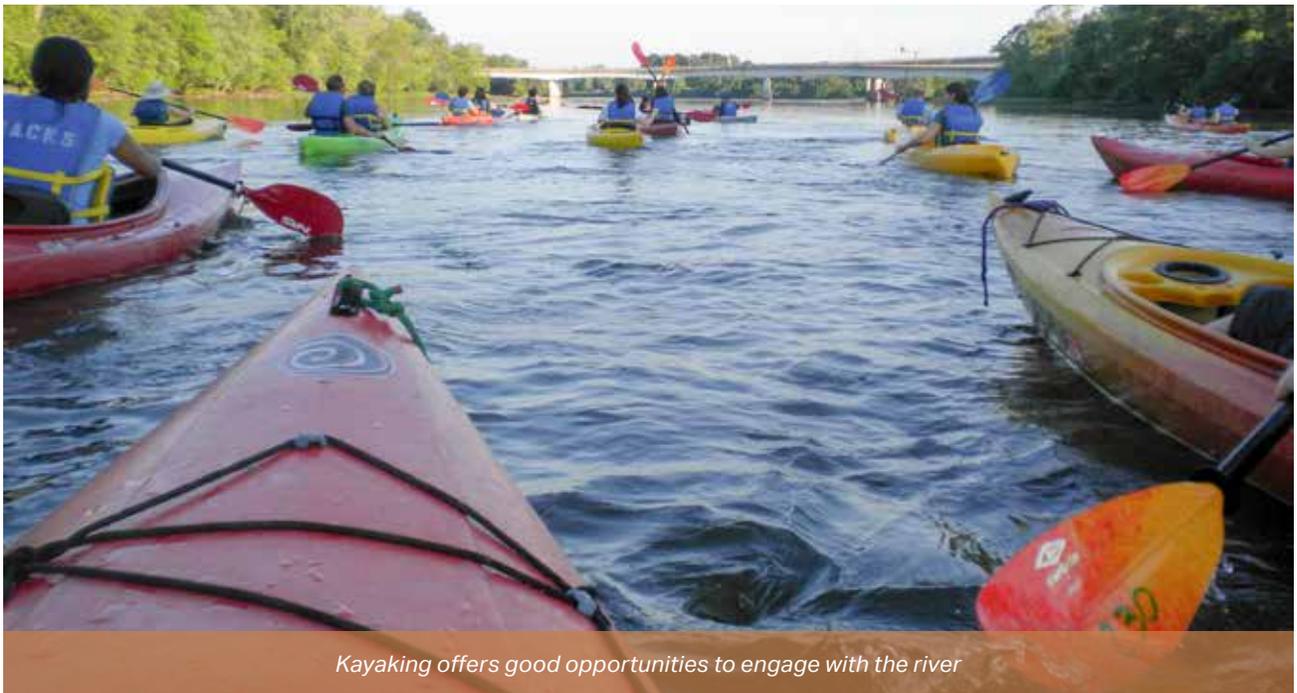


- **Recycling partnership**– Coordination with City of Alexandria to ensure regular recycling collection and removal of loose materials would reduce visual and ecological impacts
 - **Screening of recycling center**– Installation of more vegetated screening or fencing around recycling center would reduce visual impact
 - **Establishment of consistent operating hours and installation of signage indicating restroom open and closed hours:** Communication of access to park facilities provides people with a level of expectations and reduces disappointment of visitors who cannot enter facilities, especially the comfort station.
 - **Signage**– Communication of restroom facility open hours and consistent adherence to open hours would reassure public users that the park can be a reliable place for bringing any visitors in need of restroom access
 - **Opening hours**– Maintaining open and unlocked restrooms seven days per week during open park hours would support visitor use
 - **Security Gate Maintenance:** The replacement of the existing gate with a more robust mechanism would provide consistent security. Such as system could cost less to maintain over the lifetime of the gate, due to fewer failures.
 - **Overflow Parking:** Address overflow parking by designated specific areas for overflow parking that avoid impacts to vegetation, stormwater management bioswales and facilities, and planting beds.
 - **Establish Programming Mechanisms:** Working within the regulatory framework, the NPS should establish partnerships with non-profit and other support organizations in order to support programming efforts.
 - **Coordination with Transit:** NPS would facilitate improved multi-modal park access by coordinating with local and regional public transit networks for enhanced signage and special event service:
 - **Alexandria transit**– Alexandria DASH bus service operates seven days a week during park operating hours. While there are three bus stops approximately a half-mile from the park’s comfort station, enhanced coordination would explore improved signage and promotion of Jones Point Park as a key attraction for the Washington Street and Royal Street bus routes. These routes currently serve passengers going to/from King Street and Braddock Road Metrorail stations.
 - **Metrobus transit**– Metrobus service operates a route serving Braddock Road Metrorail station with stops that are approximately a half-mile walk from the park’s comfort station. Signage near these bus stops directing visitors to Jones Point Park can enhance the visibility of park to transit connectivity.
 - **Trail counter**– Coordinate with the City of Alexandria to locate a bike and pedestrian counter along the Mount Vernon Trail near the entrance to Jones Point Park.
- The table on the following pages outlines the potential implications of implementing these strategies.

Recommendation	Permitting Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
Facilities				
Recreational Use of Paved Areas	N/A	Potential for permits	Striping of rinks, courts, etc. in different colors and dimensions; additional recycling / trash collections (consider Big Belly containers)	Re-striping of facilities required on ongoing basis; increase in recycling / trash collection
Flex Space	Vending; Commercial Operations	Festivals could require permitting and scheduling system	Install dedicated power connections; promote dedicated water faucets for food service at festivals to reduce use of plastic bottles	Cleanup after events; Turf repair; Traffic control for facilitating pedestrians and Mount Vernon through-trail bicycle traffic
Courts (sand volleyball, horseshoe, bocce, etc.)	N/A	Permitting/scheduling system might be needed if demand regularly exceeds capacity; Dedicated areas required for sand pits	basic court infrastructure provided by NPS; equipment provided by users	Cleaning sand pits of litter; maintaining and repairing nets;
Facilities				
Activity-based improvements	N/A	Capital Bikeshare bike re-positioning truck access to park needed on regular basis; consider bike fix it station sponsorship/stewardship by WABA or local bike shop	Kayak stabilization and launch float needed; Capital Bikeshare station location/installation; bike fix-it station installation	Regular inspection of bike fix-it station to ensure pump and tools are operational and secure
Trails	N/A	Potential challenge will be to keep cyclists and mountain bicyclists from using natural area trails; Potential impacts to natural areas for trail creation and connections;	Wayfinding signage and trail cover material needed	Routine trail maintenance to keep trails accessible and free of fallen branches and litter
Picnicking	N/A	Reduce bike/pedestrian conflicts for families transporting picnic equipment through active recreation areas	Picnic tables, picnic pavilions, recycling/ trash receptacles (consider Big Belly receptacles)	Routine litter clean-up during and after picnic weekends and summer holidays
Programming				
Reuse of Lighthouse	N/A	Set up of scheduling, space rental, liability system; Lighthouse area might need to be closed to visitors during times of rental—depending upon the extent of the facility that is available for rental	Complete upgrade of lighthouse interior for hosting public events	Clean-up of lighthouse facility following any events



Recommendation	Permitting Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
Outdoor Classroom	N/A	Potential designation of outdoor classroom areas with designated seating/teaching circle	Development of designated classroom area(s)	Routine clean-up of classroom area by school groups using classroom areas
Festivals	Vending; Commercial Operations	Scheduling/rental system to be established; Turf liability concerns depending upon impacts; areas to be designated for festivals; ensure separation of uses to avoid active recreation conflicts with festival	Install dedicated power connections; promote dedicated water faucets for food service at festivals to reduce use of plastic bottles	Cleanup after events; Turf repair; traffic control for facilitating pedestrians and Mount Vernon through-trail bicycle traffic
Movie Night	Vending; Commercial Operations	Scheduling/rental system to be established; areas to be designated for movie night; ensure separation of uses to avoid active recreation conflicts with festival; traffic control for facilitating pedestrians and Mount Vernon Trail bicycle through-traffic	Install dedicated power connections; promote dedicated water faucets for food service at festivals to reduce use of plastic bottles	Cleanup after events
Skills-based classes	N/A	Ensure that any materials / equipment is not set up in active recreation areas	None	Cleanup after events
Guided nature walks	N/A	Potential changes and addition to existing NPS staff responsibilities	None	None



Kayaking offers good opportunities to engage with the river

Recommendation	Permitting Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
Operations and Management				
Litter Control and Cleanup	N/A	Potential changes and addition to existing NPS staff responsibilities for coordination; Coordinate clean-up with scheduled events to avoid user conflicts during clean-up; designate trash/recycling bag collection areas so that debris piles don't impact park and other uses	Addition of recycling and trash receptacles; Minimal coordination needed for directing clean-up crews to areas of greatest need	Additional litter clean-ups after picnic weekends and summer holidays; should improve maintenance operations; Staff time to assist with hauling debris, recyclables, trash collected; volunteer labor should help reduce staff time
Improved Drainage	ABAAS	Coordination with outside organizations, including VDOT and the City of Alexandria; Repair and re-direction of bridge drains and other drainage features should avoid impacting other activity areas	Repaving of surfaces, improvement of stormwater management facilities	Improvements should reduce overall maintenance requirements; litter collection and removal from drainage features needed at a minimum
Control of Recycling	N/A	Coordination among NPS operations and outside organizations, including City of Alexandria	New recycling facilities	Routine recycling pickup, especially after weekends and summer holidays
Operating Hours	N/A	For restroom facilities, park staff need to open and close facilities at regular intervals	New signage noting hours of comfort station operations, including an "Open" or "Closed" sign for each restroom	Increased use could result in increased maintenance needs, especially at comfort station
Security Gate Maintenance	N/A	Coordinate with VDOT	New security gate design that is more resilient and robust without frequency of breakdown and repair	None
Overflow Parking	N/A	Designation of overflow parking could require staffing for managing high use days	Could expand facilities along roadway by creating pervious parking surface options alongside roadway edge; structures needed to prevent damage to roadside drainage swales	Parking overflow into vegetated areas could present maintenance challenges; traffic control needed for high volume days to reduce conflicts among pedestrians and parking



Recommendation	Permitting Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
Establishing Programming Mechanisms		Would require staff time to establish mechanism and permitting; scheduling and permitting function could be shared with other regional NPS resources	Additional programming staff needed for partnership coordination, scheduling for different active recreation areas, lighthouse facility rental and management, scheduling coordination for on-site classes and programming	None
Coordination with Transit		Would require staff time to coordinate with other agencies	Capital Bikeshare station; Jones Point directional signage to be placed at nearby bus stops	None

DRAFT



The spaces under bridges can offer spaces for creative programming (G Food Truck Lounge, San Francisco CA)

UNDER-BRIDGE RECREATION⁺

The areas under bridges are often underused or forgotten, although in many cases they can provide a usable space that is accessible year round and protected from the elements. The Woodrow Wilson Bridge covers a substantial portion of Jones Point Park, but this area has been paved and serves basketball players, cyclists, skateboarders, and even people taking a break from the sun.

Several places provide good examples of maximizing the space under bridges including the G Food Truck Lounge in San Francisco, California, and the future Underline Park in Miami, Florida. The G Food Truck Lounge offers a lively place for food trucks to gather and people to eat while the future Underline Park in Miami Florida, will be a 10 mile park with a variety of uses and

improvements underneath an existing metrorail bridge.

➤ The space underneath the Woodrow Wilson Bridge should be seen as a resource to be maximized, and the NPS can continue to explore and adapt opportunities for this unique space.



Rendering of the future Underline Park in Miami, Florida



➤ Moving Forward

The following sections outline possible partnerships and strategies for implementing some of the ideas mentioned previously in the report. These include the identification of potential partners and funding sources. Additionally, this section describes potential regulatory compliance steps and estimated costs.

Partnerships

Existing Partnerships

Trust for the George Washington Memorial Parkway

The mission of the Trust for the George Washington Memorial Parkway is to preserve the parks and memorials, enhance the visitor experience, and build a community dedicated to conserving the parks and memorials for future generations. Partnership opportunities could include Jones Point Park serving as a venue for fundraising events of the trust.

City of Alexandria – The City of Alexandria and NPS already coordinate some operations near the entrance of the park related to the Jones Point recycling center. The City could consider assisting the NPS with recycling separation and collection within the park. Additional partnership opportunities could include environmental, historic, and youth program offerings through Alexandria Recreation program offerings, to be based at Jones Point Park.



TRUST FOR THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY⁺

The George Washington Memorial Parkway is a historic roadway that runs 25 miles along the southern bank of the Potomac from Langley, Virginia, to Mount Vernon, Virginia. It was established by Congress on May 29, 1930, and includes more than 7,300 acres of land in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. The Parkway was designed for recreational driving and is one of the most visited National Park sites in the U.S. As it weaves along the D.C. metro area, it links sites that commemorate important episodes in American history and preserves habitat for local wildlife. Highlights along the parkway include Arlington Memorial Bridge and Avenue, Glen Echo Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, and Jones Point Park.

The Trust for the George Washington Memorial Parkway is the 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization that exists to further stewardship of and fundraising for the Parkway and several of its adjacent park areas. The stated mission of the Trust is to “preserve the parks and memorials, enhance the visitor experience, and build a community dedicated to conserving the parks and memorials for future generations.” The Trust’s activities include connecting urban communities to the parks, job training for young adults in Northern Virginia, and conducting outreach to teach young people about the importance of natural resources and conservation.

Partnership opportunities could include Jones Point Park serving as a venue for fundraising events of the Trust. This non-profit partner organization currently operates the Jones Point Park Activation program, which seeks expand the use of the park for

healthy outdoor recreation and engagement that contributes to people’s physical, mental and social well-being. Other existing programs that would dovetail into this plan are the STEM on Youth Services Program, and the Art’s Afire project. In these cases, NPS Jones Point Park could offer the facility, while the Trust offers the expertise and program to draw visitors to the park.

➤ The Trust for the GWMP is uniquely positioned to assist Jones Point Park facility improvements, introduce new programming, and support park operations and maintenance. This existing network of supporters could also prove beneficial to finding additional sources of funding for the park.

Glen Echo Park Partnership for the Arts – The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc. is a nonprofit organization charged with managing Glen Echo Park’s arts programs and facilities, including its historic buildings. Glen Echo Park was once an amusement park and is now a cultural center located in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Partnership’s mission is to present vibrant artistic, cultural, and educational offerings at the park and to promote the park as a unique destination for the region’s diverse population. Each year, more than 400,000 people come to the park to renew their creative spirit through arts classes, festivals, exhibitions, dances, children’s theater, music performances, nature programs, and more. One potential partnership concept might be for Glen Echo to expand programming options to Jones Point Park.

Belle Haven Marina – This marina is located one mile south of Jones Point Park, along the western shore of the Potomac River. Belle Haven Marina is an NPS concessionaire located at nearby Dyke Marsh. Belle Haven rents sailboats, canoes and kayaks. A partnership among Belle Haven Marina and Jones Point Park could establish an additional location for kayak and canoe rentals at Jones Point Park, enabling paddlers to perhaps rent in one location and canoe or kayak to the other location. This river journey could be completed with a one-way return trip via biking or walking along the Mount Vernon Trail that connects both locations. Expanding this partnership further to include National Harbor could create a three-stop canoe/kayak tour along the Potomac, allowing visitors the chance to start at Jones Point Park or Belle Haven and cross the Potomac River to National Harbor. If allowed to dock at across the river, visitors could then grab lunch or explore National Harbor, then re-launch the canoe/kayak and return to Jones Point Park or Belle Haven.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) – ACPS has historically supported environmental education curriculum, including annual involvement by ACPS classes in Alexandria’s Earth Day festivities. Jones Point Park could serve as an outdoor classroom for a variety of joint environmental education programming by NPS and ACPS. Furthermore, the proximity of Lyles-Crouch Elementary School (a 15 minute walk

from Jones Point Park), suggests a broad range of engagements including introductory ecological explorations of the forest, river shoreline and wetlands as well as interpretive historical tours including early Alexandria settlements, District of Columbia boundary history, the lighthouse, and the shipbuilding industry legacy. Furthermore, NPS engagement of ACPS as a local park steward could seed more integrated programming over time including festivals, school activities and park clean-ups that support park stewardship and further education and community-building goals for both partners.

Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)

– WABA seeks to create a healthy, more livable region by promoting bicycling for fun, fitness, and affordable transportation; advocating for better bicycling conditions and transportation choices for a healthier environment; and educating children, adults, and motorists about safe bicycling for the D.C. Metro region. WABA is already promoting the Alexandria Bike Campus concept of transforming a portion of the area beneath the bridge into a safe, vibrant learning environment.

REI – REI is an outdoor clothing and gear store with stores located throughout the US including a number of locations in Northern Virginia. REI currently hosts How to Ride a Bike classes at Jones Point Park. The park presents an opportunity for the NPS to grow its activity offerings through expanding the partnership with REI to offer kayaking and canoeing classes.

Alice Ferguson Foundation – The Alice Ferguson Foundation connects people to the natural world, sustainable agricultural practices, and cultural heritage of their local watershed by promoting stewardship and education throughout the Potomac River watershed. The Foundation’s annual springtime Potomac River clean-up is an opportunity for growing stewardship of Jones Point with local organizations and families. In addition, Alice Ferguson’s “Bridging the Watershed” program already partners with NPS and area schools. Bridging the Watershed could serve as a model for how Jones Point Park could be engaged in connecting local school students to the natural and cultural world of the park.

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK⁺

The Grand Teton National Park Foundation (GTNPF) is a “private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to fund projects that enhance Grand Teton National Park’s cultural, historic, and natural resources and to help others learn about and protect all that is special in the park.” The Foundation further “initiates improvements, critical research, and projects that help better connect visitors to the park, creating a stable future for Grand Teton and the experiences of those who visit”.

GTNPF currently has four types of initiatives: A campaign for supporting Jenny Lake, one of the Park’s most visited sites; Wildlife Protection; Special Projects; and Youth Engagement. The Youth Engagement program consists of the following elements:

- The Youth Conservation Program, which brings teenagers aged 16-19 into the park to work on trails, protect fragile habitat, preserve historic sites, and learn about park history
- The Pura Vida Program seeks to connect the local Latino community and the Park
- The NPS Academy introduces diverse college students to the variety of career paths within the National Park Service. New programming for 2016 includes a Student Conservation Association Trail Crew and a

Mountains to Main Street Urban Ambassador program for young professionals interested in the NPS recruitment process

- **This type of partnership could serve as a guiding example for connecting young people or other underserved populations with Jones Point Park, and also create long term connections for stewardship. A similar type of trail work program could also benefit long term maintenance operations of the park.**



Potential Partnerships

Waterfront Heritage Organizations – Organizations or foundations that work with the history and practices of life along the Potomac could be a useful and appropriate partner for Jones Point Park. Those programs that connect young people with the water and traditional trades or crafts could be especially appropriate. Partnership opportunities could include expanding some programs that might be space-constrained at its current location by using the covered open space available beneath the bridge as well as dock-space at Jones Point Park.

Local Art Organizations – A locally based art center for either professionals or amateurs might provide an excellent partner for arts-related activities at Jones Point Park. Programming could take place both on and off site, extension programming could take place outside at Jones Point via outdoor festivals or thematic activities and classes held at a refurbished Lighthouse at Jones Point.

Bicycle Advocacy or Education – Because of its location on the Mt. Vernon bicycle trail, Jones Point Park presents an excellent location for bicycle-related programming. Programs could include information, events, classes teaching bicycle repair, or even festivals. Held in conjunction with bike advocacy activities led by WABA and a bike festival, Jones Point Park could become an annual home for bicycle community building activities.

Local Schools – The NPS could explore opportunities with local schools for serving as an outdoor classroom that can host a range of environmental and historical tours and class themes. Also, by engaging schools in consistent programming, these efforts can grow those educational institutions' roles as key local stewards of the park, which can further seed opportunities for joint support of school activities, festivals, park clean-ups and other park-based activities that support park stewardship while advancing education and community building goals for both partners.

National Harbor – This newly emerging comprehensive resort, convention center, and commercial and entertainment hub lies just one mile east across the Potomac River on the eastern shore

facing Jones Point Park. Numerous opportunities exist for introducing new visitors from the region to Jones Point Park by creating a visitation partnership between NPS and National Harbor that enables visitors from National Harbor to kayak/canoe across the Potomac and land at Jones Point Park. Alternatively, visitors could walk or bike across the bridge one way and kayak/canoe to return to National Harbor. Growing a connection with this development might also open up local sponsorship opportunities for festivals and fairs hosted at Jones Point Park or National Harbor, that promote the NPS and its regional park and program offerings.

Regulatory Requirements

NEPA

Taken together, the elements included in this plan would generally require a Categorical Exclusion (CE) in order to meet NEPA requirements. A CE is applicable to actions that, under normal circumstances, are not considered major federal actions and that have no measurable impacts on the human environment. Most of the elements in this plan, such as restriping of paved areas or the installation of picnic facilities, meet this definition and would be subject to a CE.

However, two elements could require additional NEPA analysis through an Environmental Assessment: the perimeter multi-use trail and the establishment of overflow parking. Before implementation, the NPS would consider the potential impacts and make efforts to avoid them. The NPS would then determine the level of NEPA documentation required.

NHPA

The implementation of this plan should consider the potential of adverse effects on historic properties. As outlined above, these properties include the District of Columbia cornerstone, Jones Point Lighthouse, and the GWMP cultural landscape. It is anticipated that the actions described in this plan would generally have no adverse effect on historic properties with one exception: the alterations to the Jones Point Lighthouse in order to make it usable as a facility open to the public. Such changes should follow the secretary of the Interior's standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Most changes would avoid adverse effects. In cases where this is not possible,

implementation should minimize and mitigate adverse effects. The NPS would coordinate this effort with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. Changes to recreation and visitor use should minimize and mitigate adverse effects. The NPS would coordinate this effort with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office.

Funding Opportunities

Direct Appropriations

The most direct method of funding would be to receive appropriations as part of the NPS's annual budget. The NPS would submit funding for specific capital projects. Similarly, maintenance could be included in the request. In the current funding environment, increases in such appropriate funding are challenging to obtain.

User Fees

User fees offer the ability for the NPS to receive funds directly from the individuals and groups visiting the park and using its facilities. Fees for picnic shelter rental, field and court reservations, and other activities could help cover maintenance costs. Vendor permits

for specific activities could further defray costs. Finally, event permit fees have the potential to be a source of income for events.

Grants

Grant funding could be obtained from multiple sources, using federal and private funds. An example of both federal and private funding is listed below.

- **Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP):** The FLTP funds projects that improve access within the Federal lands (including national parks) to transportation facilities in the national Federal Lands transportation inventory and owned and maintained by the Federal government. Eligible activities include provision for pedestrians and bicycles and any transportation project eligible under title 23 of the United States Code that is within or adjacent to, or that provides access to Federal lands open to the public.
- **National Park Foundation:** The National Park Foundation funds grants and programs that meet priorities and critical needs across the National Park System in the areas of youth, community outreach,



The Woodrow Wilson Bridge offers shelter for recreation opportunities



conservation and professional engagement. Among its funding programs is the Active Trails program, which aims to get people out and active on the trails- whether hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, or volunteering to improve existing trails or build new ones.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Federal program supports the protection of federal public lands and waters – including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and recreation areas – and voluntary conservation on private land. LWCF investments secure public access, improve recreational opportunities and preserve ecosystem benefits for local communities.
- **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program:** The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) set-aside funds apply to a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects. As a federal land management agency, the NPS is eligible to apply for funding to enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act replaced the previous Transportation Alternatives Program with STBG.

Potential Funding Partners

Partnerships allow the federal government to accomplish goals that could otherwise be made difficult due to funding or regulatory requirements. Partnerships would need to advance the goals and be consistent with the mission of the NPS. The partnerships identified in the previous section could help leverage funds available to participate in specific programs. Partnerships also have the ability to conduct fundraising events where the NPS would be the ultimate beneficiary. A few examples of how projects could be funded are listed below.

- **Trust for the George Washington Memorial Parkway:** This non-profit partner organization currently operates the Jones Point Park Activation program, which seeks expand the use of the park for healthy outdoor recreation and engagement that

contributes to people’s physical, mental and social well-being. Other existing programs that would dovetail into this plan are the STEM on Youth Services Program, and the Art’s Afire project. In these cases, NPS Jones Point Park could offer the facility, while the Trust offers the expertise and program to draw visitors to the park.

- **City of Alexandria:** The City of Alexandria operates numerous recreation programs and provides recreation facilities and services to its residents. By implementing partnerships, such as trail management and coordination, festival hosting, and other events, the City can help NPS meet its goals of providing new and improved experiences and reaching new audiences.
- **Washington Area Bicycle Association:** In its role as a bicycle advocacy organization, WABA has the ability to draw on its membership to provide funding and volunteers establish new facilities and programs. One example of such an effort is currently underway: WABA has already entered into an agreement with the NPS to establish a bicycle campus on the paved area at Jones Point Park.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships offer the opportunity to maximize funding sources, especially at events. Director’s Order #21 outlines the guidance related to sponsorships at NPS events. It states “For officially-sponsored NPS events, the NPS may provide appropriate recognition provided that corporate names are not used in a way that would imply or suggest NPS endorsement of a product, service, or company, or be construed as commercial solicitation or advertising. The purpose of such recognition is simply to acknowledge the sponsor.”

For events that are not sponsored by the NPS, temporary displays directly associated with the event containing sponsors’ names or logos or name script may be placed in close proximity to the event in both time and location. Both of these approaches would allow donations for programming through name recognition in controlled circumstances.

Crowdfunding

Relatively new to the fundraising landscape, crowdfunding is a method of raising money through

the collective effort of friends, family, customers, and individuals. Typically, a specific item or program, with a specific dollar amount, is identified by an individual or organization for funding. The public then receives the option to contribute to the level each person or organization deems appropriate. WABA essentially used this approach to raise money for the Alexandria Bike Campus at Jones Point Park by identifying

specific levels of contributions (\$1,000 to support bike campuses everywhere and \$35 to purchase a squeegee and a paintbrush). The approach can yield inconsistent results, but offers a unique opportunity for the NPS (through its partners) to appeal directly to specific user groups and interests.



Pedestrians and cyclists use the Mount Vernon Trail under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge



➤ Steps to Realizing Recreation and Visitor Use Concept

The following steps outline the specific tasks GWMP would take in order to realize the concepts for recreation and visitor use in this plan. It should be noted that the steps listed below assumes that NPS would undertake the appropriate compliance documentation for each task, and is therefore not listed specifically.

Paved Recreation, Flex Space, and Courts

1. Re-stripe the existing paved areas to allow for paved recreation uses. This re-striping could accommodate futsal, roller hockey, and tennis.
2. Remove the vehicle curb stops, resurface the pavement to best accommodate recreational uses, and install sleeves that would enable the use of temporary goals or nets.
3. Construct courts by hollowing out portions of the pavement to allow for sand volleyball, bocce, or horseshoes.

Activity Support, Bike Fix-It station, Ship Building

1. Identify and develop an ongoing relationship with a partner, such as a non-profit organization, to identify specific needs of the facilities. The partner should be comfortable aligning its interests with those of the NPS.
2. Work with partner to identify funding and to install needed facilities.
3. Work with partner to provide ongoing programming and support of activity-based facilities.

Cartop Boating and Motorized Boating

1. Develop specific water-focused recreation strategy to ensure that cartop and motorized boating recreation guidance are consistent. The proposed cartop boating location east under the Wilson Bridge, as shown in the concept map, best accommodates cartop boating due to the close proximity to parking.
2. Identify and develop ongoing relationships with partners, such as a non-profit organization, to identify the level of demand and the specific facility requirements for boating at Jones Point Park.
3. Identify funding opportunities for boating improvements.
4. Design and install new boating facilities.
5. Work with partners to establish boating routes, including point-to-point routes, such as to Dyke Marsh or to National Harbor.

Capital Bikeshare Location

1. Work with local partners, including WABA and the City of Alexandria, to determine the most appropriate size of, and funding opportunities for, a Capital Bikeshare location at Jones Point Park, using other NPS park units in the region as a guide.
2. Install Capital Bikeshare station.



Picnicking

1. Install new picnic tables (uncovered) at Jones Point Park to provide an additional amenity.
2. Determine the interest of GWMP in permitting picnic facilities. Such a determination could determine the level of facilities provided.
3. Design new picnic shelters for designated areas within Jones Point Park.
4. Construct new picnic shelters at designated areas.

Active Recreation Field, Playgrounds, Outdoor Classroom

1. Design multi-purpose recreation field, playgrounds, and outdoor classroom. In the case of recreation field, the design should include re-grading, irrigation, and other shortcomings of the existing fields.
2. Install new multi-purpose recreation field, playgrounds, and outdoor classroom.

Trails

1. Develop interpretive strategy specific to the perimeter trail at the southern portion of Jones Point Park.
2. Enhance southern loop trail to interpret the natural and cultural resources of the area by adding interpretive exhibits.
3. Work with the City of Alexandria and stakeholders to re-route portions of the Mount Vernon Trail around Jones Point Park.
4. Install signage informing trail users of the new trail route.

Jones Point Lighthouse

1. Develop programmatic concept for use of the Jones Point Lighthouse, such as an arts and exhibit space, a classroom, or interpretive facility.
2. Identify potential partners whose goals align with those of the NPS for use of the Jones Point Lighthouse.
3. Design improvements for the Jones Point Lighthouse

4. Work with partner organizations to identify funding sources for the renovations.
5. Conduct renovations of Jones Point Lighthouse.

Comfort Station

1. Work with NPS staff to determine alterations in staffing required to carry out the recommendations of this plan.
2. Identify changes needed to the existing comfort station/ranger station in order to accommodate such changes and programming.
3. Design improvements to comfort station/ranger station.
4. Construct renovations of comfort station/ranger station.

Pet Management and Fishing Information

1. Design and install signs reminding visitors of rules regarding pets and fishing.
2. Provide disposal facilities for pet waste and fishing line. For pet waste, the NPS could install a bag dispenser. For fishing line, the NPS could install a specific receptacle for the recycling of fishing line.

