

Buzzard Point Park

Historical Timeline

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Buzzard Point Park Planning and Information Session
July 14, 2016



1922 aerial view of Buzzard Point



1930 aerial view of Buzzard Point



1948 aerial view of Buzzard Point



Circa 1970 photo depicting Buzzard Point Boat Yard gate

1790 - 1899

- 1791** Military reservation established west of James Creek
- 1793** James Greenleaf, for whom Greenleaf point was named, purchases 420 lots for speculative housing development in Southwest
- 1803** The Arsenal and defenses built along the west side of Greenleaf Point, strategically located to protect the Federal city
- 1815** Washington City Canal built (current location of Constitution Avenue) adjacent to James Creek
- 1831** Federal penitentiary constructed north of the Arsenal
- 1866** James Creek marsh drained
- 1881** Arsenal closed
- 1880s** Flats dredged in Potomac River to create East and West Potomac Parks as well as the Washington Channel

1900 - 1999

- 1901** Army War College established at The Washington Arsenal
- 1902** Congressional River and Harbor Act authorized the improvement of the Anacostia River from Buzzard Point to the Navy Yard for navigation
- 1912** US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging project creates flats for marina
- 1930** Federal Government purchases the land; Corinthian Yacht Club private marina constructed immediately east of Fort McNair
- 1944** US Government constructs Buzzard Point piers
- 1946** US Government begins leasing the marina
- 1957** Jurisdiction of the property transferred from the Army Corps of Engineers to the NPS
- 1964** Corinthian Yacht Club disbands, replaced by Fort McNair Yacht Basin
- 1976** Current Buzzard Point Marina docks constructed
- 1991** Fort McNair Yacht Basin renamed James Creek Marina

2000 - Today

- 2000** Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) established
AWI Framework Plan published; Anacostia Riverwalk Trail groundbreaking
- SEPT. 2015** Draft Buzzard Point Vision Framework and Implementation Plan published by D.C. Office of Planning
- MAR. 2016** Buzzard Point Marina closed



Buzzard Point

General History

- Originally called Turkey Buzzard Point, this area included all the land bordered by the Anacostia River, the Potomac River, and roughly the location of M Street
- Named for the Turkey Buzzards common there until the 19th century
- Shortened to Buzzard (or Buzzards) Point in about 1800
- Native American occupation was discovered as Buzzard Point was filled and developed