

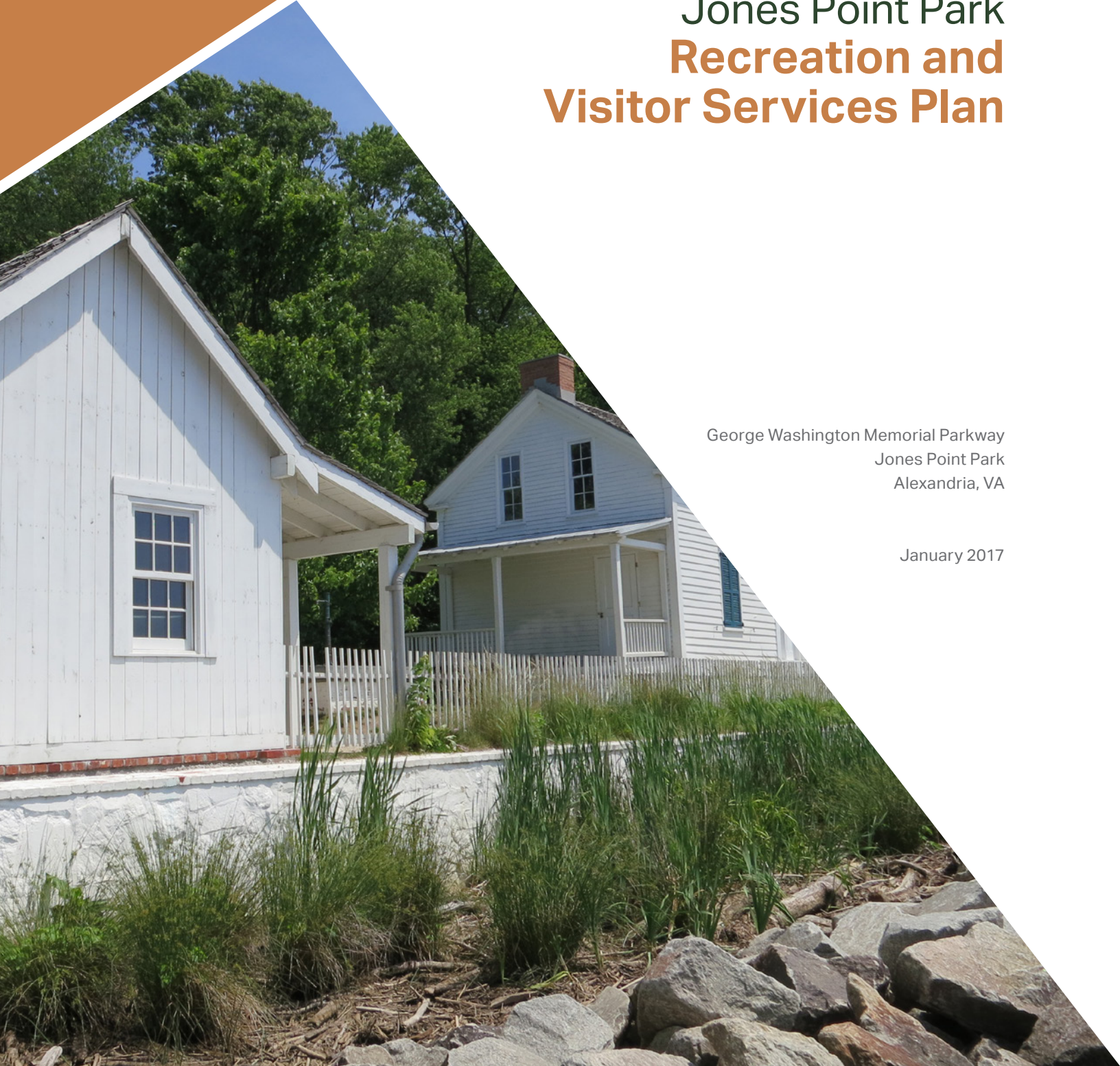
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the interior



# Jones Point Park **Recreation and Visitor Services Plan**

George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Jones Point Park  
Alexandria, VA

January 2017



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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 unexpected changes to security requirements. These changes have 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 amenities, operations, and partnerships.

## Public Process

The George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) provided multiple opportunities for public participation in the development of the Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitor Services Plan (Plan). GWMP solicited input from the public during the scoping period at the beginning of the planning process to identify potential recreation and visitor use facilities, opportunities, and needs. GWMP then made the Draft Plan available for public review for 46 days to inform refinements needed to the plan.

In both cases, GWMP used the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website to distribute project materials electronically and to receive comments from stakeholders and the public. GWMP posted the draft plan, meeting boards, and other materials to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/jonespoint>, where the public could then directly comment on the documents, including the draft plan.

## Scoping

Three scoping meetings were held to present information about Jones Point Park and solicit public input on possible uses and activities for the park. The scoping meetings were held at the following times and locations:

- Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Jones Point Park under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Monday, November 9, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson Street in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Tuesday, November 10, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street in Alexandria, Virginia.

Twenty attendees registered on the sign-in sheet at the November 7 meeting; two registered at the November 9 meeting; and six registered at the November 10 meeting.

The first scoping meeting began with a formal presentation by NPS; due to attendance volume, no formal presentation was made at the second and third scoping meetings. At all three meetings, attendees were given an opportunity to comment and offer suggestions for current and future uses and activities at Jones Point Park. Meeting attendees could write ideas for Jones Point Park on self-stick notes and put them on boards standing on easels around the meeting area. The boards included in the presentation and used during the public feedback period consisted of the following:







*Jones Point Park offers opportunities to interact with the Potomac River from the shoreline*

- Purpose and Opportunities
- Existing Recreation Opportunities
- Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitor Services Plan (two boards illustrating various types of activities, with space for meeting attendees to affix self-stick notes)
- What would you like to see in northern Jones Point Park? (for meeting attendees to affix self-stick notes)
- What would you like to see in central Jones Point Park? (for meeting attendees to affix self-stick notes)
- What would you like to see in southern Jones Point Park? (for meeting attendees to affix self-stick notes)

Meeting attendees could also submit written comments on forms provided at the scoping meetings.

#### **Public Comment on Draft Plan**

GWMP met with stakeholders on August 9, 2016 at the GWMP headquarters. Key stakeholders included the City of Alexandria, Friends of Dyke Marsh, Porto Vecchio, the Washington Area Bicycle Association, the Alexandria Soccer Association, and the Trust for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. This meeting reviewed the existing conditions and needs of the park, as well as summarized the facilities, programs, and operations and maintenance recommendations called for in the Draft Plan. Stakeholders participated in a roundtable format to discuss the contents of the Draft Plan.

The GWMP made the Draft Plan available for public comment on August 9, 2016 until September 23, 2016. The GWMP also held a public meeting on August 20, 2016 at Jones Point Park. The public was able to

dialogue with staff about the plan, leave written comments, and get information to review the plan online if that was their preference.

#### **Compilation of Public Comments**

Park staff worked with contractors in order to compile all of the comments that were made at stakeholder meetings, left on comment cards, written on meeting boards, made in person, and made online. In total nearly 250 comments were received and analyzed. NPS staff made the final determinations about the recommendations in the plan based on applicable laws and policies, as well as the comments made by the public.

#### **Purpose and Opportunities**

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 identify recreational opportunities at the park by enhancing underutilized spaces for public enjoyment.

Although the shoreline is significant within Jones Point Park, and the overall protection of natural resources and sustainability are important at this site, these elements are not the focus of this recreation and visitor services plan. However, the preservation and improvement of natural resources and site



ecology are considered and incorporated into the recommendations of this document.

## Project Background

Jones Point Park is an NPS Service Site, administered by GWMP, located along the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia. The park 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; no Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued. As a result, a new plan and EA was released in 2007. The 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 included 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. A FONSI was signed on December 3, 2007.

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. This growth places 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 connecting to 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 amenities, 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 amenities 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.



*Playgrounds and turf fields allow for active recreation*



# ➤ 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 along a riverfront setting in an urban environment.

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, water access facilities, and trails. Two fishing piers make excellent spots to cast for American catfish, rock bass, and American eels. A non-motorized vessel launch offers access to the Potomac River, but does not readily accommodate kayaks.

Formal spaces for recreation include two playgrounds (targeting different 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 shade, with areas protected 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 community garden is located outside the boundary of this planning effort.

## EXISTING PARK RESOURCES

### Recreational Resources

- Historic interpretive trail
- Natural interpretive trail
- Fishing piers
- Non-motorized vessel 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

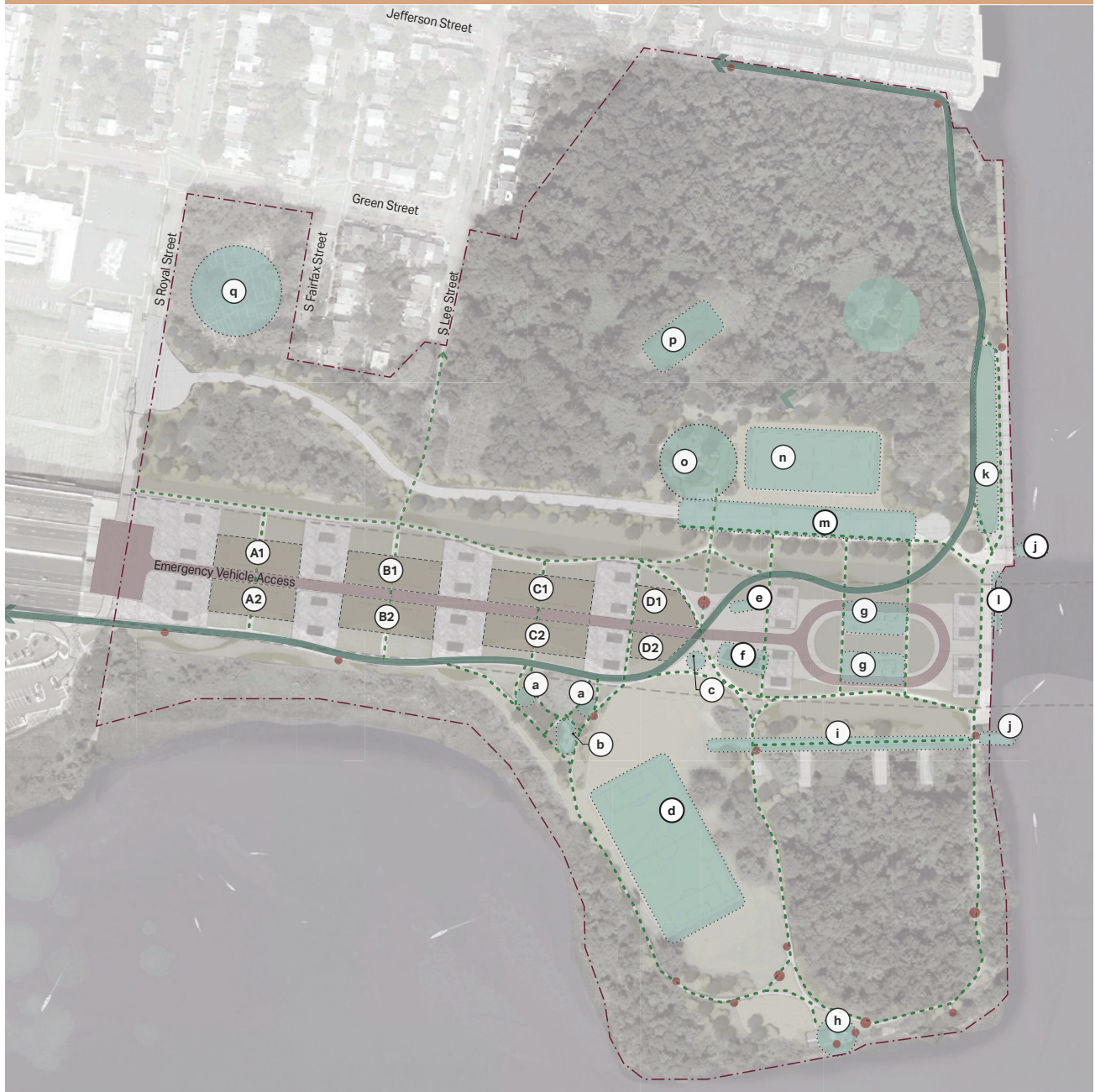
- District of Columbia cornerstone
- Boundary markers
- Jones Point Lighthouse
- Shipway
- GWMP Cultural Landscape\*

\* The GWMP Cultural Landscape: The GWMP 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.





## Map of Existing Conditions



### EXISTING PROGRAM

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

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

- o Tot Lot
- p Constructed Wetland
- q Common Garden

### LEGEND

- Mt. Vernon Train (Bike and Pedestrian)
- Pedestrian Only Path
- Interpretation / Wayfinding Signage

### EXISTING PAVED AREA UNDER THE BRIDGE

- A1 A1: 180'X70'
- A2 A2: 180'X70'

- B1 B1: 200'X70'
- B2 B2: 200'X70'

- C1 C1: 220'X70'
- C2 C2: 220'X70'

- D1 D1: 80'~135'X70'
- D2 D2: 80'~130'X70'



## 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 (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 GWMP 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.

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

- **Recreational Opportunities.** The GWMP 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, non-motorized vessel launches, marinas, and expansive natural areas

### ➤ Potomac River Shoreline and Gorge.

The GWMP includes the protection of large segments of the Potomac River shoreline between Great Falls and Mount Vernon.

The table on the following page outlines the overall policies that govern Jones Point Park operations and management.



### Summary of Existing Regulations, Laws, Plans, and Initiatives for Jones Point Park

Reference	Summary
<b>36 CFR Part 2: Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing would be in accordance with existing federal and state regulations.</li> <li>The taking of wildlife except in accordance with regulations is prohibited, as is the disturbance of wildlife nesting, breeding, or other activities.</li> <li>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 an authorization has been issued by the superintendent.</li> <li>Pets must be leashed or physically constrained.</li> </ul>
<b>36 CFR Part 5 Summary, Commercial and Private Operations</b>	Engaging in any fee-based activity, soliciting, and/or advertising in park areas requires Park authorization.
<b>NPS Urban Agenda</b>	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.
<b>GWMP Long-Range Interpretive Plan</b>	Provides for continuity for the implementation and future development of the parkway's interpretive programming.
<b>Jones Point Park EA and FONSI (2007)</b>	The EA documents 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. It also provides a history of the design process at the park and mitigation measures related to potentially affected resources. The selected alternative included parking areas and vehicular access, a tot-lot, multi-use fields, landscape plantings, a perimeter barrier system, and connection to the Mt. Vernon Trail.
<b>National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 1969, as Amended</b>	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.
<b>National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended through 2000</b>	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.
<b>Architectural Barriers Act- Accessibility Standards</b>	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.
<b>Standoff Area</b>	FHWA, in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, has determined that a minimum 80-foot standoff distance is required to any abutment, pier support, and bridge superstructure.
<b>Woodrow Wilson Bridge Permanent Easement</b>	The NPS granted an easement to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in 2000 for constructing, operating, and maintaining of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The agreement specifies that NPS has the right to install landscaping within the easement area, and that the NPS will consult with VDOT in the development of plans.
<b>Alexandria Open Space Plan</b>	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.

## Operational, Maintenance, and Environmental Challenges and Considerations

While Jones Point Park offers numerous recreation opportunities as both a destination and for 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 more passive recreation. 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 Field 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 publicly accessible.

### Limited Water Access

Jones Point Park features a non-motorized vessel 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. 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.

Pet activity and waste can damage park property and the surrounding environment if not properly regulated and enforced. Pet waste can diminish the water quality of runoff heading into the Chesapeake Bay.

### 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 stewardship 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 and Stormwater Management

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 drainage downspouts pummels park grounds without being directed into an appropriate location.



*Water runoff collects near the trail*



*Poor drainage prevents use of sheltered pavement during icy conditions*

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.

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.

The temporary pooling of water can also introduce pest concerns to the park. Standing water can offer a habitat for pests, which can present health or comfort concerns to visitors.



### Floodplain Management

Jones Point Park is within the 100-year floodplain. As climate change and sea level rise occurs, the potential for flooding at Jones Point Park is anticipated to increase. Such changes could limit the use and availability of facilities or place resources at greater risk of damage in the future.

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

### Protection of Cultural and Natural Resources

Cultural and natural resources are part of the fundamental values of Jones Point Park. The park contains views and sightlines across the southern portion of the park related to the light house and the south cornerstone of the District of Columbia boundary, archeological resources, and the historic lighthouse, as well as wetlands and a riverine interface. Preservation of these elements is important to the continued significance of the park.



*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 recreation opportunities and activities for a variety of users, new ways to access and experience the park would benefit new and existing visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. The park 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 could be flexible use areas that would accommodate a wide variety of recreational activities. Similarly, the programming described below illustrates 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. 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. Additionally, the plan seeks to maintain and protect cultural and natural resources by incorporating the consideration of these significant resources. 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 could increase opportunities for recreation within the park and encourage more use of existing facilities. An enhancement to the existing ranger station, which is and would continue to be used by the park's Visitor Services division, 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, could offer a new experience at the park. Identifying activity-specific areas (including the re-stripping of pavement) under the bridge could 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 could be reconfigured in order to re-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 could 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 could emphasize nature-based recreation. Picnic facilities could augment the rehabilitation of a multi-use field.

### **Increase accessibility of Jones Point Park for new and existing users**

Jones Point Park could offer expanded opportunities that would introduce the park to a broader range of visitors. Facilities and programs could accommodate a range of ages, with playgrounds and outdoor classrooms for children and bocce and horseshoe courts for adults. Those interested in active recreation could participate in kayaking, canoeing, cycling, field sports, or other activities, while those looking for a more relaxed 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 could be expanded to address a wide variety of interests by partnering with outside organizations. In addition to recreation leagues and bicycle advocates, programming could be expanded to include non-profit organizations focusing on activities not traditionally addressed at Jones Point Park, such as arts, education, and specialized skills. Additionally, special events, such as classes or festivals, could attract new users.

The regional transportation network could support access to Jones Point Park in multiple ways. A Capital Bikeshare station at or near 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), could include Jones Point Park in its routes.

### **Enrich the experience of existing users**

Building on its existing resources, Jones Point Park could improve the activities that it currently provides. For example, existing non-motorized vessel launch could be re-designed to accommodate kayaks in addition to canoes. The NPS could rehabilitate 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 reduce user

conflicts between cyclists and other park users. The designation of areas for particular uses, such as a bicycle training course, could improve the paved area. 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 user 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, could bring fresh experiences to Jones Point.

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

### **Facilities**

- **Paved Recreation Uses:** New, year-round, active recreational elements could 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 could be marked with dimensions for different activities, users would need to bring their own temporary structures, such as goals, railing boards, and other equipment. To the extent feasible, courts would be placed in areas that are level. Activities could include the following:

- **Futsal** – A version of soccer, growing in popularity among youth programs, that is



### Concept of Potential Facilities Program Options



#### COURTS / FIELDS

- 1A Flexible Playcourts Space (potentially horseshoe)
- 1B Flexible Playcourts Space (potentially bocce)
- 2 Flexible Playcourts Space (potentially tennis)
- 3 Flexible Playcourts Space (potentially volleyball)
- 4 Flexible Playcourts Space (potentially street hockey)
- 5 Flexible Playcourts Space (potentially futsal)
- 6A Flexible Court Space (potentially bike safety course)
- 6B Flexible Court Space (potentially kids bicycle court)
- 7 Flexible Space Festival / Event Space / Exercise Classes
- 8 Multi-Use Field (improve turf)

#### RECREATION SUPPORT FACILITIES

- 9 Picnic Tables and Shelters
- 10 Bike Fix-it Station / Bike Racks / Capital Bike Share
- 11 Flexible Space for Night Programs (Movie Night & Urban Camp Fire; Temporary lighting to be provided for safety)
- 12 Outdoor Classroom

#### WATER RECREATION

- 13 Canoe / Kayak Launch / Motorized Boat Docking
- 14 Seating and Shade Structure for Fishing

#### CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

- 15 Interpretative Ship Lawn (add interpretative ship structure and signage)
- 16 History Interpretation Path (improve visibility and accessibility of existing path and add interpretative signage)

#### EXISTING PROGRAM TO REMAIN

- a Historic Light House and Corner Stone
- b Fishing Pier
- c Basketball Court
- d Tot Lot
- e Constructed Wetland
- f Multi-use Field
- g Comfort Station
- h Interpretative Signage
- i Historic Rudder
- j Community Garden

\* Parking lot, interpretative signage, interpretative DC boundary elements, and pedestrian path to remain

Potential Trail Program

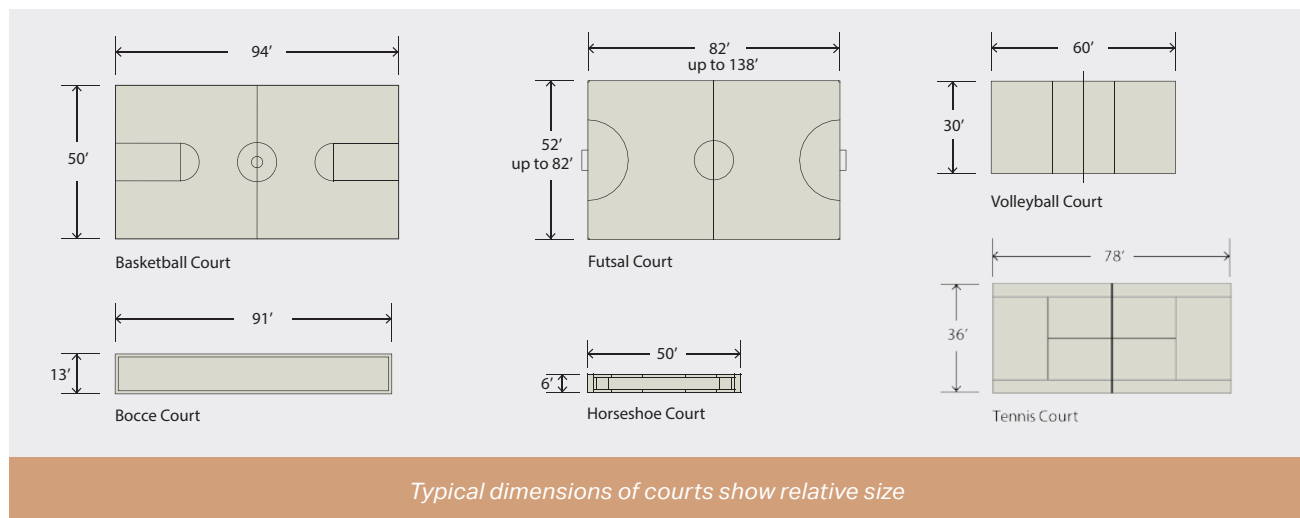


**TRAILS AND PATHS**

- Enhanced Existing Perimeter Trail (with nature/history interpretation)
- Existing Mt. Vernon Multi-use/Bike Trail to Remain
- Rerouted Mt. Vernon Multi-use/Bike Trail
- Existing Pedestrian Trail/Path to Remain







designed for small spaces, featuring five players 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 could be played.
- **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, could offer space without interference by cars and other cyclists. The bicycle course would be most appropriate near the Mount Vernon Trail.
- **Festival space on paved area** – The large covered area adjacent to the parking lot and restroom facilities, where the bridge soars high overhead, could accommodate arts in the park festivals, food truck fairs, music events, weekend environmental programs and other thematic events. The festival space would be well suited to areas near the parking lot.

- **Food trucks** – Designated spaces, especially near the parking lot for easy vehicular access, could be allocated to food trucks through a concessions contract or commercial use authorization for weekends and special events.

- **Courts:** Designating small portions of the paved, covered areas with specific uses could 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 could be offered.
- **Sand volleyball** – Designated courts could 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. Volleyball courts would be most appropriate where the clearance to the bridge is higher.

- **Activity-based improvements:** Minor upgrades to existing activities would improve visitor access and increase usage to the bike trail and river by including:

- **Bike maintenance station** – Installing one or two stations proximate to the Mount Vernon Trail could boost the image of Jones Point as



one of the key cyclist nodes along the Mount Vernon Trail. The station could provide essential pumps and tools for quick fixes that can keep cyclists moving along the Mount Vernon Trail. The NPS could partner with a local bike organization to maintain the facility.

- **Non-motorized vessel launch** – Installation of a non-motorized vessel launch adjacent to the park's existing docks could establish Jones Point Park as a destination along the Potomac River's Blue Trail, linking the site with riverfront parks throughout the region. The launch would accommodate cartop boating, which includes watercraft that can be transported safely on the top of a personal vehicle, such as kayaks and paddleboards.
- **Safety ladder at river bulkhead**– The installation of a ladder at the river bulkhead could improve the safety of the park by offering a way to reach land if someone accidentally fell into the Potomac River.
- **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, could offer the "last mile" connections to Metrorail and other major transportation connections. The station could 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." Dog waste and its removal is of special concern, as it can contaminate runoff heading into the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, signage and trash facilities would need to be improved and any type of dog activity would need to be monitored.

- **Motorized boating facilities** – The NPS could study the potential for motorized boating to accommodate small boats. Emphasis would 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** – Additional interpretation of the shipbuilding heritage of Jones Point Park, including installation of additional features at the ship lanes near the railway could aid understanding of the area's history.
  - **Boundary markers** – Emphasizing the boundary markers could assist in 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 could 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** – Rehabilitation of 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 to national and



## CANOEMOBILE YOUTH OUTREACH<sup>+</sup>

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.**





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. The NPS would undertake alterations to the lighthouse in a manner that would maintain its design significance.

- **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 could 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 or historic shipbuilding.
  - **Relocated bike trails** – Offering a perimeter route of the Mount Vernon Trail to the edge of the park could help reduce conflicts and safety hazards among different users within the core program areas of the site. This shift of the trail could also enable Mount Vernon Trail through-cyclists to more comfortably and efficiently move through this area. Signage could indicate the re-routing of the trails.
  - **Multi-use perimeter trail** – A natural-surface multi-use trail could circle the perimeter of the site.
- **Picnicking:** Additional picnic tables and picnic shelters could 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 authorizing operations at the park. This option or others could be explored at Jones Point Park.
  - **Shelters** – Concentrated alongside the southern side of the area beneath the bridge to allow access to parking, 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 rehabilitated to working condition and re-finished and opened for hosting rotating arts exhibits. 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 could 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



**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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.<sup>2</sup>

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 could serve as a welcome amenity to the area.**



<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/sandy\\_hook\\_may\\_remain\\_closed\\_n.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/sandy_hook_may_remain_closed_n.html)

<sup>2</sup> Information from Kim Pepper-Parker, National Park Service.

beneath the bridge, fields and forested uplands could each serve as open-air learning venues for stationary classes (e.g. yoga, painting, camp cooking, etc.) as well as mobile classes (e.g. 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 review including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) analysis to comply with applicable laws and policies. The implementation of proposals in this plan will be reviewed in accordance with laws and policies on a case by case basis.

**Litter Control and Cleanup:** 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 could 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 and Stormwater

**Management:** Improvements to stormwater management on- and off-site could 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 could help reduce long-term impacts.
- **Standing water improvements–** Addressing the bridge run-off and path drainage through treatments described above could reduce the amount of standing water at this site. Similarly, the improvement of turf fields could also reduce the pooling of water that occurs at the park. Ensuring that drainage systems and infrastructure are maintained could further reduce the amount and duration of standing water.
- **Consideration of Floodplain Management:** As implementation of this plan occurs, efforts to make the facilities at Jones Point Park resilient to





increased potential for flooding could ensure their availability for use over the long term.

- **Type of facilities**– In order to adapt to climate change and increased flooding potential, the design of facilities could possess features that promote durability during flood events.
- **Placement of facilities**– The design of improvements could allow for access out of the park during flood events to ensure safety.
- **Changes in topography**– In order to adapt to climate change and increased flooding potential, the NPS could explore changes to the park's grading to alter flood patterns in order to protect park resources, such as the Jones Point Park lighthouse.
- **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 enhanced recycling services at the park.
  - **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 could reduce visual and ecological impacts.
  - **Screening of recycling center**– Installation of more vegetated screening or fencing around recycling center could 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 could 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 could 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:** The NPS could address overflow parking by designated specific areas for overflow parking that avoid impacts to vegetation, stormwater management bioswales and facilities, and planting beds. Further study of this issue would support parking at a level appropriate for the amenities.
- **Establishment of Programming Mechanisms:** Working within the regulatory framework, the NPS could establish partnerships with non-profit and other support organizations in order to support programming efforts.
- **Coordination with Transit:** The NPS could 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 could 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 could enhance the visibility of park to transit connectivity.
  - **Trail counter**– The NPS could 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	Authorization Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
<b>Facilities</b>				
<b>Recreational Use of Paved Areas</b>	N/A	Potential for authorizations	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
<b>Flex Space</b>	Vending; Commercial Operations	Festivals could require authorizing and scheduling system. Fee-based operations will require concessions contracts or commercial authorizations.	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
<b>Courts (sand volleyball, horseshoe, bocce, etc.)</b>	N/A	Authorization/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;
<b>Facilities</b>				
<b>Activity-based improvements</b>	N/A	Capital Bikeshare bike re-positioning truck access to park needed on regular basis; consider bike maintenance station sponsorship/ stewardship by WABA or local bike shop	Kayak stabilization and launch float needed; Capital Bikeshare station location/installation; bike maintenance station installation	Regular inspection of bike maintenance station to ensure pump and tools are operational and secure
<b>Trails</b>	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
<b>Picnicking</b>	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



Recommendation	Authorization Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
<b>Programming</b>				
<b>Interpretation of Lighthouse</b>	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
<b>Outdoor Classroom</b>	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
<b>Festivals</b>	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
<b>Movie Night</b>	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
<b>Skills-based classes</b>	N/A	Ensure that any materials / equipment is not set up in active recreation areas	None	Cleanup after events
<b>Guided nature walks</b>	N/A	Potential changes and addition to existing NPS staff responsibilities	None	Cleanup after events





Recommendation	Authorization Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
<b>Operations and Management</b>				
<b>Litter Control and Cleanup</b>	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; would improve maintenance operations; Staff time to assist with hauling debris, recyclables, trash collected; volunteer labor could help reduce staff time
<b>Improved Drainage</b>	ABAAS	Coordination with outside organizations, including VDOT and the City of Alexandria; Repair and re-direction of bridge drains and other drainage features would avoid impacting other activity areas	Repaving of surfaces, improvement of stormwater management facilities	Improvements could reduce overall maintenance requirements; litter collection and removal from drainage features needed at a minimum
<b>Control of Recycling</b>	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
<b>Operating Hours</b>	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
<b>Security Gate Maintenance</b>	N/A	Coordinate with VDOT & local first responders	New security gate design that is more resilient and robust without frequency of breakdown and repair	None
<b>Overflow Parking</b>	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	Authorization Implications	Operation Implications	Capital Expense/ Implementation	Maintenance Implications
<b>Operations and Management</b>				
<b>Establishing Programming Mechanisms</b>	N/A	Would require staff time to establish mechanism and authorizing; scheduling and authorizing 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
<b>Coordination with Transit</b>	N/A	Would require staff time to coordinate with other agencies	Capital Bikeshare station; Jones Point directional signage to be placed at nearby bus stops	None



## UNDER-BRIDGE RECREATION<sup>+</sup>

**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 would 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 strategies for implementing some of the concepts 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.

**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 could be for Glen Echo to expand programming options to Jones Point Park.



**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.**



**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 concessioner 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 country including a number of locations in Northern Virginia. REI currently hosts How to Ride a Bike classes at Jones Point Park through a non-exclusive CUA. The park presents an opportunity for the NPS to grow its activity offerings through expanding the partnership with REI or similar outfitter groups 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.

### 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





**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.**





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 venue for bicycle community building activities.

**Local Schools** – The NPS could explore opportunities with local schools to serve 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.

**Activity-Specific Organizations** – Some non-profit organizations focus on a specific recreation activities, such as basketball or tennis. the NPS could partner with such organizations to assist in the maintenance of recreation enhancements, such as courts,

equipment, and other elements. In this way, NPS could enhance the maintenance of the park and stakeholder involvement.

## 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 implementing elements of this plan, the NPS will work through the process as specified by the NEPA act.

### NHPA

The implementation of this plan would 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. Alterations to the Jones Point Lighthouse in order to make it usable as a facility open to the public would 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 would minimize and mitigate adverse effects. The NPS would coordinate this effort with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, other public agencies, organizations, and groups that have a vested interest in the undertaking. Changes to recreation and visitor use could minimize and mitigate adverse effects.



## Funding Opportunities

### Fees

Fees offer the opportunity for the park to receive funds from individuals and organizations that directly use

- **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 authorizations for specific activities could further defray costs. Finally, event authorization fees have the potential to be a source of income for events.
- **Concessions Franchise Fees:** A concessioner pays a franchise fee to the government based on the value of the contract to the concessioner. This franchise fee is set at a level where a reasonable opportunity for net profit relative to capital investment and obligations of the contract exists. Of the total raised by a specific franchise fee, 80% remain in the park where the funds were generated. These funds are reinvested to keep the concession operations in the park running efficiently.
- **Concessioner Funded Improvement Projects:** Physical infrastructure could be funded and built directly by a concessioner. For example, improvements to the non-motorized vessel launch could be made by a kayak rental concessioner. Such projects would need to be consistent with the governing regulations and policies of the park, as well as the financial feasibility of the project.

### 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.



*The Woodrow Wilson Bridge offers shelter for recreation opportunities*



- **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, 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.
- **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.

### Direct Donations

Individuals or organizations may donate to the NPS for specific projects. The range of potential projects could include new recreation amenities, such as horseshoe courts, enhanced maintenance of trails, or the development of interpretive materials. The projects must be consistent with the relevant laws, policies, and regulations that guide park management in order to be implemented. The donors would need to work with the NPS to ensure that environmental and historic preservation review processes occur.

### 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.



### 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 often use the Mount Vernon Trail under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge as a temporary resting point*





# ➤ 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 assume that the NPS would undertake the appropriate compliance documentation for each task, and is therefore not listed specifically.

## **Paved Recreation, Flex Space, and Courts**

Re-stripe the existing paved areas to allow for paved recreation uses. This re-stripping could accommodate futsal, roller hockey, a bike garden, and tennis.

1. Remove the vehicle curb stops, resurface the pavement to best accommodate recreational uses, and install sleeves that could enable the use of temporary goals or nets.
2. Construct courts by hollowing out portions of the pavement to allow for sand volleyball, bocce, or horseshoes.

## **Activity Support, Bike Maintenance 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 authorizing 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, and outdoor classroom, and consolidate playgrounds. In the case of recreation field, the design could 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.

