

## **Appendix D: Public Involvement and Agency Coordination**

**Lord, Jessica**

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**From:** National Capital Parks - East Superintendent  
<nace\_superintendent=nps.gov@mail254.atl101.mcdlv.net> on behalf of National Capital Parks - East Superintendent <nace\_superintendent@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:03 AM  
**To:** Williams, Rick  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Buzzard Point Park Planning Update

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Buzzard Point Park Planning Update

Buzzard Point Park is well on its way to becoming an enjoyable and unique community waterfront park. During 2018's Year of the Anacostia, we are celebrating the Anacostia River watershed, its history, the progress to the health of the river and the exciting things happening on its banks, like Buzzard Point Park. The National Park Service (NPS) envisions Buzzard Point Park as a place where everyone can go to relax and enjoy the Anacostia River.

We started the process to reimagine the park in the summer of 2016 and with your help, have created a vision for the new recreational opportunities and improvements the Park. Following a public planning and information session

(held on July 14, 2016), a 30-day public comment period ending on August 15, 2016, as well as a stakeholder meeting (held on September 26, 2016), the NPS introduced the following two preliminary concepts for the Buzzard Point Park improvements at a public scoping meeting held on December 13, 2016:

**Concept 1** transforms the park into a linear waterfront and gateway park serving as the entrance to the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Proposed features include a continuation of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) (designed as a multi-use trail with access for bikers and pedestrians alike) and a pedestrian-only promenade. The ART and pedestrian-only promenade would be separated by landscape features such as grass dunes and open lawn areas. The shoreline includes a terraced ledge to provide uninterrupted access to the water's edge.



**Concept 2** retains all the same park design features as Concept 1 (i.e., continuation of the ART, a separate pedestrian-only promenade, grass dunes, etc.), but places a portion of the ART on an elevated structure out in the river. By elevating the ART over the water, a unique park experience is created, with the potential to become a new D.C. attraction. Along the elevated trail, overlooks have been incorporated to take advantage of city and river views.



From December 2016 through January 2017, we received many helpful comments and suggestions during a 45-day comment period that helped us finalize the design concepts. In May 2017, the NPS published the Buzzard Point Park Development Concept Plan, which presented two concept designs for the park that included access and use of the ART. A copy of the DCP, which includes comment reports on both public meetings, and other related documents, can be found on-line at [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BuzzardPointPark\\_ea](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BuzzardPointPark_ea)

NPS has decided to further evaluate the potential environmental impacts of Concept 1 in the EA.

This process will evaluate the current landscape of the area and determine the environmental impacts associated with the implementation of Concept 1. Therefore, Concept 1 will be further designed to a level appropriate to evaluate in the EA; a "No-Action" alternative would also be considered in the EA. It is anticipated that the Draft EA will be available for public comment in early Fall 2018. There will be an additional public meeting in early Fall 2018 to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Draft EA.

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Tammy Stidham, Regional Chief of Planning at 202-619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,

Tara D. Morrison  
Superintendent

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This email was sent to [RWilliams@jmt.com](mailto:RWilliams@jmt.com)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
National Park Service · 1900 Anacostia Drive SE · Washington, DC 20020 · USA



**From:** Stidham, Tammy <tammy\_stidham@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:21 AM  
**To:** Rogers, Jonathan D. (DDOT); Patricia (OP) Zingsheim; Wilson, Jay (DOEE); Faulkner, Ella (DPR); Lewis, Andrew (OP); Stern, Tanya (OP); Gabriel, Tracy (OP); Alvino, Michael (DDOT)  
**Cc:** Robert Mocko; Joel Gorder; Morrison, Mary; Williams, Rick; Conner, Jon  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Buzzard Point Park Update - request to meet

DC Agency contacts:

The purpose of our correspondence is to provide an update on the planned improvements at Buzzard Point Park and to facilitate further coordination with your agency as we move into the environmental review portion of the project.

Starting in the summer of 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) worked with the public and stakeholder groups to create a vision for the recreational opportunities and improvements to Buzzard Point Park. Following a public planning and information session (held on July 14, 2016), a 30-day public comment period ending on August 15, 2016, as well as a key stakeholder meeting (held on September 26, 2016), the NPS introduced the following two preliminary concepts for the Buzzard Point Park improvements at a public scoping meeting held on December 13, 2016:

**Concept 1** – transforms the park into a linear waterfront and gateway park serving as the entrance to the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Proposed features include a continuation of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) (designed as a multi-use trail with access for bikers and pedestrians alike) and a pedestrian-only promenade. The ART and pedestrian-only promenade would be separated by landscape features such as grass dunes and open lawn areas. The shoreline includes a terraced ledge to provide uninterrupted access to the water's edge. This concept also proposes to repurpose the onsite Matthew Henson Earth Conservation Center in partnership with the Earth Conservation Corps to provide restrooms and other park support amenities.

**Concept 2** – retains all the same park design features as Concept 1 (i.e., continuation of the ART, a separate pedestrian-only promenade, grass dunes, etc.), but places a portion of the ART on an elevated structure out in the river. By elevating the ART over the water, a unique park experience is created, with the potential to become a new DC attraction. Along the elevated trail, overlooks have been incorporated to take advantage of city and river views.

In addition to the comments collected at the December scoping meeting, the NPS received many helpful comments and suggestions on these two concept designs during a 45-day comment period ending January 27, 2017. In May 2017, the NPS published the *Buzzard Point Park Development Concept Plan* (DCP). A copy of the DCP, which includes comment reports on both public meetings, and other related documents can be found online at [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BuzzardPointPark\\_ea](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BuzzardPointPark_ea).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the NPS is now preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the planned improvements at Buzzard Point Park. Based on the extensive public input received on the two preliminary concepts, NPS plans to provide a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of Concept 1 in the EA. Therefore, Concept 1 will be further designed to a level appropriate to evaluate in the EA; a "No-Action" alternative would also be considered in the EA. It is anticipated that the Draft EA will be available for public comment in early Fall 2018. There will be an additional public meeting in early Fall 2018 to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Draft EA.

The NPS is committed to working closely with local government stakeholders to ensure the greatest compatibility of the improvements to Buzzard Point Park with the surrounding neighborhood. As transformation occurs within the neighborhood, new issues may come to light that should be further evaluated in the EA. Your assistance with identifying these issues is greatly appreciated, and the NPS would like to schedule an agency meeting to receive comments within your area of expertise.



We would like to schedule a meeting with all of you – please use the following doodle poll <https://doodle.com/poll/danq5as552v4u9n4> to let us know your availability. Please forward to those in your agency or other agencies that would be interested in coordinating on this project.

In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions or need more additional information.

Thanks –

Tammy Stidham

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Tammy Stidham  
Chief, Planning, Compliance & GIS  
National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242  
voice - (202)619-7474  
mobile - (202)438-0028  
[tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov)





# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1. A.1. (NCR-NACE)

April 9, 2018

Robert Gray  
Chief / Tribal Administrator  
Pamunkey Indian Tribe  
1054 Pocahontas Trail  
King William, Virginia 23086

Dear Chief Gray:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to Buzzard Point Park in Southwestern District of Columbia. We would like to extend an invitation to you for Government-to-Government consultation to exchange information on the proposed improvements, particularly as the action may affect you and your Tribe. For your reference, we prepared an enclosed graphic illustration of the project study area (Attachment 1).

### Project Description and Background

During 2018's Year of the Anacostia, NPS is celebrating the Anacostia River watershed, its history, the progress to the health of the river and the exciting things happening on its banks, like Buzzard Point Park. The planned improvements at Buzzard Point Park are envisioned to create an enjoyable and unique community waterfront park where everyone can go to relax and enjoy the Anacostia River.

The process to reimagine the park began in the summer of 2016 and with the help of many stakeholders, a vision was created for the new recreational opportunities and improvements the Park. Following extensive public outreach, two preliminary concepts for the Buzzard Point Park improvements were presented at a public scoping meeting held on December 13, 2016:

**Concept 1** transforms the park into a linear waterfront and gateway park serving as the entrance to the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Proposed features include a continuation of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) (designed as a multi-use trail with access for bikers and pedestrians alike) and a pedestrian-only promenade. The ART and pedestrian-only promenade would be separated by landscape features such as grass dunes and open lawn areas. The shoreline includes a terraced ledge to provide uninterrupted access to the water's edge.

**Concept 2** retains all the same park design features as Concept 1 (i.e., continuation of the ART, a separate pedestrian-only promenade, grass dunes, etc.), but places a portion of the ART on an elevated structure out in the river. By elevating the ART over the water, a unique park experience is created, with the potential to become a new D.C. attraction. Along the elevated trail, overlooks have been incorporated to take advantage of city and river views.



Concept 1



Concept 2

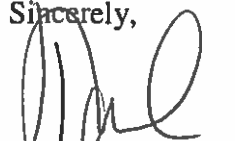
After receiving comments and suggestions during a 45-day comment period, the two design concepts were finalized by the NPS and published in the May 2017 Buzzard Point Park Development Concept Plan (DCP). A copy of the DCP can be found on-line at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BuzzardPointParkDCP>

#### Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the NPS is now preparing an EA to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the planned improvements at Buzzard Point Park. Based on the extensive feedback received and preliminary analysis, the NPS has decided to further evaluate the potential environmental impacts of Concept 1 in the EA. Plans for Concept 1 will be developed to a level appropriate to evaluate in the EA; a No-Action Alternative will also be considered.

We welcome any comments you may have at this time. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Tammy Stidham, Regional Chief of Planning at 202-619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

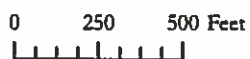


Tara D. Morrison  
Superintendent

Enclosure

# BUZZARD POINT PARK

# Environmental Assessment for Proposed Buzzard Point Park Improvements Washington, D.C.





# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

### 1. A.1. (NCR-NACE)

Ms. Kimberly Penrod  
Director, Cultural Resources  
Delaware Nation  
P.O. Box 825  
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear Ms. Penrod:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to Buzzard Point Park in Southwestern District of Columbia. We would like to extend an invitation to you for Government-to-Government consultation to exchange information on the proposed improvements, particularly as the action may affect you and your Tribe. For your reference, we prepared an enclosed graphic illustration of the project study area (Attachment 1).

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Concept 1



Concept 2

After receiving comments and suggestions during a 45-day comment period, the two design concepts were finalized by the NPS and published in the May 2017 Buzzard Point Park Development Concept Plan (DCP). A copy of the DCP can be found on-line at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BuzzardPointParkDCP>

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We welcome any comments you may have at this time. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Tammy Stidham, Regional Chief of Planning at 202-619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Tara D. Morrison  
Superintendent

Enclosure



# BUZZARD POINT PARK

Environmental Assessment for Proposed  
Buzzard Point Park Improvements  
Washington, D.C.

0 250 500 Feet







# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1. A.1. (NCR-NACE)

April 9, 2018

Dr. Wenonah G. Haire  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Catawba Indian Nation  
1536 Tom Steven Road  
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Dear Dr. Haire:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to Buzzard Point Park in Southwestern District of Columbia. We would like to extend an invitation to you for Government-to-Government consultation to exchange information on the proposed improvements, particularly as the action may affect you and your Tribe. For your reference, we prepared an enclosed graphic illustration of the project study area (Attachment 1).

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Concept 1



Concept 2

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We welcome any comments you may have at this time. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Tammy Stidham, Regional Chief of Planning at 202-619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara D. Morrison'.

Tara D. Morrison  
Superintendent

Enclosure



# BUZZARD POINT PARK

Environmental Assessment for Proposed  
Buzzard Point Park Improvements  
Washington, D.C.

0 250 500 Feet



## Lord, Jessica

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**From:** Stidham, Tammy <tammy\_stidham@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2018 8:25 AM  
**To:** Williams, Rick  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tribal Consultation for Buzzard Point Park EA, Washington, DC

FYI

-----  
Tammy Stidham  
Chief, Planning, Compliance & GIS  
National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242  
voice - (202)619-7474  
mobile - (202)438-0028  
[tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Commisso, Michael** <[michael\\_commisso@nps.gov](mailto:michael_commisso@nps.gov)>  
Date: Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 10:11 AM  
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tribal Consultation for Buzzard Point Park EA, Washington, DC  
To: Tammy Stidham <[tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov)>, Joel Gorder <[joel\\_gorder@nps.gov](mailto:joel_gorder@nps.gov)>, Robert Mocko <[robert\\_mocko@nps.gov](mailto:robert_mocko@nps.gov)>, "Birmingham, Katherine" <[katherine\\_birmingham@nps.gov](mailto:katherine_birmingham@nps.gov)>, Eola Dance <[eola\\_dance@nps.gov](mailto:eola_dance@nps.gov)>, "Kelly, Sophia" <[sophia\\_kelly@nps.gov](mailto:sophia_kelly@nps.gov)>

For your records.

Mike

-----  
*Please note, I am out of the office on detail to National Capital Parks-East. For National Mall and Memorial Parks related issues, please contact Catherine Dewey at (202) 245-4711. Thank you.*

**Michael Commisso**  
Acting Chief of Resource Management  
National Capital Parks-East  
[1900 Anacostia Drive](#) SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
202.690.5160 office  
202.494.6905 cell

Cultural Resources Program Manager  
National Mall and Memorial Parks  
National Park Service  
[900 Ohio Drive, SW](#)  
[Washington, DC 20024](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kimberly Penrod** <[kpenrod@delawarenation.com](mailto:kpenrod@delawarenation.com)>

Date: Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 10:05 AM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tribal Consultation for Buzzard Point Park EA, Washington, DC

To: "Commisso, Michael" <[michael\\_commisso@nps.gov](mailto:michael_commisso@nps.gov)>

Michael,

The protection of our tribal cultural resources and tribal trust resources will take all of us working together.

We look forward to working with you and your agency.

With the information you have submitted we can concur at present with this proposed plan.

As with any new project, we never know what may come to light until work begins.

The Delaware Nation asks that you keep us up to date on the progress of this project and

if any discoveries arise please contact us immediately.

Our department is trying to go as paper free as possible. If it is at all feasible for your office to send email correspondence we would greatly appreciate.

If you need anything additional from me please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Respectfully,*

*Kim Penrod*

*Delaware Nation*

*Director, Cultural Resources/106*

*Archives, Library and Museum*

*31064 State Highway 281*

*PO Box 825*

*Anadarko, OK 73005*

*(405)-247-2448 Ext. 1403 Office*

*(405)-924-9485 Cell*

*[kpenrod@delawarenation.com](mailto:kpenrod@delawarenation.com)*

*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. ~Dr. Seuss*

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:

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**From:** Commisso, Michael [mailto:[michael\\_commisso@nps.gov](mailto:michael_commisso@nps.gov)]

**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2018 7:20 AM

**To:** Kimberly Penrod <[kpenrod@delawarenation.com](mailto:kpenrod@delawarenation.com)>; Eola Dance <[eola\\_dance@nps.gov](mailto:eola_dance@nps.gov)>; Kelly, Sophia <[sophia\\_kelly@nps.gov](mailto:sophia_kelly@nps.gov)>; Robert Mocko <[robert\\_mocko@nps.gov](mailto:robert_mocko@nps.gov)>; Tammy Stidham <[tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov)>; Birmingham, Katherine <[katherine\\_birmingham@nps.gov](mailto:katherine_birmingham@nps.gov)>

**Subject:** Tribal Consultation for Buzzard Point Park EA, Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Penrod:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to Buzzard Point Park in Southwestern District of Columbia. We would like to extend an invitation to you for Government-to-Government consultation to exchange information on the proposed improvements, particularly as the action may affect you and your Tribe.

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If you have any questions, contact Ms. Tammy Stidham, Regional Chief of Planning at 202-619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Thank you,

Mike

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*Please note, I am out of the office on detail to National Capital Parks-East. For National Mall and Memorial Parks related issues, please contact Catherine Dewey at (202) 245-4711. Thank you.*

**Michael Commisso**

Acting Chief of Resource Management

National Capital Parks-East

[1900 Anacostia Drive](#) SE

Washington, DC 20020

202.690.5160 office

202.494.6905 cell

Cultural Resources Program Manager

National Mall and Memorial Parks

National Park Service

[900 Ohio Drive, SW](#)

[Washington, DC 20024](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:

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# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Parks - East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## 1. A.2. (NCR-NACE)

May 22, 2018

Kimberly Damon-Randall  
Protected Resources Division  
NOAA Fisheries  
Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

RE: Initiate Section 7 Consultation on Endangered Sturgeon in the Anacostia River by  
Buzzard Point Park Improvements Project, Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Damon-Randall:

The National Park Service is initiating informal Section 7 Endangered Species Act, as amended 1973, consultation for improvements to Buzzard Point Park, a part of National Capital Parks-East in southeastern Washington, D.C. along the Anacostia River (Attachments 1&2). Two species of sturgeon may be transient but are unlikely to be present: shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) and the endangered Atlantic sturgeon (all five distinct population segments, *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*). There is no designated critical habitat in the Anacostia River (Attachment 3, NMFS DPS Deck Map #10). The purpose of the project is to transform the park into a linear waterfront and gateway park serving as the entrance to the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Proposed features include a continuation of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) designed as a shared use path and a pedestrian-only promenade. The ART and pedestrian-only promenade would be separated by landscape features such as grass dunes and open lawn areas.

### **Project Description and Action Area**

The Anacostia River is a tributary of the Potomac River. The Buzzard Point Park Improvements Project begins approximately 2,350 feet northeast from the junction of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. Buzzard Point Park contains approximately 1,200 linear feet of shoreline along the Anacostia River. The proposed improvements include reconstruction of the shoreline to provide continuous access to the waterfront (Attachments 1&2).



## **Description of Action**

The existing shoreline has four different edge treatments, including a concrete platform, concrete/stone revetments, a concrete boat ramp, and sections of natural shoreline comprised of rocks and vegetation. The existing concrete and stone structures are proposed to be removed as part of the project. The proposed shoreline would include constructing a terraced ledge along a portion of the shoreline. Reconstruction of other portions of the shoreline are proposed to include a softer, more natural shoreline (possibly including stone sills or breakwaters to dissipate wave energy) will be considered during the design process.

## **Effects Determination**

By observing time-of-year restrictions from 15 February to 15 June, individual sturgeon of adult, sub-adult, or juveniles are unlikely to be exposed to any direct or indirect construction activities in the water. Furthermore, best management practices will reduce any amount of sediment or decrease in water quality that may occur from the in-river construction activities. There are no anticipated effects from the proposed action later in time or outside the Action Area.

## **Conservation Measures**

To avoid or minimize the impacts to the extent possible, the following conservation measures will be implemented:

- The proposed work is located along the Anacostia River, which is outside of the designated Critical Habitat for the Atlantic Sturgeon Chesapeake Bay Distinct Population Segment (Attachment 3);
- Any in-river work would be completed outside of designated time of year restrictions from 15 February to 15 June;
- All appropriate best management practices for Sediment & Erosion control and stormwater management will be used during construction, to minimize impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat.

## **Cumulative Effects**

Other projects along the Anacostia River such as the District of Columbia Department of Transportation/South Capitol Street Bridgebuilders pile driving in-river for the South Capitol Street/Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project will likely be implemented to avoid or minimize project impacts to the sturgeon. Therefore, it is unlikely that adverse cumulative effects to the listed sturgeon would result from the proposed Buzzard Point Park Improvements Project.

## **Conclusion**

Protections consist primarily of adhering to time-of-year restrictions and observing best management practices to minimize impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat to the maximum extent possible. Therefore, the National Park Service concludes that the proposed

activity may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the federally endangered shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon. We request concurrence from NMFS on this determination.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Ms. Tammy Stidham, Regional Chief of Planning at 202-619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vincent Vaisi Acting Supt." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tara D. Morrison  
Superintendent  
Enclosures

cc: Brian Hopper, (410) 573-4592, [Brian.D.Hopper@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.D.Hopper@noaa.gov)





# BUZZARD POINT PARK

Environmental Assessment for Proposed  
Buzzard Point Park Improvements  
Washington, D.C.

0 75 150 Feet  
A scale bar with markings at 0, 75, and 150 feet.







# BUZZARD POINT PARK

Environmental Assessment for Proposed  
Buzzard Point Park Improvements  
Washington, D.C.

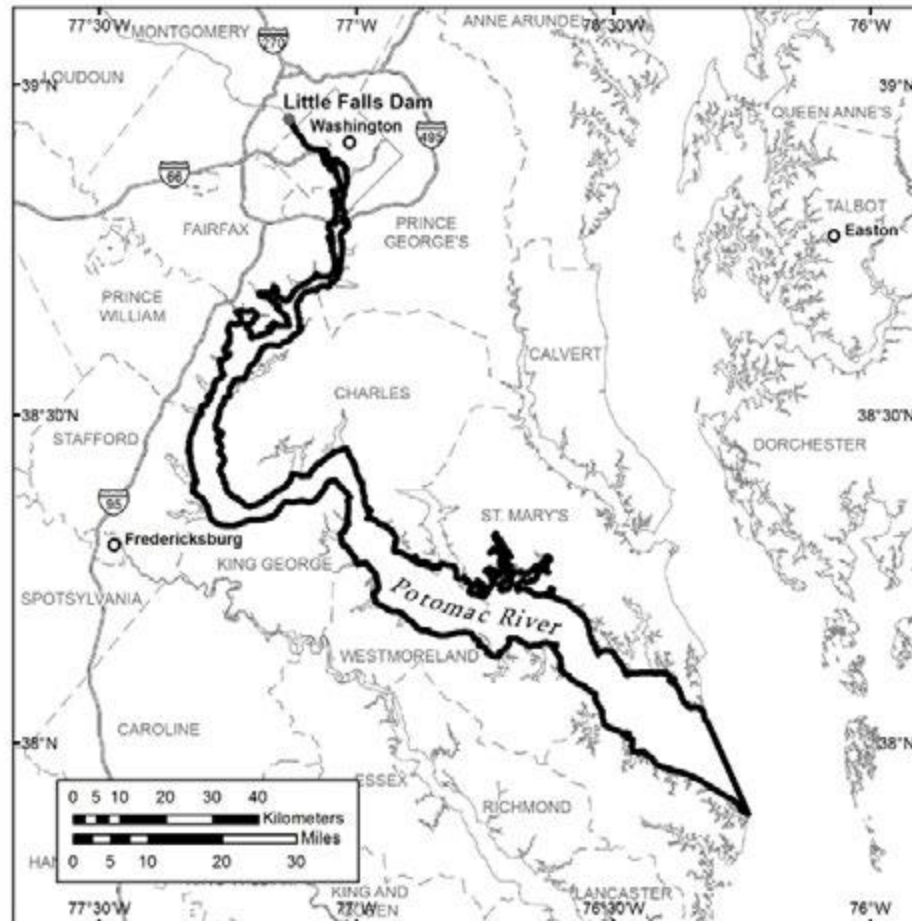
0 850 1,700 Feet





# Chesapeake Bay Unit 2 Potomac River

Map 10



## Legend

Critical Habitat Area



This map illustrates Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat. Critical habitat is all of the river within the illustrated Critical Habitat Area; from the ordinary high water mark of one riverbank to the ordinary high water mark of the opposing riverbank. For clarification of the critical habitat definition, please refer to the narrative description.



### Attachment 3: VIMS Mapping





IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Parks - East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020



1. A.2. (NCR-NACE)

May 23, 2018

Kristy Beard  
NOAA Fisheries  
Habitat Conservation Division  
Annapolis Field Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Consult under the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act for Buzzard Point Park Improvements Project, Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Beard:

The National Park Service is initiating consultation under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661-667e, as amended, concerning potential impacts to migratory fish and habitat by improvements to Buzzard Point Park in southwest Washington, D.C. along the Anacostia River (Attachments 1&2). As the project design progresses, we will apply for a US Army Corps 404 permit. The project is located on federal land administered by National Capital Parks—East, a unit of the National Park Service. The bottom of the Anacostia River within the District of Columbia is administered by the National Park Service. There is no Essential Fish Habitat defined for the Anacostia River. The purpose of the project is to transform the park into a linear waterfront and gateway park serving as the entrance to the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Proposed features include a continuation of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) (designed as a shared use path) and a pedestrian only promenade. The ART and pedestrian-only promenade would be separated by landscape features such as grass dunes and open lawn areas. Specific planting plans will be prepared at a later design phase.

Buzzard Point Park contains approximately 1,400 linear feet of shoreline along the Anacostia River, a freshwater river. The proposed improvements also include reconstruction of the shoreline to provide continuous access to the waterfront. The existing shoreline includes four different edge treatments including a concrete platform, concrete/stone revetments, a concrete boat ramp, and sections of natural shoreline comprised of both rocks and vegetation. The existing concrete and stone structures would be removed as part of the project. The proposed shoreline would include a terraced ledge along a portion of the shoreline. Reconstruction of other portions of the shoreline are proposed to include a combination of stone sills, breakwaters, and vegetated areas to dissipate wave energy. The design of the river's edge will maximize the vegetated portion of the shoreline while protecting the shoreline from erosion. The current total area of estimated impacts into the Anacostia River is 56,000 square feet (1.29 acres).

A review of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) mapping for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) indicated that an area of potential SAV occurs directly off the shoreline in the project area, as shown in Attachment 3. Based upon VIMS mapping, the species of SAV that are potentially impacted include hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillate*), water stargrass (*Heteranthera dubia*), coontail (*Ceratophyllum*

*demrsum*), and wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*). Impacts to the SAV area will be unavoidable due to the need to reconstruct the failing concrete/stone revetments at the site. The loss of SAV will be temporary. We expect the SAV to recolonize once the project ends. Additionally, we propose to increase the riparian and in-water vegetation by maximizing as much of natural shoreline as practicable, which will minimize the adverse impacts of such actions on fish and wildlife resources and habitat. Further conservation measures we will follow are:

- Any in-stream work would be completed outside of designated time of year restrictions for migratory fish (15 February to 15 June) in the Anacostia River;
- All appropriate best management practices for Sediment & Erosion control and stormwater management would be used during construction. Monitoring will also be done to ensure no sediment threatens downstream species and habitat.

The National Park Service concludes that there is no essential fish habitat in the action area. The National Park Service has determined that the activities associated with the Buzzard Point Park Improvements project are not likely to adversely affect migratory fish or their habitat.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Ms. Tammy Stidham, Regional Chief of Planning at 202-619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Tara D. Morrison  
Superintendent

*acting Supt.*

Enclosures

cc: Karen Greene, 732 872-3023 (office), [karen.greene@noaa.gov](mailto:karen.greene@noaa.gov)





# BUZZARD POINT PARK

Environmental Assessment for Proposed  
Buzzard Point Park Improvements  
Washington, D.C.

0 75 150 Feet  
A scale bar with markings at 0, 75, and 150 feet.







# BUZZARD POINT PARK

Environmental Assessment for Proposed  
Buzzard Point Park Improvements  
Washington, D.C.

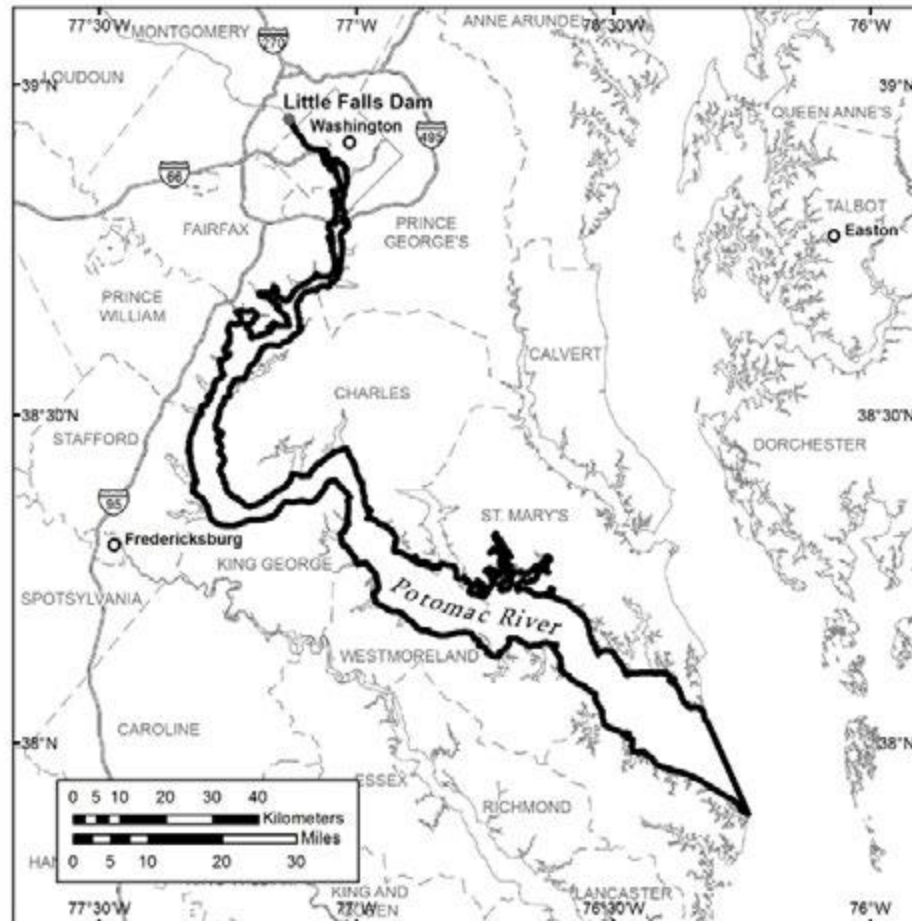
0 850 1,700 Feet





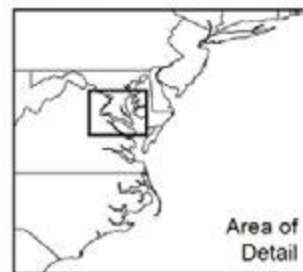
# Chesapeake Bay Unit 2 Potomac River

Map 10



## Legend

 Critical Habitat Area



This map illustrates Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat. Critical habitat is all of the river within the illustrated Critical Habitat Area; from the ordinary high water mark of one riverbank to the ordinary high water mark of the opposing riverbank. For clarification of the critical habitat definition, please refer to the narrative description.

### Attachment 3: VIMS Mapping



## Lord, Jessica

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**From:** Tammy Stidham <tammy\_stidham@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 18, 2018 10:19 AM  
**To:** Williams, Rick  
**Cc:** Michael Commisso; Robert Mocko; Joel Gorder  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] NMFS ESA sec 7 - Buzzard Point Park

Please see below

-----  
Tammy Stidham  
Chief, Planning, Compliance & GIS  
National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242  
voice - (202)619-7474  
mobile - (202)438-0028  
[tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov)



----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Brian D Hopper - NOAA Federal <[brian.d.hopper@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.d.hopper@noaa.gov)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 10:12 AM  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMFS ESA sec 7 - Buzzard Point Park  
**To:** Stidham, Tammy <[tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kristy Beard <[kristy.beard@noaa.gov](mailto:kristy.beard@noaa.gov)>

Hi Tammy,

I received your email and attached letter on May 29, 2017 requesting concurrence with your determination that the activities at the Buzzards Point Park Improvements Project on the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. are not likely to adversely affect any federally listed threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction.

We have reviewed the information provided by your office and have concluded that no federally listed threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction will be exposed to direct or indirect effects of the proposed action.

NMFS Protected Resources Division does not intend to offer additional comments on this proposal. Should project plans change or new information become available that changes the basis for this determination, further coordination should be pursued. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me (410-573-4592; [brian.d.hopper@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.d.hopper@noaa.gov)).

NMFS' Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) is responsible for overseeing programs related to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designated under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other NOAA trust resources under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. If you have any questions regarding EFH, please contact Kristy Beard (410-573-4542 or [kristy.beard@noaa.gov](mailto:kristy.beard@noaa.gov)).

Regard,

-Brian

--

Brian D. Hopper  
Protected Resources Division  
NOAA Fisheries  
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Dr.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 573-4592  
[Brian.D.Hopper@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.D.Hopper@noaa.gov)  
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

August 15, 2018

Tammy Stidham  
Chief, Planning, Compliance & GIS  
National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242

RE: Consultation under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for Buzzard Point Park  
Improvements Project in Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Stidham:

We have reviewed the information you provided to us regarding the above referenced project. Until design progresses and you can provide us with project plans, we can only provide you with general guidance. As you move forward with project design and apply for your Department of the Army Permits, please continue to coordinate with us so that we can provide more specific recommendations.

We offer the following preliminary comments pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and Endangered Species Act,

**Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act**

The Anacostia River provides habitat for a variety of NOAA trust resources. It serves as nursery and forage area for anadromous fish such as alewife, blueback herring, American shad, and hickory shad, and herring spawning is documented to occur in the area. Efforts should be made to avoid and minimize adverse effects to the aquatic environment, particularly related to the release of suspended sediment in the waterway. Depending on project specifics, time of year restrictions may be necessary to protect migrating and spawning fish during in-water work. Work that would impact submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) (e.g., from the use of equipment, placement of material, or turbidity) should be restricted during the SAV growing season from April 15 through October 15.

**Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act – Essential Fish Habitat**

The project location is within the tidal freshwater portion of the Anacostia River. Essential fish habitat (EFH) has only been designated in the mixing zone and seawater portions of the Chesapeake Bay, therefore there is no EFH designated in the project area.





For a listing of EFH and further information, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat>.

### **Endangered Species Act**

Threatened or endangered species under the jurisdiction of NMFS may be present in the project area. As the lead federal action agency, you are responsible for determining the nature and extent of effects and coordinating with our Protected Resources Division as appropriate. Please be aware that our website at <http://greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/section7> has guidance and tools to assist action agencies with their description of the action and analysis of effects to support their determination. Should you have any questions about the Section 7 consultation process, please contact please contact Brian Hopper at [brian.d.hopper@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.d.hopper@noaa.gov) or 410- 573-4592.

We look forward to our continued coordination with you as this project as it moves forward. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kristy Beard in our Annapolis field office at [kristy.beard@noaa.gov](mailto:kristy.beard@noaa.gov) or 410-573-4542.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen M. Greene".

Karen M. Greene  
Mid-Atlantic Field Office Supervisor






**United States Department of the Interior**  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chesapeake Bay Field Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410/573 4575



## Online Certification Letter

Today's date:

Project:   


Dear Applicant for online certification:

Thank you for using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Chesapeake Bay Field Office online project review process. By printing this letter in conjunction with your project review package, you are certifying that you have completed the online project review process for the referenced project in accordance with all instructions provided, using the best available information to reach your conclusions. This letter, and the enclosed project review package, completes the review of your project in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (ESA). This letter also provides information for your project review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, 83 Stat. 852), as amended. A copy of this letter and the project review package must be submitted to this office for this certification to be valid. This letter and the project review package will be maintained in our records.

Based on this information and in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we certify that except for occasional transient individuals, no federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. For additional information on threatened or endangered species in Maryland, you should contact the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division at (410) 260-8573. For information in Delaware you should contact the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-8658. For information in the District of Columbia, you should contact the National Park Service at (202) 339-8309.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also works with other Federal agencies and states to minimize loss of wetlands, reduce impacts to fish and migratory birds, including bald eagles, and restore habitat for wildlife. Information on these conservation issues and how development projects can avoid affecting these resources can be found on our website ([www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay](http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay))

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interest in these resources. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Chesapeake Bay Field Office Threatened and Endangered Species program at (410) 573-4527.

Sincerely,

Genevieve LaRouche  
Field Supervisor



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Chesapeake Bay Ecological Services Field Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401-7307  
Phone: (410) 573-4599 Fax: (410) 266-9127

<http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/>  
<http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/endsppweb/ProjectReview/Index.html>

In Reply Refer To:

February 04, 2019

Consultation Code: 05E2CB00-2018-SLI-0636

Event Code: 05E2CB00-2019-E-01567

Project Name: Improvements to Buzzard Point Park

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. This species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan ([http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\\_guidance.html](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
  - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
  - Wetlands
-

## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Chesapeake Bay Ecological Services Field Office**

177 Admiral Cochrane Drive

Annapolis, MD 21401-7307

(410) 573-4599

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 05E2CB00-2018-SLI-0636

Event Code: 05E2CB00-2019-E-01567

Project Name: Improvements to Buzzard Point Park

Project Type: DEVELOPMENT

**Project Description:** The National Park service is planning improvements to Buzzard Point Park in Southwest District of Columbia. The NPS plans to transform the park into a linear waterfront and gateway park serving as the entrance to the Buzzard Point neighborhood. Proposed features include a continuation of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) (designed as a multi-use trail with access for bikers and pedestrians alike) and a pedestrian-only promenade. The ART and pedestrian-only promenade would be separated by landscape features such as grass dunes and open lawn areas. The shoreline includes a terraced ledge to provide uninterrupted access to the water's edge.

**Project Location:**

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/38.86469985248442N77.01061566728973W>



Counties: District of Columbia, DC

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 0 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

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# USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

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# Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

## RIVERINE

- [R1UBV](#)
-