



August 13, 2021

Reimagine Anacostia Park! A Concept Plan for Sections D & E

The Capital Trails Coalition supports the broader framework of the announced concept plan for Sections D & E of Anacostia Park from 11th St Bridge to the CSX bridge.

We fully support the draft vision statement and commend the park for the strong emphasis on becoming a welcoming space that connects neighbors and creates a park for daily life recreation for District residents. Given the geographic scope of the project, the four focus areas of Access and Connectivity, Waterfront Activation, Community Fellowship, and Active Recreation are good and would strengthen the Anacostia River Trail which is part of the regional Capital Trails Network.

Sections D & E have a strong baseline for active trail recreation and transportation on the Anacostia River Trail, so we urge the park to think big about increasing safe and welcoming connections to the park, especially from Fairlawn and Greenway, and increasingly frequent, hassle-free transit access to the park. Without many welcoming access points, the park cannot be part of daily life for neighbors.

In an increasingly hot world, park users need more than currently available gathering spots, shade, benches, water fountains, and more for a safe and healthy visit.

We would like to stress the need to replace the Anacostia River Trail ramps to remove the 2-inch lip to make ramps accessible and compliant to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.