ANACOSTIA CROSSING

A PLACE OF EXCHANGE
Our design for the 11th Street Bridge Park—the Anacostia Crossing—is a place of exchange. The park at Anacostia Crossing will connect two historically disparate sides of the river with a series of outdoor programmed spaces and active zones that will provide an engaging place hovering above, yet anchored into, the Anacostia River.

Paths from each side of the river operate as springboards—shaped ramps that extend visitors to experience both river points in different directions. Extending over the river, the diagonal paths create a bridge, extending the landscape to the river and providing a comfortable, continuous space for people to walk or bike across the river on a single gesture. The resulting forms of the bridge create an iconic encounter, in the vividly recognizable as an icon length of the river.

While the bridge is a unique and iconic structure, its character and essence are marked in making this river a landscape accessible to the community. The programmed activity and interactive elements the bridge will provide are an example of unique and cultural history of the region. To encourage visitors to come and spend time on the bridge and neighboring connection throughout the year, amenities for comfort and refreshment (restrooms and food, refreshments and outdoor events) have been included, and opportunities for seasonal programming are provided along the entire length of the bridge, including events with iconic parks and prominent landmarks.

At the intersection of the two sides, an open plaza will provide a flexible space for gathering and events based on the conditions of the paths on either side. Markets, festivals, and theatrical performances held throughout the year at Sculpture Garden will be used in the program.

The extended arms, continuing at a 45% slope, create a sequence of spaces developed for use, relaxation, learning, and gathering. Two large, open platforms that provide shade and sheltered areas for the view on the southeast side and the performance space and Remarre Grove on the northwestern side.

At the elevated ends, each also forms a space to view the Anacostia River, the buildings of the bridge, and the prominent buildings within Washington, DC and the Potomac River. The bridge will create a strong visual connection to the river basin. On the southeast side, the waterfalls are located as an active interaction of the river and the bridge. The waterfalls create a waterway extending from the bridge to the river basin.

Much like the waters of the nearby Chesapeake Bay estuary, where salt and fresh waters mix to create rich biological diversity, the Anacostia Crossing creates a place for sharing the rich cultural diversity of communities on both sides of the river. The full integration of architecture, landscape, and infrastructure allows for the creation of a socially sustainable civic experience.
Ecology

RIVER ECOLOGY & PLANTING
A multi-functional landscape, our proposal captures the daily cycles and seasonal rhythms of the magnificent Anacostia watershed.

Along the Anacostia River, the design introduces a water taxi landing, boardwalk, "beach", and canoe and kayak rental. On top of the bridge, deck waterfalls allow the public to engage with water and water in its delight as it makes calming sounds and sparkles in the sunlight.

Native plantings reflecting the essence of the larger landscape, both uplands and wetlands are proposed both on the bridge and on the adjacent land both to the west and east of the river.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
The Environmental Education Center will provide a variety of programs which tell the river’s more than 400 year history of how the Anacostia watershed lost much of its original hardwood forest cover, grassland meadows and tidal wetlands due to the treatment of this landscape by those that lived here as a commodity and not a valued resource.

Anacostia Crossing will be known that illustrates the challenges and opportunities demonstrated by numerous current efforts to clear the river, build communities and educate the next generation of river stewards and engaged citizens. Our design will serve as a catalyst to improve the ecological integrity of the Anacostia River through demonstration and education on ecosystem enhancement as well as restoration shoreline plantings making it once again one of our Nation’s greatest waterways.

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PROGRAMMATIC DIVERSITY
The extended arms of the bridge create a sequence of programmatically engaging zones designated for play, relaxation, learning and gathering.

Anacostia Crossing will facilitate a variety of uses and appeal to a diverse audience from both sides of the river. Large interior areas at the café and Environmental Education Center, as well as large outdoor areas adjacent to them, ensure the potential for year-round use.

The shape and scale of the bridge expands into a wedge shape toward the Anacostia side of the river, providing space for larger programs and anchors that will create new amenities for visitors to the Anacostia Park and attractions to draw visitors across the bridge from the opposite side of the river.

It is estimated that over 2,000 new jobs and $5-10 million in new retail spending will result from the 11th St Bridge Park. The flexible program and event spaces are designed to accommodate both large- and small-scale events such as a 200-person banquet, 500-person celebration or temporary exhibits that can respond dynamically to economic and community opportunities.

A PLACE TO RELAX
Anacostia Crossing offers many amenities for people to come and simply relax. The Great Lawn, which is proposed for the highest point of the Bridge Park, has amazing vistas of the US Capitol building, the Washington Monument, the Frederick Douglass House, and surrounding areas. This will be a spectacular location for practicing yoga and Tai Chi, or simply watching the sun set over the river.

A NEW COMING ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING
The interior spaces of Anacostia Crossing’s learning spaces will feature the Environmental Education Center, where visitors and the community can explore lessons about the enhancement of the local ecosystem. In addition, visitors will be invited to share their own stories about the area, with the recordings projected onto the bridge’s two waterfalls, creating a large-scale, dynamic document of the neighborhood and the people the bridge is connecting.

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SPACES FOR PLAY AND EXPLOREATION
Anchoring the Bridge at Anacostia Park, the 21st Century Play Spaces offer children unique opportunities for playfulness. Children are able to explore the rooftop play area and its "bubble topography," to climb in and out of sculptural elements, to engage with each other and to connect with nature. Apples and lavender are available for rent and are easily accessible both from the atrium above and from the roof and its vertical connection through the Education Center.

UNIQUE PLACES TO GATHER
Anacostia Crossing offers many spaces for people to gather: The café provides a hub for dining and activities throughout the year. The site's garden and urban agriculture area are all clustered around Aquash. Place which provides a flexible space over-looking the river that can be used for a variety of functions, including, tucked within the outreach area of the Anacostia basin, a 1200-seat stopover performance space. It also provides a place for film screenings, lectures and events.
**CONNECTING TWO SIDES OF THE RIVER**

Our design for Anacostia Crossing seeks to connect each community to the river and to simultaneously provide a place where the two neighborhoods can come together.

Entrances to the Bridge Park are strategically located so that they are easily accessible from each side. Programming on the bridge has been arranged to provide important attractions for the neighborhoods on either side.
IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING

Anacostia Crossing will be a catalyst for improving the health of both the river and people that live and work around it.

Fitness and health play an important role. With the Half-Miles Loop linked to the enhanced connections to the Anacostia Riverwalk on both sides of the river, the new path across the new bridge park will also create a more visible link for joggers and cyclists. Linking together the rich landscape of parks west and north of the river (the Anacostia River Park, together with Fort Stanton, Fort Dupont and Fort Chaplin Parks) into a loop of green spaces around Anacostia.

Wellbeing

Anacostia Crossing

URBAN AGRICULTURE GARDEN & CAFE

The urban agriculture garden is located next to the café, serving as an important example for eating fresh fruits and vegetables. Its produce can be served in the café or sold at a green market in the Anacostia Plaza. By partnering with local organizations, the café will host the classes which allow people to learn about both food production and prepare healthy meals. The café will also source its meats with local suppliers and seasonal selections in mind.

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ANACOSTIA CROSSING
To create this place – more destination than elevated thoroughfare – we have designed the Bridge Park as a clear moment of intersection where two sides of the river converge and coexist. Anacostia Crossing will be a site of multiple destinations and layered programs, presenting a new neighborhood park, an after-hours destination for nearby workers, a retreat for residents and a territory for tourists to explore.

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