

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

BANNEKER PARK

Banneker Park presents the opportunity to become a lively national cultural destination considering its prime location and its designation as one of the top 20 memorial sites in Washington. The 6.5 acre site can accommodate a significant memorial or a museum or a concentration of museums and/or memorials in a signature landscape. A signature landscape in this location will become an important civic feature and an identifiable and welcoming southern gateway to the National Mall. This landscape can offer intimate, shaded seating areas, water features, public art, and unique opportunity for commemoration on various levels.

The elevation of Banneker Park presents an opportunity to build a structure or feature on axis with the Smithsonian Castle. This would visually and programmatically extend the civic qualities of the National Mall and Smithsonian Museums to this new destination. This structure would also serve as a pivotal point to extend this connection further, to the Washington Channel and East Potomac Park.

Banneker Park can be redesigned to improve vehicular and pedestrian circulation between the park and Maine Avenue. An innovative landscape design incorporating stairs, ramps, and garden terraces can seamlessly connect the 10th Street overlook and the waterfront at multiple locations. The important elements of the Kiley landscape can potentially be preserved, if it is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or desirable to do so for other reasons.

The topography of Banneker Park also presents opportunities to unobtrusively incorporate a sewer-mining facility, or potentially a parking garage into the hill near the interstate. However, a parking garage for cars or tour buses will likely prevent sponsors from considering the site for a future museum or memorial. In addition bus routes must be designed to keep them on city streets and prevent them from traversing local streets through nearby neighborhoods.

These diagrams, illustrating a portion of the corridor, are intended to show a range of approaches and will be studied and developed in the next phase of work.



(above) - view from the overlook at Banneker Park toward the Wharf and the Washington Channel on the Potomac River (Hoffman-Madison)

EXISTING CONDITIONS STUDY MODEL (2012)



(above) - Banneker Park existing conditions model.