



# Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: December 3, 2020

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>11th Street Bridge Park</b> <b>Transfer of Jurisdiction</b> Anacostia Park 11th Street, SE at Anacostia Drive, SE Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8230
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 9.00(63.00)45230
<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval of Transfer of Jurisdiction per 40 U.S.C. § 8124(a)	<b>APPLICANT'S REQUEST</b> Approval of transfer of jurisdiction
	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b> Approve transfer of jurisdiction
	<b>ACTION ITEM TYPE</b> Consent Calendar

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

The National Park Service (NPS) has submitted a transfer of jurisdiction for approximately three acres to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for the new 11th Street Bridge Park. The Park is a collaboration between the District of Columbia, sponsored by the local non-profit Building Bridges Across the River (BBAR), and involves the transformation of the defunct infrastructure of the old 11th Street Bridge into the District's first elevated park. The park is envisioned to include community driven programming such as outdoor performance spaces, playgrounds, urban agriculture, an environmental education center, and a variety of gathering spaces to connect with the community and the Anacostia River.

The concept for the Bridge Park was initiated as an opportunity to link long-disconnected communities following the reconstruction of the new vehicular 11th Street bridges. Implementation of the 11th Street Bridge Park would involve a portion of the Anacostia Park which is administered by NPS, therefore, necessitating a transfer of jurisdiction between NPS and DDOT. The application includes two new transfers of land and the modification of two existing transfers. The Commission previously approved the preliminary site development plans for the Bridge Park in April 2020, noting that NCPC must approve any transfers of jurisdiction per 40 U.S.C. § 8124(a).

## KEY INFORMATION

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park will cross the Anacostia River in Washington, DC, connecting the Washington Navy Yard on the north and Anacostia Park on the south.
- A national competition, led by Building Bridges Across the River and the District Office of Planning, in coordination with DDOT, selected a conceptual design for the bridge park from the winning team of OMA + OLIN.
- The park will use the piers of the old 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, which was replaced with an adjacent bridge in 2012.

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- The Commission reviewed and approved the preliminary site development plans for the project in June 2020.
  - The project will require a transfer of jurisdiction for portions of the land at the south landing of the park along Anacostia River along Anacostia Drive. NPS has worked with DDOT to prepared and finalize the transfer necessary to facilitate the project.
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## RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

**Approves** the transfer of jurisdiction of approximately three acres from the National Park Service to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for the new 11th Street Bridge Park, generally located near the intersection of 11 Street, SE and Anacostia, Drive, SE.

**Notes** the final transfer may include minor modifications to the plat and legal description as necessary.

## PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

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<b>Previous actions</b>	<b>February 2016</b> – Bridge Park Information Presentation <b>November 2017</b> – Bridge Park Concept Plan Review <b>April 2020</b> – Bridge Park Preliminary Approval
<b>Remaining actions</b> (anticipated)	– Final Approval of Bridge Park

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## PROJECT ANALYSIS

### Executive Summary

The 11th Street Bridge Park, located in southeast Washington, DC, seeks to reuse the existing piers from the old 11th Street Bridge crossing at the Anacostia River to create an urban destination and park that connects from the Navy Yard to Anacostia Park and the surrounding community. The park will be approximately 1000 feet long, 63.5 feet tall at the highest point, and have a site area of over three acres. The design will integrate the bridge architecture, landscape, river setting and program elements into a cohesive design that links neighborhoods on both sides of the river. The park program includes an amphitheater, café, environmental education center and a variety of gathering spaces, as well as bicycle and pedestrian circulation. The project team has coordinated with several federal and local agencies, as well as the local communities.

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The project requires the use of some NPS land located on the east landing of the bridge. The land will remain for park and recreational uses, including trails. NPS has coordinated with DDOT throughout the process. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission approve the transfer of jurisdiction of approximately three acres from the National Park Service to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for the new 11th Street Bridge Park, generally located near the intersection of 11 Street, SE and Anacostia, Drive, SE.** Staff notes that the final transfer may include minor modifications to the plat and legal description as necessary.

### **Analysis**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park is located in the southeast quadrant of Washington, DC, and will be constructed on top of old bridge piers spanning the Anacostia River, connecting the historic Anacostia and Capitol Hill neighborhoods. The project site is located between the Washington Navy Yard on the west and the National Park Service's Anacostia Park on east. The Bridge Park will be the city's first elevated park, an iconic architectural symbol across the Anacostia River, and a new venue for recreation, arts and environmental education. The project is being constructed in coordination with Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC, a local non-profit.

The project design requires portions of land under NPS jurisdiction to be transferred to the District for transportation or park use. At preliminary review, the Commission noted its approval authority over any transfers from federal to District jurisdiction. This application responds to that request. The land will remain for park and recreational uses, including trails, though jurisdiction will shift from NPS to DDOT. NPS has coordinated with DDOT throughout the process. The transfer will help facilitate the implementation of the project, and therefore staff is supportive.

## **CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE**

### **Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital**

As noted previously, the overall project meets basic goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Staff reviewed policies related to parks and open space, urban design, transportation, the environment and visitor experience in evaluating the proposed bridge park. The transfer of jurisdiction will allow for implementation of the project.

### **National Historic Preservation Act**

NCPC has an advisory review of the park project, and therefore does not have an independent responsibility to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). However, NCPC has approval authority over any transfers of jurisdiction between NPS and DDOT and therefore has a NHPA responsibility for that action. To meet its obligation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the NPS has provided documentation from the DC State Historic Preservation Office that indicates that the transfer would have no adverse effect on historic properties, subject to the letter and conditions dated May 20, 2020. NCPC concurs with the finding

and has designated NPS as the lead agency for Section 106 to fulfill its independent obligation under NHPA.

### **National Environmental Policy Act**

As this District project is outside the Central Area, NCPC has an advisory review of the project, and therefore does not have a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) obligation. NPS has determined that the land transfer is eligible for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) under its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) policy and procedures and has provided all applicable documentation. Because NCPC is exercising its approval authority in the review of this transfer of jurisdiction, it has an independent obligation under the NEPA. NCPC is applying its own CATEX to meet this obligation, consistent with §601.12(a)(7) of the agency's environmental policies and procedures, which is stated as follows: Approval of transfers of jurisdiction pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 8124 that are not anticipated to result in changes in land-use and that have no potential for environmental impact. As described above, the land will remain park and recreational use.

## **CONSULTATION**

### **Coordinating Committee**

On November 12, 2020, the Coordinating Committee forwarded the transfer of jurisdiction to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies included NCPC, NPS, the District Department of Energy and Environment, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO), the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, the General Services Administration and the District Department of Transportation. The DC SHPO noted their concurrence with a no adverse effect finding was pursuant to their letter and conditions dated May 20, 2020.

## **ONLINE REFERENCE**

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov):

- Submission Package

Prepared by Matthew Flis  
11/25/2020

## **POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)**

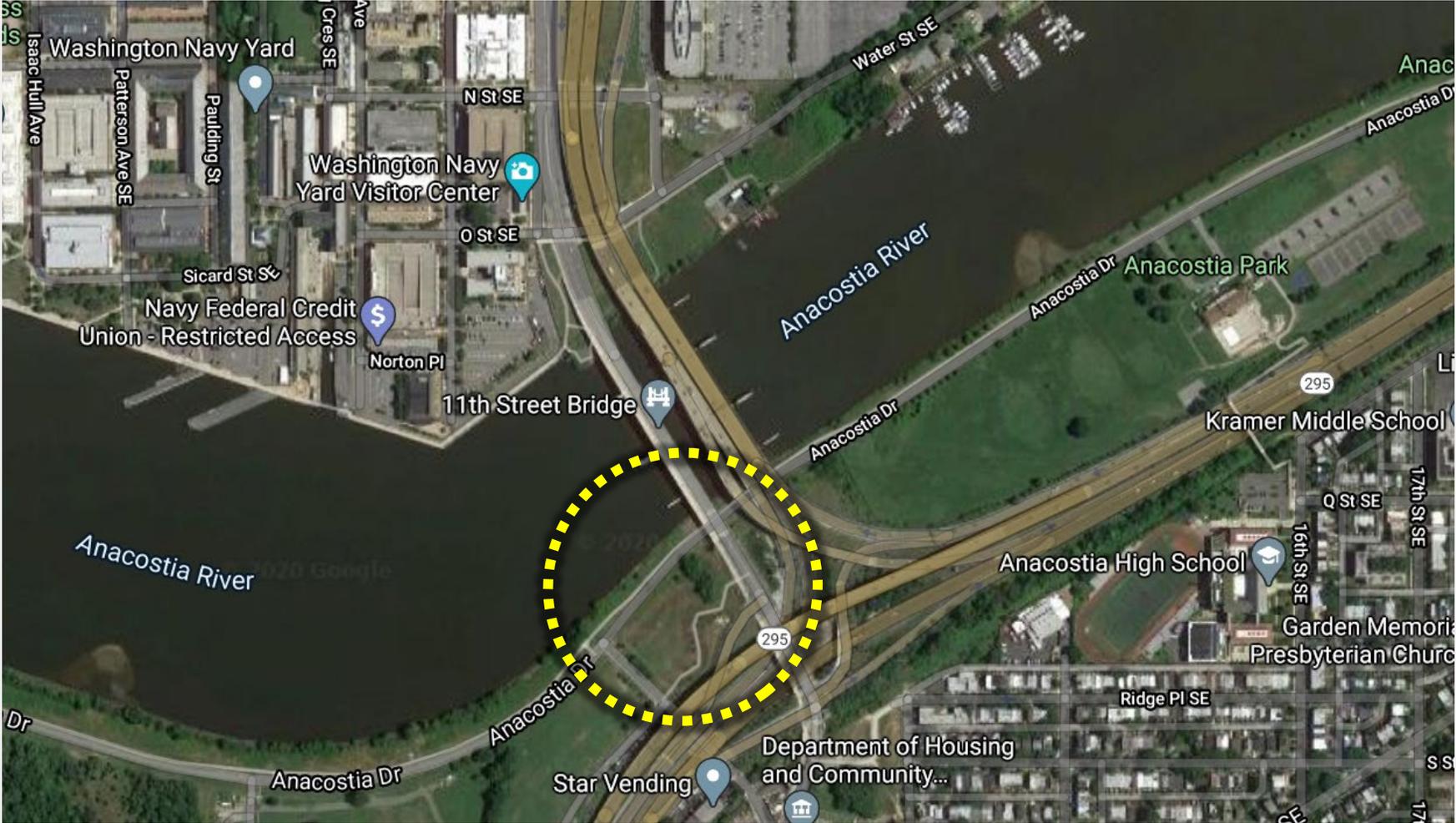
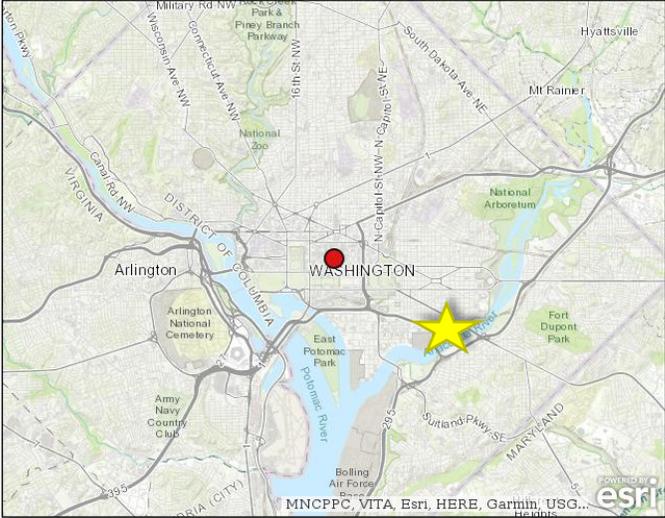
# 11th Street Bridge Park Transfer of Jurisdiction

11th Street Bridge Park  
Anacostia Drive, SE at 11<sup>th</sup> Street, SE

Approval of Transfer of Jurisdiction

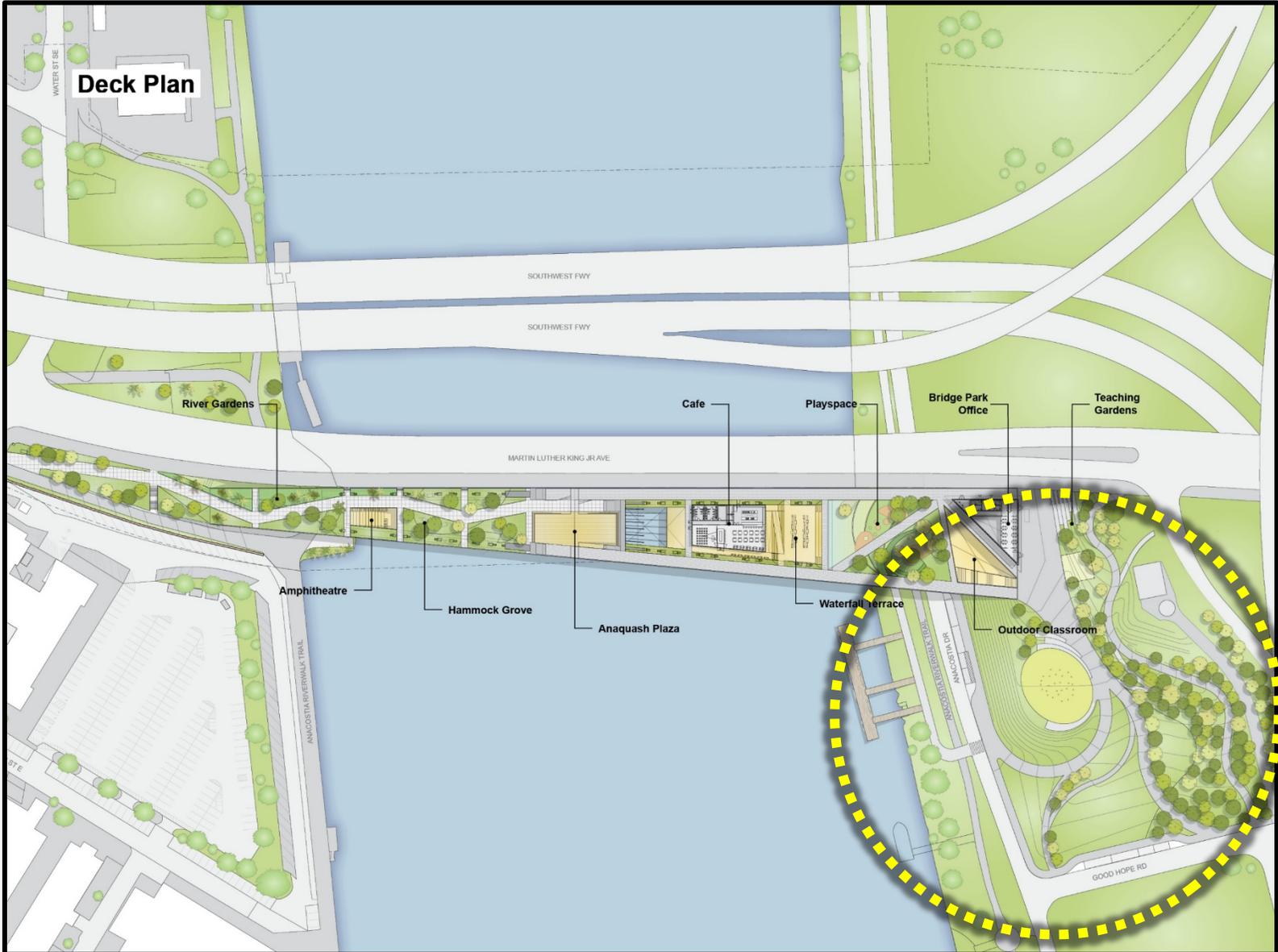
United States Department of the Interior

# Site Location



Location Map

# 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park Programming: Deck Plan



# 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park: View from Navy Yard



# 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park: View from Anacostia



# Transfer of Jurisdiction

