Below are the questions we received from NCPC for the Final Design submission:

1. Can you please submit a project report or narrative that describes the elements you are proposing and why, and what has changed since the preliminary design?

Response:

- **Rain Gardens** – Rain gardens are located at the lower end of the western half of the Bridge Park deck and will treat stormwater from the bridge deck. Educational placards will be placed next to rain gardens to educate the public on the importance of stormwater management for improving water quality.

- **Hammock area and picnic garden** – These would provide space for passive recreation and engagement with the river. These facilities are near the narrowest portion of the Bridge Park deck, as passive recreation requires less space than more active programming and facilities. Local artists have been commissioned to design individual hammocks inspired by local community heroes.

- **Great Lawn** – The Great Lawn is effectively a green roof located over the café and community room that will provide additional space for passive recreation, educational opportunities, and active programming.

- **Café/Community Room** – The National Study of Neighborhood Parks found that “even when a park features great amenities, a beautiful setting, varied programming and easy accessibility, if it doesn’t have public comfort stations, many park users may stay away.” (Ernst et al., 2018). The café would provide comfort facilities, beverages and food to keep park visitors hydrated and comfortable thereby likely increasing their time spent using the other programming the Bridge Park has to offer, and would offer interior shelter during rain, snow, heavy wind, high temperatures, and other weather events. This is expected to be particularly helpful for senior citizens and adults with children. Any proceeds from the café will be used to maintain the programming on the Bridge Park. By placing the café beneath the Great Lawn, both features can be included on the Bridge Park while minimizing deck width and shading. Additionally, the adjacent community room was requested by local stakeholders and to be used for meetings by local ANC’s, civic associations, and non-profits.

- **Play Area** – The National Study of Neighborhood Parks states “the most common reason for going to a park is ‘bringing children’. Play areas account for 25% of children’s park use. Every play element added to a playground increases its use by 50%.” (Ernst et al., 2018). Only a portion of the play area is located over the river. Given its environmental themes, having the play area in close proximity to the Environmental Education Center is expected to further engage children and their families with the river. The play area’s theme is “mussel beach” and will highlight native mollusks in the Anacostia River and the important role they play in improving water quality and providing aquatic habitat.

- **Track with Navy Yard and Anacostia overlooks** – The National Study of Neighborhood Parks states “parks with walking loops were found to have 80 percent more users, over twice as many seniors, and 90 percent higher levels of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity.” The study also found that walking tracks “have by far the greatest positive impact on seniors (who may prefer the relative increased safety of a smooth, uninterrupted path away from motor vehicle traffic).” In addition, “walking loops provide both physical and psychological advantages by attracting a regular community of users who get to know each other and provide social support.” (Ernst et al., 2018). The overlook facing the Anacostia community is
wider, therefore encouraging and accommodating more park visitors to learn of the historic and cultural significance of the area and potentially attract economic investment.

- **Environmental Education Center** – The Environmental Education Center is located at the East end of the bridge deck and will engage the public with the river and educate them on the local environment, its challenges, and ongoing efforts to improve local conditions. Many of the other facilities and programming included on the Bridge Park and nearby Anacostia shoreline are expected to increase engagement with the Environmental Education Center. The Environmental Education Center will be run by the Anacostia Watershed Society, whose mission is to protect and restore the Anacostia River by bringing partners and communities together to achieve a clean and safe Anacostia River for the benefit of all living in its watershed and for future generations.

- **The kayak/canoe launch** will provide access to the water from the East side of the river. It is an essential element in achieving its function of engaging the public with the Anacostia River.

- **River Amphitheater** – The performing arts will be a catalyst for bringing people together, amplify voices of local residents and celebrate the region’s rich history and culture. The River Amphitheater will serve as a venue for concerts, community forums, theater and/or productions from arts groups across the city.

2. Can you tell us the operating hours of the park and the different elements, if known? If the park is intended to be used at night, what is the plan for monitoring the park and if it’s intended to be closed, similar to other DC parks, how will that be accomplished?

*Response:* The operation hours will be similar to other DC parks – sunrise to a little after sunset. The security of the park will be accomplished with on-site park rangers who will monitor and patrol the park, similar to the NPS model. Normal anticipated operating hours of the various elements are attached.

3. Is the proposed kayak launch intended just for use of the rental kayaks or can the public use the launch with their own kayaks? If it is the later, is there any thought given to how the public will bring the kayaks to the launch?

*Response:* The kayak launch will be used for visiting school groups during the week and rentals during the evening and weekends. Those with their personal kayaks or canoes who wish to launch will be directed to the launch further upstream of the bridge park near the skating pavilion.

4. Given the nature of the complex design for the bridge park, it is not easy to understand access across and through the park. Is it possible to combine some of the access maps and information into a rendered angle of the park? I think some of the 3D renderings submitted with the preliminary were helpful in this regard.

*Response:* While we don’t have an overlay of the access plan on the renderings, we do have the project axonometric along with the planting plan that depicts fairly clearly the walking paths and planting areas to define the various walking, biking, accessible connections, and linkages to the existing 11th street local bridge. Please call if the provided information is not clear to demonstrate the access to and through the park.
5. Thank you for providing more details on the lighting. Unfortunately, it is not clear from the submission the impact that the proposed lighting will have on the natural environment of the river and on the South Capitol Street bridge further south. Does the lighting meet Dark Skies goals? Could you provide additional night renderings showing all the proposing lighting?

Response: The proposed lighting will be contained to the Bridge Park and not effect the S. Capitol Street bridge in any way. The proposed lighting achieves the LEED lighting Pollution Reduction credit using BUG method. Images are attached to demonstrate the proposed lighting effects.

6. Thank you as well for providing more details on the proposed fencing. Can you help us understand the fencing choice and material? The proposed fencing feels dense and industrial, and we are concerned about scalability.

Response: The presentation has been revised to include full scale mock-ups of the proposed railing. Additionally, the mock-up with the integrated lighting is available to be viewed at THEARC upon request. We can schedule a date and time that works best for NCPC to come out and view the mock-up prior to the October meeting. The design used the grid to make sure it was a theme that could be used not only as a railing element but repeated as part of the cladding design using similar but smaller scale grid FRP material on the Café, Environmental Education Center and the Central Utility Plant. The railing was something that could accentuate the architectural lines of the structure but be see through and meet the requirements for railings on bridges while be cost effective. The grid pattern was evaluated with a few mock-ups sizes of the grid to come to the latest fabricated mock ups to meet the intended look and function of the railing at various viewing angles and the intent of the design throughout the project site.

7. Will the design include security provisions like emergency phones or life preservers for potential attempts or direct-to-police communications points for potential crime situations.

Response: At this time emergency phones and life preservers are not anticipated to be provided. The security of the park will be accomplished with on-site park rangers who will monitor and patrol the park similar to the NPS model. In addition, CCTV cameras are planned to be placed throughout the project and fed back to the ranger station for monitoring.

8. Do the park improvements on the east side of the Anacostia River count towards the District’s requirement to set aside 70 acres of Poplar Point for park purposes? If not, it will reduce the area the district has available for future development. (In the past NPS has said it does NOT count toward the 70 acres).

Response: The park improvements will not count towards the set aside 70 acres of Poplar Point for park purposes. We are working on the answer regarding the area the district has available for future development.