



Complete The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART)



Above: Artist's rendition of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, showing the portion that will cross under the Amtrak bridge and the New York Avenue/US50 undercrossing. (Image supplied by the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative)

Project Description. The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) is a new recreational amenity and transportation alternative. The 20-mile trail along the Anacostia River and waterfront will connect neighborhoods, communities, commercial, and recreational destinations.

Once complete, the multi-use trail will provide seamless, scenic travel for pedestrians and bicyclists along the River to the Fish Market, Nationals Park, Historic Anacostia, RFK Stadium, the National Arboretum and 16 communities between the National Mall at the Tidal Basin and Bladensburg Marina Park in Maryland.

The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail will connect to the Anacostia Tributary Trail System in Maryland, providing additional transportation and recreation opportunities.

The ten-to-twelve-foot-wide trail is designed for a range of users—from cyclists to runners, skaters and walkers—and also provides seating, system maps, bike racks, and interactive maps.

Background. The ART is a key component of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) that seeks to create a hub of

economic development around the waterfront, bringing thousands of new jobs as well as residents and visitors to the area. The AWI is a product of a commitment made by 20 Federal and local agencies to cooperatively develop a vision for the waterfront. This project will help connect the historically isolated communities east of the Anacostia River to the prosperous and growing economies west of the River.

Key design elements of the ART are:

- inclusion of rain gardens and bioswales to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water;
- installation of shared-use paths and educational signage;
- enhancement of trail viewsheds to bring users closer to the river's edge, and
- minimizing the impacts of paving on other trail infrastructure and the natural environment.

Current Status. The restoration of the Anacostia River watershed and the development of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail have been identified as priority projects by the Obama Administration, under the Presi-

Mega-Project* Profile: The Anacostia Riverfront Trail Park

Estimated cost: \$100 to
\$120 million (preliminary)

Percentage of NCR's FLTP
Annual Allotment: 666% to
800%

Percentage of NPS FLTP
Annual Allotment: 41 to 50%



Top: Pedestrians and cyclists enjoy the trail segment along Maine Avenue, looking east. (Photo by DDOT DC)



Bottom: Looking northeast upon exiting Nationals Park along a segment of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. (Photo by Thomas Cizauskas)

dent's Great Outdoors Initiative and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. To date, twelve of the ultimately twenty miles of the ART are already open and are heavily used. The NPS has partnered with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), as well as various local jurisdictions on the

segments of the ART in Anacostia Park and Kenilworth Gardens.

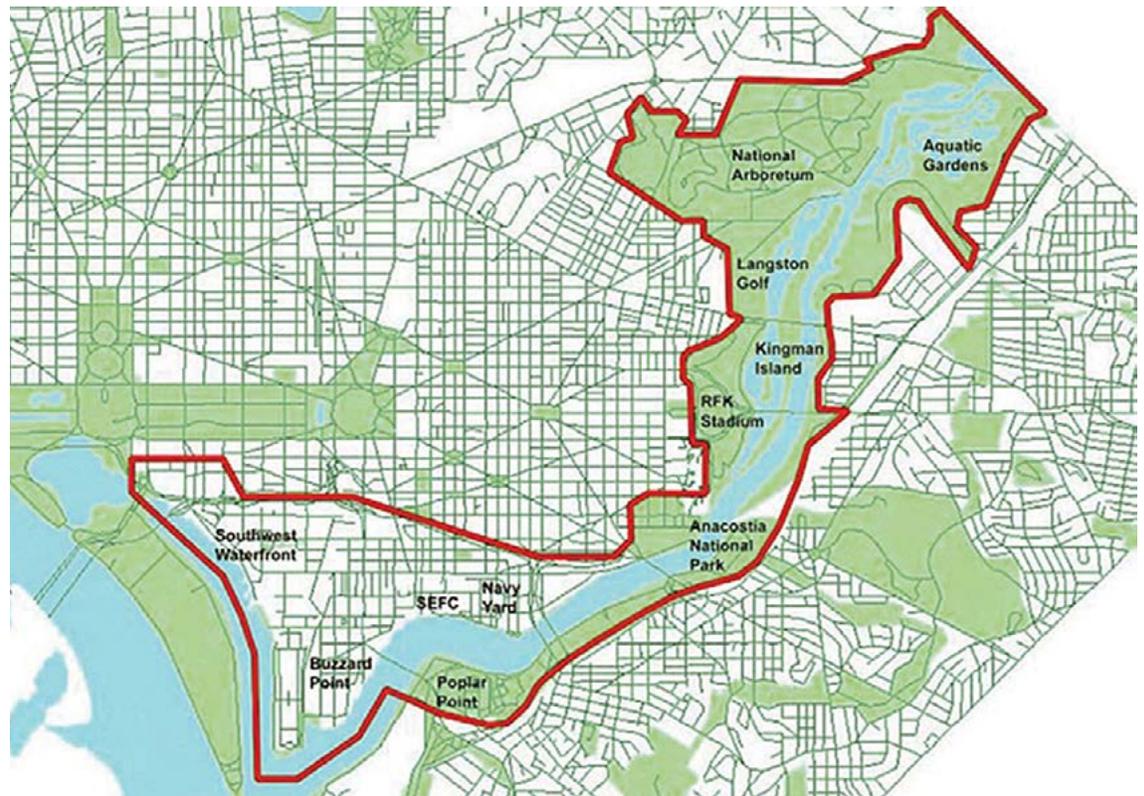
The ART segments traversing NPS land contain bridges, raised walkways, multi-use paths and sidewalk connections that run through woodlands, tidal marshes, grassed areas, and urban streetscapes. The design is sensitive to the NPS stewardship and

environmental goals, while at the same time maintaining consistency and the identity associated with the overall Anacostia Riverwalk Trail System. This has enhanced both the visitor experience and the visual and aesthetic qualities of the park.

Funding. To date more than \$50 million has been invested in Maine Avenue segment, the development and installation of bridges with fiber-reinforced polymer decks (with reduced long-term maintenance costs), and the Anacostia Park and Kenilworth Gardens segments. Additional segments are planned at the U.S. Arboretum that will include multiple bridges and boardwalks estimated at a cost of \$15 million. Other connections near South Capitol Street, Oxen Cove Park, and Bolling Air Force Base have been proposed, but no funding has been identified to date.

It is critical that the remaining segments of the ART are completed and opened to the public. The ART linkages to trail systems in Maryland and the District of Columbia will create one of the longest metropolitan trail systems in the country. Additional federal funding would assist in leveraging other funding sources with local partners, and help implement the vision of a connected, functional commuting and recreational trail system for pedestrians and bicyclists.

* Mega Projects: The NPS transportation system is supported, in part, by funds from the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP). Currently, the NPS receives about \$250M/year from the FLTP. These funds are apportioned by formula among the seven NPS Regions. Most of these funds are used for "transportation asset management" – that is, to pay for the work required to keep existing assets in good condition. There are some projects, such as a major bridge repair or ship replacement, that require a much larger amount of funding than is available on an annual basis to the Region. These we call "Mega Projects." The NPS is trying to come up with a way to fund them.



The completed Anacostia Riverwalk Trail will stretch a total of twenty miles along the east and west banks of the Anacostia River. (Map by American Society of Landscape Architects - ASLA)