

APPROACH 11TH STREET BRIDGE PARK

The 11th Street Bridge Park is a grassroots led project to repurpose a decaying railway trestle crossing Washington D.C.'s Anacostia River as a new park. The grassroots initiative was adopted by Anacostia-based non-profit Building Bridges Across the River (BBAR), which led a design competition to select a designer for the proposed park. OMA and OLIN were selected as the winning design team to turn this idea into a reality.

While the bridge will be a unique and iconic structure, its character and essence are rooted in making this river landscape accessible to the community. Through programmed activities the bridge will showcase the region's unique cultural and natural history. To encourage visitors to spend time on the bridge and neighboring communities throughout the year, amenities for comfort and refreshment (restrooms and food), mitigation of climate extremes (shade and warmth), and opportunities for seasonal programming are provided along the entire length of the bridge. The intent of this design is to create a place for sharing the rich cultural diversity of communities on both sides of the river.

Once completed, the 11th Street Bridge Park will connect two historically disparate sides of the river. As Ward 6 / Capitol Hill has experienced increasing investment and population growth, Ward 8 has experienced little to no investment in the past several decades, much to the detriment of its residents. Ultimately, the park will provide an intersection where communities on both sides of the river -- which have been socially, economically, and politically disparate -- to converge and coexist.



INJUSTICE

97% of Anacostia's population is African American while only 2.4% of Capitol Hill's residents are African American¹

Capitol Hill residents have an average annual income of \$350,000 while residents of the "other" side of the river earn an average annual income of just \$43,000

The poverty rate in Anacostia is 46% while the poverty rate across the river in Capitol Hill is 18.4%²

The median home price in Capitol Hill is nearly \$2 million, while the median home price in Anacostia is just under \$400,000³

¹ Bogle, Mary et al. "Equitable Development Planning and Urban Park Space: Early Insights from DC's 11th Street Bridge Park Project." Urban Institute. July 2016. Accessed online at: https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/82881/2000874-equitable-development-planning-and-urban-park-space_0.pdf

² Bogle,

³ Redfin, 2018.

"[AFTER BEING DISPLACED BY URBAN RENEWAL], SOME PEOPLE JUST LEFT THE CITY, AND SOME WERE PUSHED ACROSS THE RIVER TO ANACOSTIA. TODAY, THERE'S INTERGENERATIONAL MEMORIES OF BEING 'AN OTHER' IN THIS CITY."

- HALLIE BOYCE, PARTNER AT OLIN

VALUES

DIVERSITY Engaging a diversity of opinions, needs, hopes, thought, need and oversight has resulting in a design that promotes diversity of use

COMMUNITY Including the community so intently throughout the design process, creating a sense of ownership of the park and improving its overall design, such as adding community room space to the snack shop

DELIGHT Creating spaces for spectacle performance and entertainment, planned and spontaneous

EQUITY Placing key elements of the park's design, including the environmental center and the snack shop, on the east side of the river responds to decades of being ignored

CONNECTIVITY Connecting both sides of the river with a park provides a place where people - neighbors, city residents, and visitors - can interact with each other

"WHEN YOU GO TO A PUBLIC SPACE, THERE ARE 100 THINGS THAT TELL YOU WHETHER YOU'RE WELCOME THERE OR NOT - BOTH SUBCONSCIOUS AND CONSCIOUS. THIS PARK IS DESIGNED TO MAKE EXPLICIT THAT THIS PARK IS FOR EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY EAST SIDE RESIDENTS."

SCOTT KRATZ, DIRECTOR OF THE 11TH STREET BRIDGE PARK



PROGRAM

A SPACE OF BELONGING

PERFORMANCE CENTER
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER
SNACK SHOP
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
PLAY SPACE
LANDSCAPING + GREEN SPACE
BIKE TRAIL

