



## 11TH STREET BRIDGE PARK COMPETITION

### DESIGN PRINCIPLES, VALUES AND FACILITIES DESCRIPTION

The design principles and list of facilities for a future 11th Street Bridge Park have been gathered through over 200 community meetings with nearby residents, church leaders, business owners and city government representatives. This important document which serves as the DNA for the future 11th Street Bridge Park has been reviewed by our Design Oversight Committee representing stakeholders from across Washington DC. This information will be shared with designers entering the competition and will play a key role evaluating their submissions.

#### 11th Street Bridge Park Design Principles

**1. Stitch Together the City** – The future 11th Street Bridge Park will be a communal gathering place that will help connect a long-divided city. Residents from both sides of the river have been engaged in identifying programming concepts which are included in this design competition manual.

**2. Engage the River** – What makes the 11th Street Bridge Park unique is its location above the Anacostia River. Opportunities to cross rivers in Washington, DC by car, bus or train are routine. This is the first public space in the nation’s capital that will welcome visitors to make the bridge a destination - a park above the river - for recreation, a shared conversation, concert, or family picnic.

**3. Elevate Public Health** – Epidemiologists tell us that place - largely where we live and work - is the greatest determinant of public health. Recent studies have demonstrated that access to green spaces and parks can significantly encourage physical activity while building social capital. The 11th Street Bridge Park can play such a role. In addition, programming centered on urban agriculture can increase food literacy of visitors from across the city.



**4. Establish an Economic Development Engine** – As the 11th Street Bridge Park becomes a regional destination, this new civic space can serve as an anchor for economic development not only by providing employment and training opportunities in the park, but more importantly drawing visitors to the surrounding commercial centers that support existing (and future) small businesses such as restaurants, markets, galleries and theaters.

**5. Embrace the Water** - The design of the 11th Street Bridge Park should speak to its location above the Anacostia River. This includes the history of the Anacostia River, its ecological challenges and plans for a cleaner and more sustainable future. Engage the River.

**6. Celebrate the Rich History of the Region** – The area around the 11th Street Bridge Park has a rich and varied history that includes Native American settlements, an early visit by explorer John Smith, the U.S. Navy Yard, and Cedar Hill - the home of Frederick Douglas. Long time residents tell stories of learning how to swim in the Anacostia, wading across the river during low tide and catching catfish along its banks.

**7. Explore Innovation** - Repurposing the old bridge infrastructure provides an opportunity to be creative. Only the piers will remain, allowing for a completely new deck spanning across the river. This deck could be traditional, but it does not need to be. For example, the span can undulate, rise in some areas, curve in others, flatten out or soar.

**8. Activate the Space and Place** – The 11th Street Bridge Park should be a destination for visitors. It is both a path, and more importantly a place. This should be a center for vibrant life, pastoral spaces, shared culture and wonder seven days a week, every season throughout the year.

**9. Integrate Multiple Synergistic Uses** – Every space on the 11th Street Bridge Park should serve multiple functions to ensure activation throughout the days and seasons. The environmental education center could be used as a community meeting space on the weekends or rented for evening special events. The floating kayak launch could be used as an outdoor classroom for water quality testing. A performance space could double as a quiet place to enjoy a sunset over the river.

**10. Capture the Rhythms of the Day and Seasons** – The 11th Street Bridge Park should be a place that is constantly changing with the capital's distinct seasons including both cold winters and hot summers. This new civic space can be a gathering point for spring planting events, Fourth of July celebrations, fall harvest festivals, winter recreation and new events yet to be imagined.



**11. Manage Sound** – Provide an acoustic design for the 11th Street Bridge Park that supports both live performing arts as well as contemplative space for visitors and local residents.

**12. Create an Eco-System** – Not only should the 11th Street Bridge Park be a model for sustainable design, but it could create a connected natural and human ecosystem. Rainwater could be captured and used for irrigation, food grown on the bridge could be used by a local restaurant, and DC residents could be trained in landscaping and managing green infrastructure. Perhaps the 11th Street Bridge Park could even play an active role in cleaning the Anacostia River.

**13. Build for Durability, Flexibility and Legacy** – The design of the 11th Street Bridge Park and its component parts should be created for future flexibility but also durability. An 11th Street Bridge Park should allow future generations to add and subtract as its use continues to be incorporated into the culture of the city.

### 11th Street Bridge Park Values

- Everyone is welcome
- Respect the river by being environmentally sensitive
- Be state of the art, relevant, current – flexible and adaptable for future use
- Employ the highest aesthetics and design standards
- Be culturally rich, innovative and unique
- Ensure the safety of all park visitors and the river’s natural inhabitants
- Encourage healthy living practices through outdoor recreation and increasing food literacy

### 11th Street Bridge Park Personality and Voice

- Fun/ Playful
- Inviting and welcoming to all
- Dynamic
- Inspirational

### 11th Street Bridge Park Distinction

*There is no other park like this in the world.*



## 11th Street Bridge Park Facilities

*(Requested through over 200 community meetings held to date.)*

**Performance Space** – The performing arts can be a catalyst for bringing people together, a venue for concerts, community forums, theater or productions from partner arts groups across the city. This multi-purpose space could also be a wonderful weekday lunch spot for the 15,000 workers at the Navy Yard to pick up a meal or take a brown bag to enjoy a quiet moment and in the evening transform into a special event rental space providing on-going revenue supporting park operations.

**Environmental Education Center** – We envision a space where school children from across the region can learn about river systems, the flora and fauna of the Anacostia River and larger Chesapeake Bay watershed and inspire the next generation of river stewards. On the weekends, this multi-purpose space can become the backdrop for green infrastructure demonstrations, interactive workshops, job trainings and presentations. Note – the environmental education center is likely the most promising venue for a special event space that could be rented out for fundraisers, weddings or conferences, providing on-going revenue to support the 11th Street Bridge Park.

**21st Century Play Space** – This one of a kind and inspirational play space should actively engage the entire family and utilize universal design principles. This will be a place of exploration, movement and wonder. It should be welcoming for all children and their caregivers.

Urban Agriculture – Aligning with the public health goals of the 11th Street Bridge Park, an urban agriculture component should be envisioned less as community gardens and more as edible landscapes that can serve as a backdrop for planting / harvest festivals, farmers markets and healthy cooking classes. This area could be adjacent to or merged into the environmental education center space and / or cafe.

**Public Art** – The entire 11th Street Bridge Park should be a place of artistic expression – from the hand-rails to bike racks to the seating design. This new civic space is an ideal location for interactive art that tells the rich history of the region, the river and the capital city's residents. As the 11th Street Bridge Park matures, there should be an opportunity to install additional art works – either temporary or permanent.



**Kayak / Canoe / Paddleboat Launches** – The 11th Street Bridge Park sits along a wonderful intersection of urban and pastoral landscape along the Anacostia River. Headed downstream, one can explore man-made structures such as the USS Barry - a Vietnam era Destroyer docked next to the historic US Navy Yard - Nationals Ballpark and the new Yards Park. Traveling upstream under the CSX train tracks, one can find a world of great blue herons, egrets, painted turtles, wood ducks, jumping catfish and even a healthy beaver population. Local crew teams from nearby Catholic University call this area of the river “Narnia,” in reference to the magical place of children’s literature.

**Café / Restaurant** – Imagine enjoying sunset views of the Anacostia River while sharing a glass of wine with friends or neighbors. Order a picnic basket to eat with your family under a nearby tree. Food and dining can be an effective catalyst for activity and social interaction.

Support Facilities - Restrooms, drinking fountains, storage, and maintenance equipment – everything needed to efficiently make visiting the 11th Street Bridge Park an enjoyable and comfortable experience.

**Open Space** – While residents from across the city requested the above concepts, it is also important to ensure open space where visitors can take in the stunning downstream views of the Anacostia River, meet to enjoy a conversation with neighbors or perhaps even participate in sunset exercise over the river.

