



### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Anacostia River Festival**

*Celebrate the Anacostia River and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Anacostia Park!*

**Washington, D.C. (March 6, 2019)** – The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park and the National Park Service proudly present the Anacostia River Festival, a premier event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, on Sunday, April 14, 2019. This year we are celebrating the River Festival's FIFTH ANNIVERSARY as well as the 100th Anniversary of Anacostia Park! Held in Anacostia Park, steps away from the future 11th Street Bridge Park, this **FREE** event invites District residents and brings thousands of visitors from across the region to experience arts, culture, communities and parks east of the river.

### **Anacostia River Festival**

**When:** Sunday, April 14, 2019; 1 pm – 5 pm

**Where:** National Park Service's Anacostia Park. Good Hope Road & Anacostia Drive SE

**Who:** FREE and open to the public.

**For more information:** [bridgepark.org/ARF](http://bridgepark.org/ARF)

"Since the Festival first began in 2014, our audience has grown from a few thousand to nearly 9,000 participants. 2019 marks the FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the Anacostia River Festival bringing together residents from both sides of the Anacostia River and across the region. On April 14th, visitors can canoe on the river, experience Southeast DC's vibrant arts scene and shop locally from talented artistic entrepreneurs east of the river. Guests can explore the beautiful Anacostia watershed with boating and fishing at the Anacostia River Festival," said Scott Kratz, Vice President of Building Bridges Across the River and 11th Street Bridge Park Director.

The festival will feature live music performances curated by Washington Performing Arts & THEARC Theater, hands-on activities and many outdoor experiences along the Anacostia River. Visitors can participate in recycled art projects, fishing workshops, the annual bicycle parade, trail rides, bike

tune-up stations, urban gardening, lawn games and other family-friendly activities that re-engage residents and visitors alike with the Anacostia River and historic Anacostia neighborhood.

“Anacostia Park offers something for everyone to enjoy,” said Tara Morrison, Anacostia Park superintendent. “As we continue through the 100th year of the park, I invite our neighbors and visitors to celebrate with us at the Anacostia River Festival and encourage them to find a way to make this park theirs. We hope people come back for a family gathering, evening exercise, or to have children enjoy the playground at their neighborhood national park.”

This premier event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival is held along the Anacostia River, which has seen tremendous progress in its health and recreation use in the past few years and has recently been recognized and celebrated through the Year of the Anacostia.

“As our official finale event of 2019, the Anacostia River Festival will extend the National Cherry Blossom Festival beyond the blossoms at the Tidal Basin and into our city’s incredible neighborhoods,” said Diana Mayhew, National Cherry Blossom Festival President. “We’re excited to cap off four weeks of programming by joining as a community to celebrate the beauty of nature that can be found in our own backyards.”

The Anacostia River Festival is made possible in part by Bloomberg and Linder Global Events. Other supporters include TD Bank, The Kresge Foundation, WC Smith, MRP Realty, the District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment, Kaiser Permanente, JBG Smith, LISC DC, The Yards, and RMA Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation.

### **About the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park, a project of Ward 8-based nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River, will be Washington, D.C.’s first elevated public park. Located on the piers of the old 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge spanning the Anacostia River, the Bridge Park will be a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education and the arts. After a seven-month design competition, the design team of OMA+OLIN was selected in October 2014. The Bridge Park draws on an extensive community outreach and consultative process, anchored by more than 1,000 stakeholder meetings for design, development and impact. Pre-construction began in 2016 and the Park is expected to open by 2023. Beyond supporting the community’s physical and environmental health, the Bridge Park also seeks to become an anchor for equitable development in our nation’s capital. Visit [BridgePark.org/equity](https://BridgePark.org/equity) to learn more about the Bridge Park’s local community investment.

### **About the National Park Service**

The National Park Service cares for 418 national parks across the country and offers interesting history and outdoor fun for everyone. Anacostia Park is poised to become a signature urban park that improves people’s lives and protects the quality and resiliency of the Anacostia River ecosystem. The park provides inspirational natural spaces easily accessible to area residents and visitors and offers a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities. To learn more about Anacostia Park, visit [www.nps.gov/anac](https://www.nps.gov/anac).

### **About the National Cherry Blossom Festival**

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2018 Festival, March 20 – April 14, includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit [nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out Facebook (CherryBlossomFestival), Twitter (@CherryBlossFest), and Instagram (@CherryBlossFest).

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