

10/6 Public Meeting: Q&A

(Some responses have been edited for clarity and length)

1. Will there be any programming for long-term jobs, training, internships, and volunteering?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: For the last three years we have led a construction training program at the Skyland Workforce Center. As the bridge undergoes construction, we will begin workforce training for jobs on the park – administration, rangers, educators, etc. As the bridge gets built, we will continue to engage the community and provide additional opportunities.
- b. Anacostia Watershed Society: In terms of volunteering and training, that is something we do now and would like to continue as a part of the Environmental Education Center. For volunteer opportunities, we do a lot of mussel restoration, wetland work, trash cleanup and meadow work. For more information on how to volunteer with the Anacostia Watershed Society, please [visit this link](#).

2. How did you reach Anacostia residents, especially those who are not actively online?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: Early on in the project's development we had over 200 meetings, most of which were showing up at civic associations, faith-based organizations and non-profits. Sometimes we were presenters, and other times we were just a part of those meetings to learn more about what the community needs. We understand that there is a digital divide, so as much as possible we try to put out fliers and meet in-person. It's gotten a little tougher, of course, over the last year and a half. However, our doors always remain open!

3. Why not demolish the old bridge as part of this project?

- a. WRA: As part of the project's goals to reuse as much of the infrastructure as possible, it does benefit us to reutilize the existing foundations from a permitting standpoint and a cost effectiveness standpoint. When working through the design concept, we're looking at the project from beginning to

end. And one of the things from the very beginning was ensuring we are meeting existing navigational permits. By utilizing the existing foundations, we are staying within those and just modifying existing permits in lieu of getting brand new permits, which is a significant time-saver and cost saver. There are many advantages to that, which is one of the many reasons we embraced that goal from the very beginning. I worked closely with the design team to ensure they understood the engineering aspects, and they ensured we understood their concept and vision for the project.

4. Are there any plans for noise reduction from the adjacent 11th Street Bridge. Right now, you can hear very loud traffic noise.

- a. WRA: One thing to remember is that this Bridge Park has a different grade than the local traffic bridge. Moving some of the programming, such as the amphitheater, off the bridge and putting it in another location helps reduce noise. We are also looking at how to use materials to reduce noise pollution. We have landscaping along almost the entire area, as well as using special materials on the cafe porch to help absorb sound. We are also ensuring that the sightlines to adjacent traffic are diminished as much as possible. That said, in some locations you will hear traffic noise, because you will be at traffic level. But, at some locations, like the lookouts, you will be above traffic so the noise will be below you.
- b. OMA: We are also using plantings, and some raised planters as a buffer. But we do not want too much of a barrier because we want breezes to pass through.

5. How do you anticipate people will arrive at the Bridge Park. Are there plans to improve pedestrian, transit, or bicycle connections or address traffic safety on adjacent roads. For example, on Good Hope Road there are not many great options for driving here, nor is it practical to rely on people arriving by car.

- a. WRA: Building Bridges Across the River has been utilizing the Anacostia River festival to be able to understand how the community comes to the area. They understand that a lot of people are utilizing metro, and

walkability paths in that area. DDOT is doing studies on different ways to address bikeability, as well as pedestrian movements along that location. We are addressing the many traffic movements at that location. We are making provisions for Uber and Lyft drop off areas. The Bridge Park team have been trying to understand different relationships they can do with different parking organizations to provide that parking nearby.

6. What methods are you using for engagement, and how are you engaging new/existing members of the community?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: Community engagement is honestly everything that we do. Whether it's our programming, that could be our Taste of the Harvest, and the Anacostia River Festival, or Community Leadership Empowerment Workshop (CLEW), or through our different artist programming. Some of it is face to face. We have shifted to virtual programming during the pandemic. And honestly, I think we have been able to reach even more people through our virtual programming. If anyone is interested in sharing new ideas or a community they would like us to speak to, we will certainly come out and speak to them. All you have to do is email us: jessica@bridgepark.org.

7. When do you estimate this will be completely finished?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: We should be at 100% design by early next year and begin the process of soliciting our general contractor. We estimate that process will take about 6 months, so we see ourselves breaking ground early 2023. We anticipate 24 months of construction, so opening the park in early 2025.

8. Will portions of the park be closed to the public during construction.

- a. WRA: The pathway along Anacostia Drive will be open at all times. We are making sure that stays open. There will be times where there will be detours or temporary stoppages of movements when we're lifting steel- it will just not be safe to move through those parts. All of the construction will be in the vicinity of that intersection between Good Hope Road and Anacostia Dr. So that entire area will be used for staging. We will be using

that for the entire duration of construction. The walkway along the local bridge will be open during that time.

9. How long will it take to ride from end to end on a bike?

- a. OLIN: Because it's about 1,000 ft. long, by bike it would probably be a 2-3 minute ride at most and a 5-7 minute walk.

10. Would there one day be plans for the piers of the old Frederick Douglass Bridge to become the District's second elevated park? To have a circular park connecting the bridges and banks on both sides?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: What an awesome idea! We are a little consumed with transforming the 11th street bridge into a park. But I do think with the opening of the Frederick Douglass Bridge, which is so striking, we're really going to be bookending the Anacostia River with the Frederick Douglass Bridge and the 11th St. Bridge Park, creating this larger constellation of activity connecting both sides of the river with pedestrians and bike paths. It's going to be really phenomenal.

11. Will the stairs have small side ramps for bikes, strollers, etc.?

- a. OMA: It's something we can definitely look into. This is a good comment, and we'll look into that.

12. Will this park have a public and free bathroom?

- a. OMA: Yes, there are publicly accessible bathrooms adjacent to the cafe and the park offices and Environmental Education Center.

13. With rising house costs across the city, how much of the funds dedicated toward Equity will go towards housing assistance for residents, so that lower-income folks will not get priced out of their community. The building of the park will attract investors and raise prices.

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: I can't speak in terms of exact percentages. I can say that a few years ago, we were awarded a \$5 million grant and \$3 million went specifically to property acquisition for the Douglass Community Land Trust providing permanent affordability. So most of our early initiatives were focused on housing strategies. That's where we put a

lot of our energy and investments. We will continue to look into how we can pour resources into housing.

- b. 11th Street Bridge Park: Our amazing partners with LISC DC have exceeded their \$50 million goal and have invested \$67 million into the nearby neighborhood and the majority of that is housing through loans and so forth. To date, between our investments and LISC's, we've been able to secure \$77 million and invest in our equity strategies around the park.

14. I love that the initial social aims of the project have remained intact, even with addressing practical concerns. Would OLIN and OMA now reprogram the misguided Macmillan Sand Filtration Plant on N. Capitol St. into the interactive public park the city deserves?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: The EDP's aim to ensure local residents can stay and thrive in place can be replicated. In fact you can see our [7-step process to engage with local residents](#) to implement Equitable Development Strategies. Indeed, we are advising about a dozen projects nationwide to create their own equitable development plans.

15. Can you share some insight regarding plans for the skate pavilion and are any roller skaters involved in the decision-making process in terms of reimagining the park?

- a. NPS: We're currently working parallel to the work you are doing on 11th Street Bridge Park. We are working on a concept for the area between the Bridge Park and the area we call North Field right before the Pennsylvania Ave. bridge within Anacostia Park. We're looking at how we are envisioning using those spaces within Anacostia Park, looking to improve uses within the park facilities. Also looking at the skating pavilion as one use we are looking to improve. So, we are currently in the process of completing that DCP. Once we have completed it, we will look at each area that the public has commented on and work to improve those spaces. We will have to go through funding mechanisms to get that rehabilitated. Right now we are in the planning stage of that project.

16. The mayor recently approved a budget to complete the Shepherd Branch Trail in Ward 8 which would provide a great connection to the park off of Good Hope Rd. However, DDOT must still negotiate with CSX. Is there a part for the Park and BBAR to also play a role in advocating for that to increase connection between the park and Ward 8 community?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: We'd love to help however we can. We want to make sure this park is deeply stitched into the adjacent neighborhoods, and there have been some pretty significant barriers to separate the community from the river, the park and the future Bridge Park through the 295 freeways' placement. There are only three ways to access the river from Anacostia / Fairlawn. Feel free to reach out to see how we can help.

17. Any strategy to reduced air pollution from the freeway nearby on the bridge park?

- a. WRA: We're putting as many plantings as we can and all of those are helping the project in that area being able to getting shade and helping noise and air to help your experience on the park.
- b. OMA: Yes, the trees will be very helpful in filtering the carbon dioxide as much as possible and are a key strategy. We've been working with the team to try to incorporate as many trees as possible, particularly along that northern edge.

18. Is there precedent for building a park on a bridge? Is this project making new structural standards?

- a. WRA: Yes, there is precedent. The Bridge Park is part of the [High Line Network](#) – a consortium of 40 transformed infrastructure into parks projects across North America. Each one of those projects are unique and have different approaches. While we're dealing with regulations for bridges/buildings, we're working to develop the design criteria that is specific to this project.

19. How will the operator for the cafe be decided? Will any preferences be given to local Ward 8 businesses? Will rent be affordable for Ward 8 businesses?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: We have not been looking at the cafe operator yet - we've been really focused on the design. But we want to make sure the park itself continues to reflect the community that we serve. We will soon bring on board a restaurant consultant to help us think about the next phase on what those amenities might be and the key elements for the cafe. As part of that, we are looking at commissioning a number of public artworks for the project. One of those is a mobile small business kiosk that could include local food vendors.

20. Will there be hours of operation for the park? If it is not legal to be at the park after hours, who will be enforcing this? And, what jurisdiction is the park- federal or DC?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: The physical park will be owned by the District- the Department of Transportation. BBAR, in partnership with the Anacostia Watershed Society, will actually run the park. At one of our last public meetings, we asked if we should close the park and got mixed responses. I'd imagine this would have similar hours as other parks- sometime between sunset to sunrise. There's not going to be gates for the park or walls that get closed off. Buildings themselves will be locked up when they're not being used. We're looking to use the ranger model throughout the day and evening. Rangers will be there as part of the larger team to offer assistance and directions. There will be CCTV as is standard for many parks. We're making sure that there are clear lines of sight for the park so that everyone feels safe.

21. Has this project spurred interest in real estate development on the Anacostia side? Any concerns with gentrification?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: That's exactly why since 2015 we've been implementing the Equitable Development strategies so that by the time the park opens, we'll have been implementing these strategies for 7+ years. We are in a landlocked and height locked city, so there's an awful lot of development projects that are east of the river that has nothing to do with the Bridge Park. But we're doing everything we can in concert with the

Mayor and the city council to make investments in affordable housing to make sure that the same residents who helped shape this park from the beginning can be the same ones to benefit from it. We're actively working to continue our investments. The Equitable Development Plan is an organic document and is not set in stone, and we welcome your continued suggestions.

22. Has there been any discussion with the Navy Yard regarding their portion of the Capital River Waterfront? The concrete has very wide joints that are dangerous for bikes, and the concrete is starting to become very uneven in places. This will obviously be one of the main accesses to the Bridge Park.

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: We will be sure to bring this up to the Navy staff the next time we meet with them.

23. Are there any commitments from kiosks or other vendors at the park/Bridge?

- a. 11th Street Bridge Park: We are still in the design phase, so we have not started to think about vendors. This will happen as the park gets closer to open in 2023 / 2024. If you have ideas though, feel free to reach out!

24. Can you describe potential partnerships with DC based art nonprofits, DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities and any national art partnerships/philanthropists?

- a. We are in the process of commissioning our first major art piece for the park in collaboration with local residents and non-profits (which include DCCA.) We will have an announcement soon about this first piece – stay tuned!