



**Building
Bridges™**




11th Street
Bridge Park's
**Equitable
Development
Plan**



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As the old 11th Street Bridge that connects D.C.'s Capitol Hill / Navy Yard and historic Anacostia / Fairlawn neighborhoods is replaced, the District government and Building Bridges Across the River will transform the aged infrastructure into the city's first elevated park: a new venue for healthy recreation; environmental education; and the arts.

The 11th Street Bridge Park will span the capital's cityscape and include community generated programming ideas including: outdoor performance spaces; playgrounds; urban agriculture; an Environmental Education Center with classrooms to teach students about river systems; public art that tells the rich history of the region; and kayak and canoe launches. Bound by the Washington Navy Yard on one side and the National Park Service's Anacostia Park on the other, the Bridge Park will be a destination for some, a pedestrian or bicycle route for others and an iconic architectural symbol across the Anacostia River.

The 11th Street Bridge Park promises to be a place unlike any other in Washington, D.C. — one that supports the neighborhood's physical, environmental, cultural and economic health.



Introduction

In the nearly nine years since the release of the first Equitable Development Plan in 2015, we have worked to create a more equitable future for residents who live near the 11th Street Bridge Park. This collaborative approach has shaped every element of the 11th Street Bridge Park's design and programming and has established a model for inclusive economic growth reverberating beyond Washington, D.C. With a focus on the community and prosperity of the often-overlooked East of the River residents, this comprehensive plan has ushered in transformative changes in affordable housing, workforce training, small business empowerment, arts and culture, and a new health and wellness initiative.

At the heart of this journey is the pursuit of equity against the backdrop of displacement and economic disenfranchisement, particularly in East of the River communities. The Equitable Development Plan actively constructs bridges, both figurative and literal, to bring communities together and empower residents to reclaim decision-making power.

The Douglas Community Land Trust is a powerful example of these investments. With more than 230 units under its careful stewardship, the DCLT stands as a testament to the power of community control as two thirds

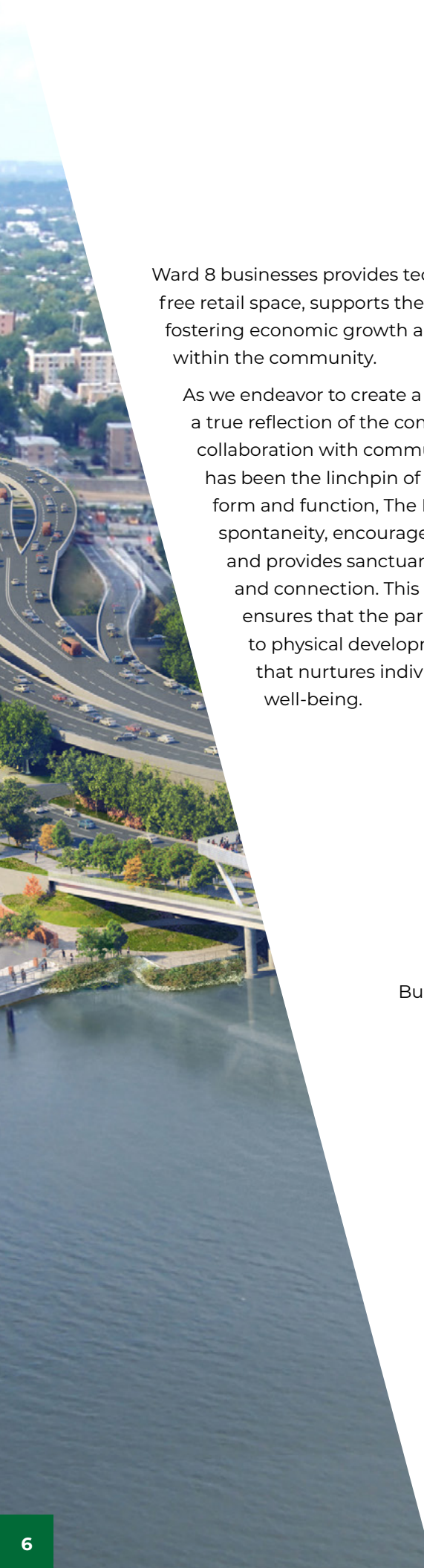
of the board are Ward 8 residents determining overall strategy, selecting partners, and even reviewing ground leases. The Bridge Park has been able to secure millions of dollars for property acquisition to move this initiative forward.

The Skyland Workforce Center, (another project of Building Bridges Across the River) trained and placed over 150 East of the River residents into construction jobs building economic opportunity. These individuals have become architects of their own destinies, poised to play a pivotal role in the construction and operation of the Bridge Park. That is what true ownership looks like.

Cultural enrichment has found its rightful place in these economic investments manifesting in annual events such as the annual Anacostia River Festival. This vibrant celebration amplifies local residents' voices, celebrating the rich history of the region and for a single afternoon allows neighbors what they can experience for 365 days of the year when the Bridge Park opens to the public in a few short years.

Local small businesses do more than just sell products, they nurture a thriving ecosystem of creative entrepreneurs. The Bridge Spot, a commissioned mobile kiosk supporting





Ward 8 businesses provides technical assistance and free retail space, supports the overarching goal of fostering economic growth and self-sufficiency within the community.

As we endeavor to create a park that serves as a true reflection of the community's needs, collaboration with community stakeholders has been the linchpin of our approach. In its form and function, The Bridge Park invites spontaneity, encourages creative expression, and provides sanctuaries for solace, healing, and connection. This holistic approach ensures that the park will be a testament to physical development and as a space that nurtures individual and collective well-being.

This journey spanning the years since the last plan iteration, has been punctuated by tangible achievements, deep stakeholder engagement, and a unified vision for community driven equitable development. The 11th Street Bridge Park's Equitable Development Plan has transcended its role as a blueprint; it has evolved into a nationally recognized model for inclusive urban development with cities in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Buffalo, Dallas, and San Francisco following the path we have created in the nation's capital. This equitable development plan is a commitment to prioritize the aspirations and needs of the East of the River community, rekindling the spirit of equity that binds us all together.



Scott Kratz

Building Bridges Across the River Senior Vice President
& 11th Street Bridge Park Director



Anna McCorvey

Senior Equitable Development Manager



Kia Johnson

Equitable Development Manager

Our 7 Step Process

1

Identify key stakeholders such as residents, municipal leaders, NGOs active in the area, civic associations, business owners, etc.

The community will be made up of a diverse group of stakeholders. The first step in building trust is to show awareness of this diversity and extend an open invitation to participation.

2

Establish geographic area of impact and collect data. In order to work intentionally, it is important to determine where you'll have an impact and ground your understanding through research.

3

Engage stakeholders as part of the planning process & build ownership.

The stakeholders identified in step 1 will be key to this project. They will help identify the community's needs and priorities.

4

Release Equitable Development Plan. Do whatever you can to distribute the plan to your community and partners. This may mean having an online and print version or an easy to digest summary of the plan.

5

Begin implementation of strategies. Some strategies may take time to bear fruit, so to build trust and momentum be sure to include ideas that can lead to early wins.

6

On-going evaluation. Your plans should be able to grow and adapt. Develop a process for collecting data, setting clear goals, measuring impact and refining your strategies.

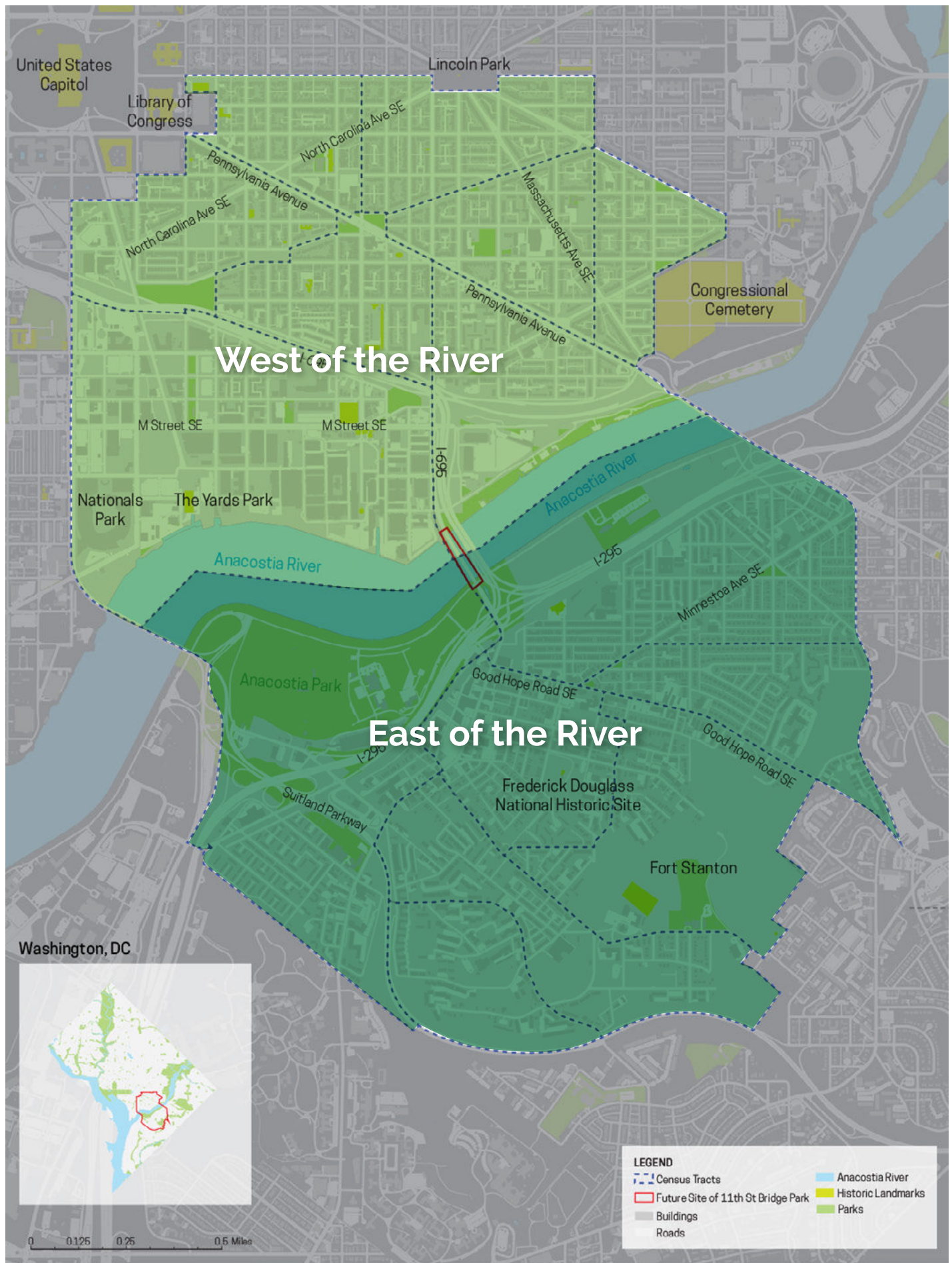
7

Celebrate early wins to build confidence. Continue to nourish the trust that has been built throughout the process.



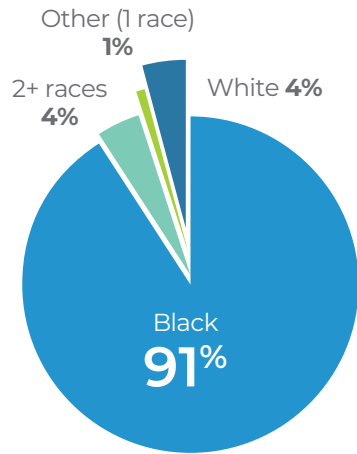
Scan the QR code
to view our video about
the 7 Step Process!





East of the River¹

Surrounding 11th Street Bridge Park



Total Population

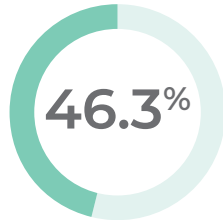
21,892



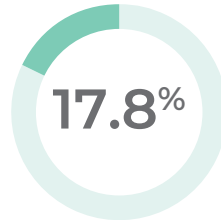
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

\$343,966

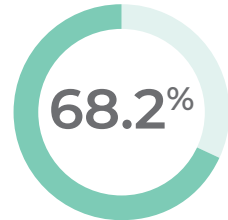
Child Poverty



Unemployed

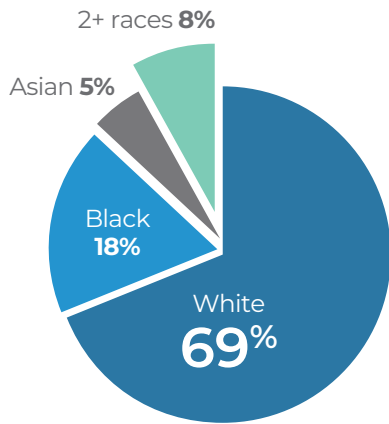


Renter-Occupied Housing Units



West of the River¹

Surrounding 11th Street Bridge Park



Total Population

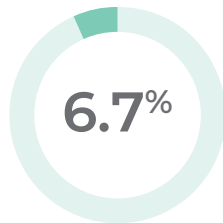
27,884



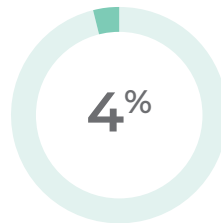
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

\$815,428

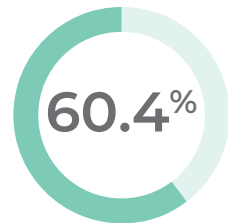
Child Poverty



Unemployed

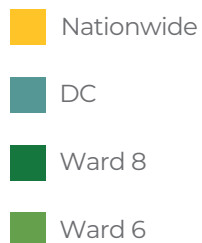


Renter-Occupied Housing Units

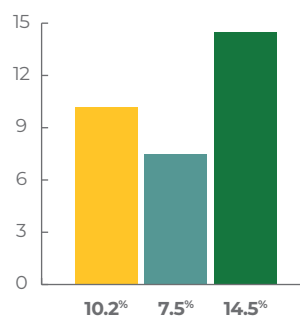


Health Data²

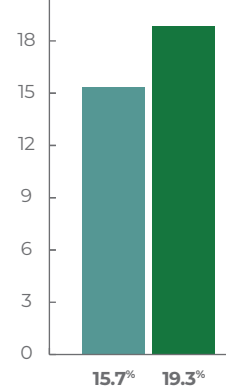
Students who went hungry sometimes, most of the time, or always (High School)



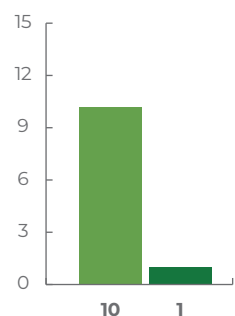
Worried about access to nutritious meals (Always/Usually)



21



Number of full service grocery stores



¹Data from the American Community Survey 2015-2020

²Data from the USDA Economic Research Service

Housing

Strategy #1: Educate + Inform

Strategy #2: Preserve + Expand
Affordable Housing

Strategy #3: Partnerships

Workforce Development

Strategy #1: Pre and Post
Construction Jobs

Strategy #2: Remove Barriers to
Employment & Training

Strategy #3: Build Capacity of Park
Staff & Creative Entrepreneurs

A Community- Driven Plan

Small Business Enterprise

Strategy #1: Business at the Park

Strategy #2: Business Surrounding the Park

Strategy #3: Connection

Health + Wellness

Strategy #1: Mental, Emotional,
and Spiritual Health

Strategy #2: Physical Activity,
Health, and Recreation

Strategy #3: Access, Mobility,
Pathway, and Connectivity

Strategy #4: Environmental
Health and Justice

Arts + Cultural Equity

Strategy #1: Information Hub

Strategy #2: Accessibility

Strategy #3: Space

Strategy #4: Programming



Plan Overview

A Community-Driven Planning Process

Working collaboratively with community members and stakeholders, government officials, business owners, and policy experts, the 11th Street Bridge Park is committed to changing the narrative of how development typically takes place. The goal of the Bridge Park's Equitable Development Plan is to ensure that the park is a driver of inclusive development—development that provides opportunities for ALL residents regardless of income and demography. By following a community-driven and intentional process, it is our hope that other cities can look to the Bridge Park as an example of how the public and private sectors can invest in and create world-class public space in an equitable manner.

Housing

The 11th Street Bridge Park will create and improve opportunities for affordable, available, and accessible housing options in neighborhoods surrounding the park.

Strategy #1: Educate + Inform

Collect, organize and disseminate resources and information regarding housing opportunities to residents in the Bridge Park's surrounding neighborhoods.

Strategy #2: Preserve + Expand Affordable Housing

Work with city agencies and existing non-profits on strategies to preserve existing affordable housing (rental and ownership) and leverage existing public and private resources to build new affordable housing near the Bridge Park.

Strategy #3: Partnerships

Engage and participate in partnerships with those in the housing community to advocate for policies that preserve existing affordable housing and spur the creation of new affordable units within the Bridge Park's surrounding neighborhoods.

Workforce Development

The 11th Street Bridge Park will increase the number of East of the River residents who have consistent, quality and livable wage / salaried jobs and opportunities for improved employability surrounding the park.

Strategy #1: Pre and Post Construction Jobs

Ensure that East of the River residents are prioritized in the application process and hired for construction and post-construction jobs on the Bridge Park.

Strategy #2: Remove Barriers to Employment & Training

Advocate for equitable distribution of programming and resources that serve to remove barriers to employment for residents within the Bridge Park's surrounding neighborhoods.

Strategy #3: Build Capacity of Park Staff & Creative Entrepreneurs

Support and facilitate programming and training at the Bridge Park that builds the capacity of Park staff and creative entrepreneurs.

Small Business Enterprise

The 11th Street Bridge Park will prioritize and increase investments to East of the River small businesses. This will be achieved through targeted financial and technical support aimed at fostering the growth and success of local businesses in the area.

Strategy #1: Business at the Park

Support and nurture a thriving network of small businesses that operate on the Bridge Park following construction.

Strategy #2: Business Surrounding the Park

Leverage the 11th Street Bridge Park to build and sustain small businesses in the surrounding community.

Strategy #3: Connection

Ensure the Bridge Park is deeply connected to business corridors on both sides of the Anacostia River.





Arts + Cultural Equity

The 11th Street Bridge Park will serve as a platform to celebrate the history and culture of communities on both sides of the river and in particular to amplify the stories, culture and heritage of neighboring African American residents.

Strategy #1: Information Hub

Create an information hub that communicates information about events and programming, occurring both at the park and in the surrounding neighborhoods, with nearby residents and visitors.

Strategy #2: Accessibility

Ensure that programming on the Bridge Park is affordable and accessible to all visitors, especially current and long-term residents.

Strategy #3: Space

Ensure that spaces at the Bridge Park are supportive of a range of informal, formal and temporary uses and can be easily and affordably reserved by residents.

Strategy #4: Programming

Prioritize programming at the Bridge Park that fosters collaboration with residents, local organizations and arts (of all disciplines—visual, performing, and literary) and humanities professionals in the surrounding neighborhoods, especially programs that amplify narratives and voices of Black residents.

Health + Wellness

D.C. is held up as one of the nation's healthiest metropolitan areas, but a closer analysis reveals this is not true for the entire city. When assessed at the local level, residents East of the River experience much higher rates of physical and mental health challenges than those in other parts of the city including a lack of access to fresh foods, safe

outdoor space and the degradation of the natural environment.

Through the following strategies, the 11th Street Bridge Park aims to address the health inequities in the communities surrounding the park.

Strategy #1: Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Health

The 11th Street Bridge Park will utilize holistic approaches to connect residents to nature and each other, promote healing and joy, and provide safe and restorative spaces for the resilient and thriving residents surrounding the park.

Strategy #2: Physical Activity, Health, and Recreation

The 11th Street Bridge Park will be an inclusive and intergenerational space for the community to take part in exploration, play, movement, and stillness with the land, river, park amenities, and each other as resources.

Strategy #3: Access, Mobility, Pathway, and Connectivity

The 11th Street Bridge Park will serve as a fully accessible space for residents in surrounding communities to connect with each other, reconnect with the Anacostia River and foster a sense of belonging in a way that expands past the physical boundaries of the Bridge Park.

Strategy #4: Environmental Health and Justice

We recognize systemic racism has degraded the health of the Anacostia River, adjacent communities and created barriers for Black residents. To restore and protect historically oppressed communities, we are committed to promoting self-determination, community legacy, and collectivism to fight discrimination in planning and development for the stewardship of a sustainable and thriving physical and natural world.

Housing

The 11th Street Bridge Park will create and improve opportunities for affordable, available, and accessible housing options in neighborhoods surrounding the park.



Strategy #1: Educate + Inform

Collect, organize, and disseminate resources and information regarding housing opportunities to residents in the Bridge Park's surrounding neighborhoods.

- Partner with city agencies and non-profits to educate and inform residents in the Bridge Park surrounding neighborhoods about existing D.C. Legislation, such as the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), the District Opportunity to Purchase Act (DOPA) and tenant rights and resources.

Strategy #2: Preserve + Expand Affordable Housing

Work with city agencies and existing non-profits on strategies to preserve existing affordable housing (rental and ownership) and leverage existing public and private resources to build new affordable housing near the Bridge Park.

- Increase the number of Ward 8 homeowners by providing downpayment and closing cost assistance through the Ward 8 Homebuyers Club.
- Continue working with organizations like Yachad to provide support for home repairs such as roof replacement, HVAC, mold abatement, etc. for economically marginalized multi-generational homeowners to ensure they can pass down their investment to future generations and build generational wealth.
- Partner with like-minded non-profits and community groups to provide tenant rights workshops in surrounding neighborhoods.

Strategy #3: Partnerships

Engage and participate in partnerships with those in the housing community to advocate for policies that preserve existing affordable housing and spur the creation of new affordable units within the Bridge Park's surrounding neighborhoods.

- Partner with organizations like the Douglass Community Land Trust, D.C. Housing Authority, and D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support more community driven housing solutions in Ward 8 such as community land trust or social housing models.
- Coordinate work with DHCD's "Housing Preservation Strike Force" whose goal is to develop the means and money to protect thousands of units of affordable housing that are expected to lose federal subsidies over the next few years.

Success Stories

Our housing strategies' success is not centered on us, but on the transformative journey of the East of the River residents becoming proud homeowners. Our ultimate vision is to foster a legacy of intergenerational wealth by enabling community members to embrace homeownership.

- Ward 8 Homebuyers Club Partnership with Manna: Our Ward 8 Homebuyers Club has seen 131 East of the River renters realize their dreams of owning their first homes. This accomplishment reflects the tangible impact of our strategies in turning aspirations into reality.
- Douglass Community Land Trust: A key strategy in our first equitable development plan, we helped stand up the Douglass Community Land Trust (Douglass CLT) as an independent non-profit and raised over \$3MM for early property acquisition. The Douglass CLT currently has 233 affordable units in their portfolio, with the goal of having 1,000 permanently affordable homes by 2028.

Advocacy

The 11th Street Bridge Park will advocate for legislation that removes barriers to affordable, accessible, and quality housing, including support for housing co-ops, eviction aversion, preservation of existing affordable buildings and support for the "Build First" housing model. The park will promote tenant rights awareness and engagement among Ward 8 residents and support legislation that advocates for changing rent control laws to increase access to housing vouchers.

Workforce Development

The 11th Street Bridge Park will increase the number of East of the River residents who have consistent, quality and livable wage / salaried jobs and opportunities for improved employability surrounding the park.



Strategy #1: Pre and Post Construction Jobs

Ensure that East of the River residents are prioritized in the application process and hired for construction and post-construction jobs on the Bridge Park.

- Offer construction training workshops, which should include soft skills. Emphasis should be on placing East of the River residents in jobs.
- Partner with Skyland Workforce Center's monthly hiring fairs.
- Utilize the First Source or alternative work plan agreement to set local hiring goals and requirements to maximize construction job opportunities on the Bridge Park for surrounding residents, with a special emphasis on harder-to-employ residents. Ensure robust reporting mechanism so goals are met.
- Implement mentorship, training, and professional development programs for future jobs on Bridge Park, such as hospitality, retail, construction, and web support.

Strategy #2: Remove Barriers to Employment & Training

Advocate for equitable distribution of programming and resources that serve to remove barriers to employment for residents within the Bridge Park's surrounding neighborhoods.

- Partner with training organizations that offer wrap-around services like mental health, housing, and transportation support for workers.
- Implement a clear and accessible communication plan to inform residents about job opportunities and hiring processes.

Strategy #3: Build Capacity of Park Staff

Support and facilitate programming and training at the Bridge Park that builds the capacity of Park staff and creative entrepreneurs.

- Provide training (specifically implicit bias training) to Bridge Park staff, rangers, security staff and partners occupying the Bridge Park that encourage the creation of a welcoming environment for all visitors.

Success Stories

Our success has been through our mission to facilitate employment opportunities for the East of the River community, thereby fostering financial stability and ensuring the community's sustained growth. Our vision for long-term success involves integrating those who have participated in our programs into the construction of the park. By prioritizing the hiring of community members, we are building a park and strengthening the bonds that tie our community together.

- Skyland Workforce Center has led 33 training construction training sessions for East of the River residents. Over 150 of these graduates are currently employed in the construction trades.
- National Impact: Through our 5-city workforce pilot program, we are helping to fund construction training programs across the country. A senior team from the Urban Institute continues to document and evaluate challenges and successes to share with the broader field.

Advocacy

The 11th Street Bridge Park will advocate for the distribution of technical assistance and capacity building grants within the surrounding neighborhoods, especially east of the river, with the goal of providing more opportunities for emerging artists, entrepreneurs, and organizations to access these resources. The park supports economic security measures like Universal Basis Income and unconditional cash transfer programs (e.g., "Thrive East of the River"). In addition, the park advocates for enforcement of the Fair Criminal Record Screening Amendment Act (FCRSA) to remove a major barrier hindering D.C. residents from obtaining employment.

Small Business Enterprise

The 11th Street Bridge Park will prioritize and increase investments to East of the River small businesses. This will be achieved through targeted financial and technical support aimed at fostering the growth and success of local businesses in the area.

Strategy #1: Business at the Park

Support and nurture a thriving network of small businesses that operate on the Bridge Park following construction.

- Establish a dedicated space within the park (such as the mobile small business kiosk, a.k.a. *Bridge Spot*) to support local makers, artists, creators, and entrepreneurs. Include opportunities for pop up activations. Identify locally Black-owned businesses, organizations, and creative entrepreneurs for specific contracting opportunities to support Bridge Park services.

Strategy #2: Business Surrounding the Park

Leverage the 11th Street Bridge Park to build and sustain small businesses in the surrounding community.

- Support businesses along Marion Barry Avenue/Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue corridors by providing grants and pro bono technical assistance to aid in their growth, supporting façade improvements, collaborating with local Community Development Financial Institutions to offer microloans and lines of credit for further financial support and support legislation that removes barriers for entrepreneurs (personal fines barring them from getting a license, etc.)
- Encourage building and sustaining a community of small businesses, arts organizations, and creative entrepreneurs through mentorships, entrepreneurial training, and partnerships.
- Partner and support nearby social enterprise and workforce incubators such as Wacif's The HIVE.

Strategy #3: Connectivity

Ensure the Bridge Park is deeply connected to business corridors on both sides of the Anacostia River.

- Partner with the Anacostia and Capitol Riverfront BIDs to provide neighborhood maps highlighting local businesses and cultural organizations for visitors.

Success Stories

We are dedicated to preserving the vitality of local businesses within the East of the River community. Through implementing our equitable development strategies, we are supporting pathways for wealth generation.

- **Pioneering Preservation:** Our small business pilot preservation program, conducted in collaboration with The Anacostia BID and Booz Allen Hamilton, awarded \$8,000 grants and pro bono services for a year to 10 businesses located East of the River. In 2024, this program will expand to additional small businesses.
- **Innovative Outreach:** The commissioning of the “Bridge Spot,” a mobile kiosk, empowers local enterprises, enabling them to travel across the region, showcasing their products, and engaging with new customers. Seven businesses received one-month residencies, garnering new sales while also receiving pro bono technical services courtesy of Accenture. When the park opens, the Bridge Spot will feature local small businesses leveraging the anticipated 1 million annual visitors to this new civic space.

Advocacy

The 11th Street Bridge Park will advocate for developers to commit to including local small business tenants, including artists and creative entrepreneurs, in city and privately-owned properties that are zoned for commercial use near the Bridge Park. The park supports zoning that creates and preserves affordable, flexible, multi-use work, performance, and presentation spaces in the Bridge Park's surrounding neighborhoods and commercial corridors that are accessible to East of the River creative entrepreneurs.

The 11th Street Bridge Park will serve as a platform to celebrate the history and culture of communities on both sides of the river and in particular to amplify the stories, culture, and heritage of neighboring African American residents.



Strategy #1: Information Hub

Create an information hub that communicates information about events and programming, occurring both at the park and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

- Use the Bridge Park's website and social media presence to connect visitors with park programming, community events, and existing neighborhood resources.
- Document and share the stories of residents before and after the park's construction to honor the evolving community and its cultural experiences. Encourage dialogue and understanding through the sharing of diverse narratives.
- Document and rediscover the richness of community history, stories, and the reclaiming of land, while also sharing information on the indigenous history of the land surrounding the Anacostia River.

Strategy #2: Accessibility

Ensure that programming on the Bridge Park is affordable and accessible to all visitors, especially current and long-term residents.

- Facilitate the creation and operation of a sustainable funding source (e.g. endowment or capital reserve) that ensures the Bridge Park's services and programming are accessible and affordable for all users.

Strategy #3: Space

Ensure that spaces at the Bridge Park are supportive of a range of informal, formal, and temporary uses and can be easily and affordably reserved by residents.

- Foster informal gathering spaces that support free and spontaneous programming and creative expression, while also serving as spaces for relaxation and healing.
- Create a timely, transparent and user-friendly process for use of spaces at the Bridge Park. Provide visible and clear instructions for permitting on the Bridge Park's website. Ensure that Bridge Park permits are accessible to a range of incomes and park users (e.g. provide a sliding scale and income-based payment system for space rental fees).

Success Stories

Our goal is to create accessible gatherings within the East of the River neighborhoods, where the community can revel in cultural celebrations and come together. Each year, we orchestrate events that serve as the cornerstone of our community engagement efforts. These gatherings are designed to empower local participation, fostering a sense of belonging and shared celebration.

A core element of our mission is to ensure that community events reflect the rich tapestry of cultures that define our neighborhoods. By celebrating diversity, we create spaces where everyone feels valued and embraced.

- **Anacostia River Festival 2023:**
The 2023 Anacostia River Festival drew more than 9,000 visitors. On this afternoon, residents from both sides of the river gather to celebrate the Anacostia River, its history, and the communities that line its banks.
- **Taste of the Harvest Festival:** This annual event brings together our seven *Bridge Park Plots* and THEARC Farm staff in a communal dinner for over 500 residents, music, cooking classes, and roasting s'mores under the stars.

Advocacy

The 11th Street Bridge Park will advocate for on-going philanthropic and city support for arts and culture organizations that surround the Bridge Park. The park supports the formal recognition of contributions made by people of color to the culture of East of the River communities.

Strategy #4: Programming

Prioritize programming at the Bridge Park that fosters collaboration with residents, local organizations, and arts (of all disciplines—visual, performing, and literary) in the surrounding neighborhoods, especially programs that amplify narratives and voices of black residents.

- As a platform for local culture and heritage, prioritize programming on the Bridge Park that showcases D.C. metro area artists, humanities practitioners, and entrepreneurs working with a variety of disciplines.
- Partner with local artists, creative entrepreneurs, organizations, and civic associations to create intergenerational programming that reflects the heritage of surrounding neighborhoods.
- Foster mentorships between youth, seniors, veterans, artists, scholars, and organizations/institutions by providing opportunities for collaborative and educational programming at the Bridge Park.
- Prioritize programming at the Bridge Park that builds the capacity of local youth and creative entrepreneurs.
- Promote cultural equity and celebrate the rich food history of Ward 8 by showcasing local chefs and restaurant owners. Provide a platform for them to share their culinary talents and continue the stories of the community's food traditions.
- Continue to support and develop the Community Leadership and Empowerment Workshop (CLEW) that provides both personal leadership training and community organizing skills locally and nationally.





Health + Wellness

D.C. is held up as one of the nation's healthiest metropolitan areas, but a closer analysis reveals this is not true for the entire city. When assessed at the local level, residents East of the River experience much higher rates of physical and mental health challenges than those in other parts of the city including a lack of access to fresh foods, safe outdoor space, and the degradation of the natural environment. Through the following strategies, the 11th Street Bridge Park aims to address the health inequities in the communities surrounding the park.



Strategy #1: Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Health

The 11th Street Bridge Park will utilize holistic approaches to connect residents to nature and each other, promote healing and joy, and provide safe and restorative spaces for the resilient and thriving residents surrounding the park. The Bridge Park will rely on the following strategies:

- Coordinate events and opportunities to acknowledge the indigenous people of our community, promote indigenous spirituality and responsibilities towards sacred land and connect to the history of the Anacostia River through practices such as land recognition and memorial plaques.
- The Bridge Park will pursue partnerships with East of the River residents and existing organizations to create opportunities for wellness such as forest bathing, guided meditation, holistic healing practices, and violence interruption programming.
- Include multiple safe, quiet, and smoke-free spaces that explicitly welcome Black audiences and give park goers access to restorative spaces. These spaces should be fully accessible and provide an opportunity for healing, rest and foster a sense of community belonging.
- Utilize signage and digital displays to offer culturally relevant affirmations and promote programming that improves physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

Strategy #2: Physical Activity, Health, and Recreation

The 11th Street Bridge Park will be an inclusive and intergenerational space for the community to take part in exploration, play, movement, and stillness with the land, river, park amenities, and each other as resources. The Bridge Park will rely on the following strategies:

- Create home gardening classes and nutrition workshops to complement the Bridge Park garden plots at the park and surrounding community.
- Include affordable and healthy food options to meet a range of dietary needs in the Bridge Park cafe and other forms of food distribution.
- Offer classes and workshops for directed physical activity at the Bridge Park and on the river that are available to individuals of all ability levels and ages. Partner with existing groups to provide some of these activities free of charge; and intentionally engage with local residents to facilitate park activities when possible.
- Support seasonal events like annual runs and groups such as summer camps, school groups, and community-led clubs.
- Support opportunities to engage in water-based activities like kayaking, canoeing, and fishing.

Advocacy

The 11th Street Bridge Park will advocate for the following:

- Increased maintenance, staffing, and support of parks and recreation spaces East of the River. These spaces should strive to provide year-round programming for all age groups.
- Increased access to these spaces via transportation options.
- Adjacent streetscape improvements, bike trail connectivity, safety improvements, and beautification. The park will support D.C.'s Department of Transportation, Anacostia Business Improvement District, U.S. Navy, National Park Service, and relevant city departments to ensure easy, equitable access to the park from both sides of the river.
- Increase in mental health resources to East of the River residents. These resources should be accessible to all ages and easy to access (i.e., conveniently located, available childcare, affordable options).
- Training of service providers, educators, and law enforcement to better interact with and support East of the River residents.

The 11th Street Bridge Park will lend voice, resources, and agency to make the Anacostia River swimmable and fishable by 2025 and ensure city environmental programs are equitably distributed East of the River. The Bridge Park supports centering community voices in identifying, explaining, prioritizing, and addressing the issues affecting their environment.

Strategy #3: Access, Mobility, Pathway, and Connectivity

The 11th Street Bridge Park will serve as a fully accessible space for residents in surrounding communities to connect with each other, reconnect with the Anacostia River, and foster a sense of belonging in a way that expands past the physical boundaries of the Bridge Park. The Bridge Park will rely on the following strategies:

- Consult existing studies on walkability, traffic, and safety, to identify potential barriers to accessing the Bridge Park.
- Support community led efforts that promote increased access to the river and adjacent communities (e.g. supporting the development of the Shepherds Branch Trail).
- Provide free and accessible wifi to Bridge Park visitors.
- Provide accessible wayfinding throughout the Bridge Park, maps and signage along trails, mile markers, and signage that connects to adjacent neighborhoods, neighborhood history, and local businesses.
- Ensure sharable transit options (bike and scooter rentals) are equitably represented on both sides of the river.

Strategy #4: Environmental Health and Justice

We recognize systemic racism has degraded the health of the Anacostia River, adjacent communities and created barriers for Black residents. To restore and protect historically oppressed communities, we are committed to promoting self-determination, community legacy, and collectivism to fight discrimination in planning and development for the stewardship of a sustainable and thriving physical and natural world. The 11th Street Bridge Park will rely on the following strategies:

- Actively support a thriving food economy by continuing to steward “Bridge Park Plots” in nearby neighborhoods in collaboration with communities of faith and non-profit organization and promote the creation of gardens on publicly owned land in adjacent neighborhoods.
- Partner with city and non-profits to provide support for green energy installation in adjacent neighborhoods (housing and commercial) through existing programs like the Small Business Preservation Pilot and Yachad Healthy Housing Remediation.
- Hire local Black and Brown environmental educators and work with organizations like WE ACT for Environmental Justice to provide environmental justice training to residents.
- Offer programing and curriculum integration for DCPS and D.C. charter schools to support the environmental literacy of the students.





Next Steps

The 11th Street Bridge Park will seek out partnerships and resources to move these strategies forward. Numerical targets and metrics of success will be established to assess the strategies and make adjustments as needed. The Bridge Park will continue to use local stakeholder groups to promote activities and offer feedback on Park programming. This network of organizations and community members will promote park activities and provide project updates throughout neighboring communities using a variety of engagement and outreach methods.

Glossary

Community Land Trust (CLT) and Permanently Affordable Homeownership

While there are many forms of a Community Land Trust, in general, CLTs are non-profit organizations—governed by a board of CLT residents, local residents, and public representatives—that provide lasting community assets and permanently affordable housing opportunities for families and communities. Permanently affordable homeownership programs invest public funding into a property in order to make home purchase affordable for a family of modest means. The organization supports the residents to attain and sustain homeownership. In return, the homeowner agrees to sell the home at resale-restricted and affordable price to another lower income homebuyer in the future. Consequently, the homeowner is able to successfully own a home and build wealth from the investment, while the organization is able to preserve the public’s investment in the affordable home permanently to help family after family.

Source: CLT Network

District Opportunity to Purchase Act (DOPA)

The District Opportunity to Purchase Act (DOPA) is a D.C. law that gives the D.C. government the right to purchase a building with the goal of maintaining the affordability of existing affordable rental units and increasing the total number of affordable units.

Fair Criminal Record Screening Amendment Act (FCRSA)

Legislation passed by the D.C. Council that prohibits “employers from making inquiries into an applicant’s arrests, criminal convictions, or accusations during the initial phases of the hiring process.”

Source: D.C. Office of Human Rights.

First Source Employment Program

First Source ensures that city residents are given priority for new jobs created by municipal financing and development programs. Under the law, 51% of all new hires on government-assisted projects must be District residents.

Source: D.C. Department of Employment Services.

Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA)

The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) is a D.C. law that gives residents the first right to purchase their building if the owner plans on selling, demolishing, or discontinuing its use as rental housing. The primary purposes of TOPA, as explicitly listed in law, include the preservation of affordable housing, the creation of affordable homeownership opportunities, and protection from displacement.

Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC)

THEARC is a state-of-the-art facility built in 2005 and located in Washington, D.C.’s Ward 8. THEARC is designed, built, and managed by our non-profit Building Bridges Across the River and offers the opportunity for families living east of the Anacostia River to receive world class services directly within the community.

Participants

Since 2014, a number of residents, local and national experts, and community leaders have helped shape the Bridge Park's Equitable Development Plan. We would like to thank the individuals listed below for sharing their considerable time and valuable expertise.

Public Meetings

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