



DC AUDUBON SOCIETY

Local Advocacy Alert: Anacostia Park Management Plan / Environmental Assessment

Speak up for birds that use the Anacostia River!

The National Park Service is requesting public comments on a proposed long-term management plan for Anacostia Park, which includes Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Kenilworth Park and Poplar Point (the Plan and other information is available [here](#)). We urge you to take a few minutes to comment through the process outlined below.

Those who have joined us for field trips to Kenilworth Park and the Aquatic Gardens know the richness of the area. Just last week we witnessed the evening courtship displays of American Woodcocks in Kenilworth Park, and on our Saturday trip to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens we saw Eastern Bluebirds, two teal species and a Bald Eagle. These parklands, and the adjacent National Arboretum and Kingman Island on the Anacostia River, are one of the largest blocks of green space remaining in the District. Their collective habitats are among the richest and most diverse for birds and other wildlife.

DCAS is increasingly concerned about the cumulative impacts of habitat loss being caused by management actions on public land in the District. The proposed Anacostia Plan follows: 1) final approval of a China Garden in the U.S. National Arboretum, which will eliminate existing meadowland; 2) construction of a bike trail in Anacostia Park, which has disrupted nesting areas for local birds; and 3) the proposed expansion of facilities at the Rock Creek Park Visitor Center Complex.

Although DCAS appreciates the need for parkland in the District to be accessible to local communities, we are concerned that some of the alternatives proposed for Anacostia Park preserve far too little habitat for birds. We have provided some sample comments below - we encourage you to provide your own comments by submitting these as written, using them as a base, or writing your own based on your insights and concerns.

Instructions for Providing Comments:

1. Click [here](#) to visit the project website.
2. Click the "Comment Now" button near the bottom of the page.
3. Fill in the forms and provide your comments on the "Submit Comments" page.
4. Click "Submit."

Sample Text:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Anacostia Park Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment. As a birder and resident of the greater Washington, DC area, I wish to express my concerns about the potential for habitat disruption and elimination in one of the few large green spaces remaining in our city. The existing Anacostia Park footprint, together with adjacent properties, encompasses one of the District's richest and most diverse habitats for birds and other wildlife.

I understand Park management's many objectives for this property, but I hope any space designated for development (including roads and other access routes) can be minimized, consolidated and sited away from sensitive habitats such as wetlands and riparian areas in order to provide the least disruption to existing wildlife habitat. To the extent possible, habitats (e.g., meadow, forest) should be maintained or restored in such a way as to maximize larger, contiguous areas and minimize fragmentation and edge. I would see a strong commitment to restoring or enhancing undeveloped areas, including wetlands, riparian areas and meadows. To maximize the benefits for wildlife in areas not designated for development, a holistic approach to incorporating the above principles across boundaries with adjacent green spaces would be ideal.

For the above reasons, I support Alternative 4 as the best blueprint for future management of Anacostia Park.