

# WATERFRONT WATCH

## Anacostia Waterfront News Digest



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### **Fenty Administration Moves Forward with Work on 9th and 11th Streets Bridge Projects Contractor Selected on 11th Street Bridges**

On April 24th, at a press conference in Anacostia Park, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Director Gabe Klein announced the significant work that will begin on the 9th Street Bridge (NE) and the 11th Street Bridges (SE) projects.

"These projects are a huge undertaking that will provide safer and more efficient roads for local and commuter traffic," said Mayor Fenty. "The results will spur economic development opportunities in Brentwood and along the Anacostia River, supporting and enhancing the vision of our neighborhoods being world class destinations."

"These new bridges are replacing out-dated, deficient infrastructure in high traffic areas that hundreds of thousands of people rely on every day," said DDOT Director Klein. "Ultimately these new bridges will increase the traffic safety and relieve congestion."

#### **11th Street Bridge SE Project**

This \$300 million initiative is the largest construction job in DDOT history. The project will allow better regional connections and provide drivers with easy accessibility to neighborhoods like Historic Anacostia, Capitol Hill, Navy Yard as well as Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and Anacostia Park. The freeway bridges will connect the Anacostia Freeway and the Southeast Freeway, providing the missing movement from the north to the east and the east to the north. A third bridge, dedicated to local traffic, also will be added, featuring bicycle and pedestrian access along with streetcar tracks for improved transit options.

Mayor Fenty used the press conference to announce Skanska/Facchina as the contractor selected for the 11th Street Bridges project.

The District is using an innovative procurement approach called Design-Build-to-Budget. This type of design and construction is performed by a construction contractor and designer (design-build team). It provides increased opportunities for innovation and flexibility and allows fast-track construction. Work on the 11th Street Bridges and associated interchange improvements is anticipated to begin in mid-2009 and be completed by the end of 2013. Travel lanes will remain open during construction of the new bridges.

Additional information on the 11th Street Bridges Project may be found at <http://www.theanacostiawaterfront.com/11thstreet.jsp>.

Go to our Facebook page to see photos of the Mayor's press conference.

## **FAST FORWARD: East of the River Residents Get Glimpse of Future Waterfront**

What could the 21st century Anacostia Waterfront possibly look like when it's completed little more than a decade from now? Well, residents in Ward 7 and Ward 8 got a guided "speed excursion" to the waterfront of the future last month at the Anacostia Waterfront East of the River Symposium.

The symposium in Ward 8 was held at Birney Elementary School (SE) on April 14th and the one in Ward 7 was held at Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Center (NE) on April 23rd. Both symposiums were co-sponsored by 38 community-based organizations active east of the river.

The symposium featured a 40-minute presentation developed by the District Department of Transportation that showed for the first time how the entire Anacostia Waterfront may look and feel when it is built out. Ola Igho-Osagie, DDOT Project Manager, also gave a presentation on the Anacostia line of the DC Streetcar.

Go to our Facebook page to see more photos from the symposiums.  
Visit the DDOT website for more information about DC Streetcar at [www.ddot.dc.gov/dcstreetcar](http://www.ddot.dc.gov/dcstreetcar)

## **Kingman Island Day a Success**

More than 300 District area residents and elected officials took part in Kingman Island Day on Saturday, April 25th. Visitors took part in hands-on environmental projects and activities conducted by Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region and other local partners. Kids (and kids at heart) also enjoyed face painting and meeting the many small wetland animals that populate the island, which is bordered by the Anacostia River and Kingman Lake near RFK Stadium in the District.

Elected leaders who showed up to support Kingman Island Day included Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton, Ward 6 DC Councilmember Tommy Wells, Ward 7 DC Councilmember Yvette Alexander, and Ward 3 DC Councilmember Mary Cheh. Representatives from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development also participated.

View photos on our Facebook page at "anacostiawaterfront".

## **3rd Anacostia Waterfront Community Forum Focuses on the Environment**

Dozens of citizens came out on April 21st to learn how the District Department of Environment (DDOE) will implement the District's Green DC Agenda. DDOE Director George Hawkins offered his vision of restoring the Anacostia River as a "jewel of a resource" for the nation's capital city. DDOE is unique because no other major U.S. city has an agency devoted solely to the protecting the environment.

Because the Anacostia River is one of most polluted rivers in the U.S. Hawkins said it will take a sustained clean-up effort to fulfill Mayor Fenty's pledge to make the river fishable and swimmable by 2032.

View more forum photos on our Facebook page at "anacostiawaterfront"  
For more information about DDOE programs, visit [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov).



## Anacostia Watershed Society Earth Day Clean-Up

Over 1,900 volunteers joined the Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day river clean-up activities on April 18th at 29 sites in the metropolitan Washington region. Volunteers from Maryland and the District removed 59 tons of trash, including 289 tires and 10,700 plastic bags, from the Anacostia River and its tributaries.

DC Councilmember Mary Cheh, Earthshare President Kalman Stein and Prince George' County officials David Byrd and Sarah Bouldin-Carr joined the Society at Bladensburg Waterfront Park to present awards to the students who created winning poems and artwork as part of the Anacostia Watershed Society's River of Words program. View Earth Day photos on our Facebook page at "anacostiawaterfront".

## April On The Waterfront Images Presented by the Anacostia Waterfront Civic Engagement Program



With the 11th Street Bridges and the Anacostia River as a backdrop, DDOE Director Gabe Klein (center) hails the replacement of the aging bridges at a press conference in Anacostia Park on April 24th. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (right) used the event to announce the Skansk/Facchina JV Team as the contractor selected to design and build the 11th Street Bridges. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (left), a long-time supporter of the waterfront, praised the revitalization efforts already underway.



DDOE Director George Hawkins told citizens who attended the Anacostia Waterfront Forum on April 21st that the District would meet its environmental goal of making the Anacostia River swimmable and fishable by 2032.



Demonstrating that the seed for civic involvement grows best when planted early, this father-son tandem participated in the East of the River Symposium at Birney Elementary School on April 14th. Residents saw – for the first time – how the entire Anacostia Waterfront may look and feel when it is fully developed.



This trio of young environmentalists shows an artistic flair for face-painting, just one of the many activities conducted by Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region and other partners during Kingman Island Day, April 25th.

Waterfront Watch is published by the Anacostia Waterfront Civic Engagement Program.

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