

WATERFRONTS AND OPEN SPACES



WASHINGTON'S FOUNDERS ENVISIONED A BUSTLING PORT THAT SPREAD OUT FROM THE CONFLUENCE OF THE POTOMAC AND ANACOSTIA RIVERS TO THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS SURROUNDED BY LUSH GREEN HILLS. "NATURE HAS DONE MUCH FOR IT," PIERRE L'ENFANT OBSERVED, "AND WITH THE AID OF ART, IT WILL BECOME THE WONDER OF THE WORLD."

That historic awareness of Washington as a vital river city has been lost. Freeways slice across waterfronts; grand vistas are eclipsed by bridges and elevated railroad tracks; new development turns its back on the river.

Extending the Legacy aspires to recapture that earlier vision and to offer Washington residents the same intimate connection to their rivers as Londoners and Parisians enjoy. With this new plan, the city's waterfront — most of which is publicly owned — will become a continuous band of open space from Georgetown to the National Arboretum. Some stretches will be quiet and pastoral, perfect for walks or picnics, while others will support festivals, concerts and other urban activities.

The tip of South Capitol Street might feature restaurants, concerts, marinas and various kinds of river-front entertainment. Most of the Anacostia waterfront, on the other hand, would have a more relaxed character appropriate to its neighborhood setting and its focus on ecology and the environment.

A new water taxi system will link many points along both rivers, making it possible to go from an afternoon picnic at Poplar Point to an evening concert at the Kennedy Center without getting into a car.

On the west bank of the Potomac, heavy commuter traffic will be diverted from the George Washington Memorial Parkway to increase public access to waterfront parks and the spectacular views of monumental Washington.

In the new plan, Arlington National Cemetery will remain a place of commemoration for America's heroes and public servants. Its green hills and overlooks, imprinted on the national memory by state funerals and important military ceremonies, will be preserved, while nearby Fort Myer will be enhanced as a setting for parades and other ceremonial events.



ANACOSTIA WATERFRONT



Anacostia waterfront at Massachusetts Avenue, SE, showing proposed aquarium on Kingman Island.





*The reclaimed Washington
waterfront will accommodate
many kinds of activities.*





Clockwise, from upper left: The new downtown circulator • Potomac water taxis • Restored Maryland and Virginia avenues • New 14th Street Bridge