



**Anacostia Park**  
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Washington, DC 20020

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## Anacostia Park News Release

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### Plan Your Visit to the 2017 Anacostia River Festival

*Celebrate the Anacostia River and biking along the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail*

**WASHINGTON**—The National Park Service and the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park present the third annual Anacostia River Festival, a premier event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. This year's program will have a special focus on biking in the District and will celebrate the new extension of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail to Bladensburg, Md. Held in Anacostia Park, this **FREE** event invites District residents and visitors alike to explore communities and parks east of the river. In 2016, the Anacostia River Festival attracted nearly 8,000 people to Anacostia Park.

#### **Anacostia River Festival**

**When:** Sunday, April 9, 2017; 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Where:** National Park Service's Anacostia Park at Good Hope Road & Anacostia Drive SE

**Who:** FREE and open to the public.

**For more information:** [bridgepark.org/ARF](http://bridgepark.org/ARF)

#### **What's Happening:**

##### ***In the Park and On the River***

Festival-goers will enjoy activities that celebrate biking, including a community bike parade, bike repair stations, FREE kids bike rentals, and bicycle decorating. Participants eager to join the 3 p.m. bike parade, should begin lining up at 2:30 by the bike valet. The festival will feature family friendly arts and crafts, storytelling, lawn games, archaeology "digs" and more. Try something new with boating, fishing and canoeing classes (sign up for these classes are required at tent # 1). Enjoy live music throughout the day, from acts including the U.S. Navy Band Ceremonial Band, The National Hand Dance Association and the Washington Performing Arts' Children of the Gospel Choir.

### ***On Good Hope Road***

Visit local businesses at the East of the River Artist Market where artists will showcase their talents, goods and fashion. Enjoy art activities, bicycle stations, delicious food stands, a vibrant fruit market and mobile library.

### ***In Historic Anacostia***

The Anacostia Arts Center will host live music, fashion, art, activities and exhibitions presented by the Anacostia Business Improvement District (BID) and ARCH Development Corporation.

### ***In Capitol Hill/Navy Yard***

#### **1301 Water Street SE**

The Historic Anacostia Boating Association Eastern Power Boat Club is hosting boat cruises on the river from 1-4pm. More information and registration for the cruise can be found at tent #1 in the park.

### **Getting There:**

#### ***Metro***

Anacostia Station (green line). Exit toward the parking garage to walk to the festival (approximately 7 minutes).

#### ***Bike Access***

A Capital Bikeshare share station is available along Good Hope Road SE. FREE bike valet available.

#### ***Parking***

The Anacostia Metro parking garage is a short walk to the festival (approximately 7 minutes). Or you can take a FREE shuttle from the Anacostia Metro Station near the Howard Road exit or the Eastern Market Metro (orange/blue/silver lines) to historic Anacostia. Paid parking lots are available in Anacostia and Navy Yard.

### **What to Bring:**

Visitors are encouraged to bring water or fill their reusable water bottles at the filling station. There will be food for sale at stations throughout the park, but feel free to bring a picnic or snacks. Blankets are encouraged, as chairs will not be provided to view stage performances. Dogs on leash are allowed in Anacostia Park, and owners are responsible for picking up waste. Participants in the bike parade need to bring their own bike and helmet.

### **What Not to Bring:**

No alcohol is allowed in Anacostia Park. Please refrain from bringing large objects like lawn chairs or tables.

### **About the Anacostia River Festival**

The Anacostia River Festival is presented by the National Park Service and the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park in partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Funds for the Anacostia River Festival are provided in part by Bloomberg. Other supporters include The Kresge Foundation; DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment; The Drew Company/Trade Center Management Associates; TD Bank; Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.; The Yards; Walmart; Zipcar;

City First Bank of DC; The JBG Companies; LISC DC; Western Development; The Menkiti Group; MRP Realty and Bike & Roll DC.

### **About the National Park Service**

The National Park Service cares for 417 national parks across the country and offers interesting history and outdoor fun for everyone. Visit us at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for more information.

We are working to make Anacostia Park a signature urban park that improves people's lives and protects the quality and resiliency of the Anacostia ecosystem. The park provides inspirational natural spaces easily accessible to area residents and visitors and offers a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities. To learn more about Anacostia Park visit [www.nps.gov/anac](http://www.nps.gov/anac).

### **About The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park, a project of Building Bridges Across the River, will be Washington, D.C.'s first elevated public park located on the piers of the old 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge spanning the Anacostia River: a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education and the arts. Visit [www.bridgepark.org](http://www.bridgepark.org) for more information.

### **About the National Cherry Blossom Festival**

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2017 Festival, March 20-April 16, includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit [www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information.

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