



# Foundation Document Overview

## National Capital Parks—East

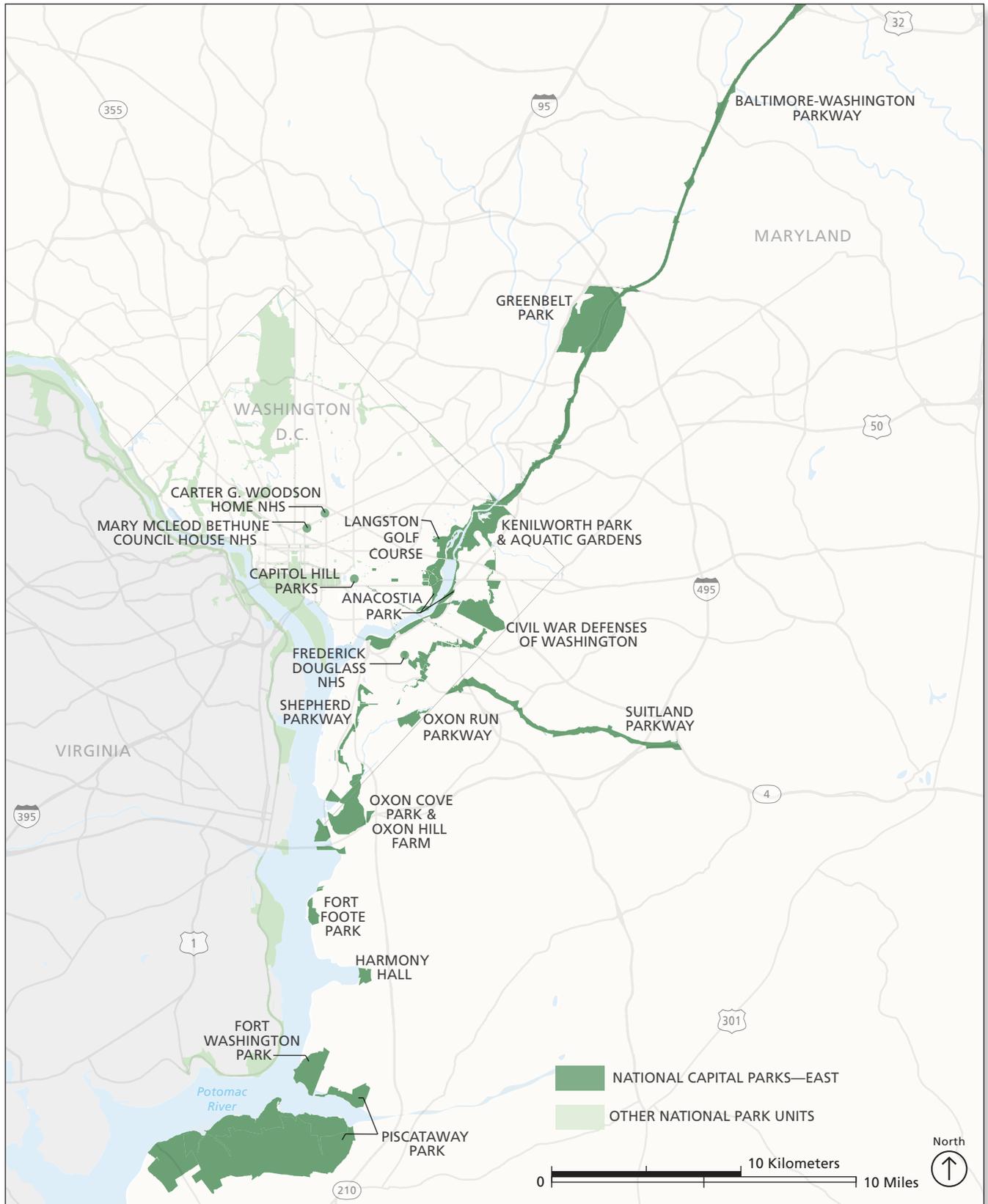
District of Columbia / Maryland



### Contact Information

For more information about the *National Capital Parks—East Foundation Document*, contact: [nace\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:nace_superintendent@nps.gov) or (202) 690-5185 or write to: Superintendent, National Capital Parks—East, 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE Washington, DC 20020

# National Capital Parks—East Map

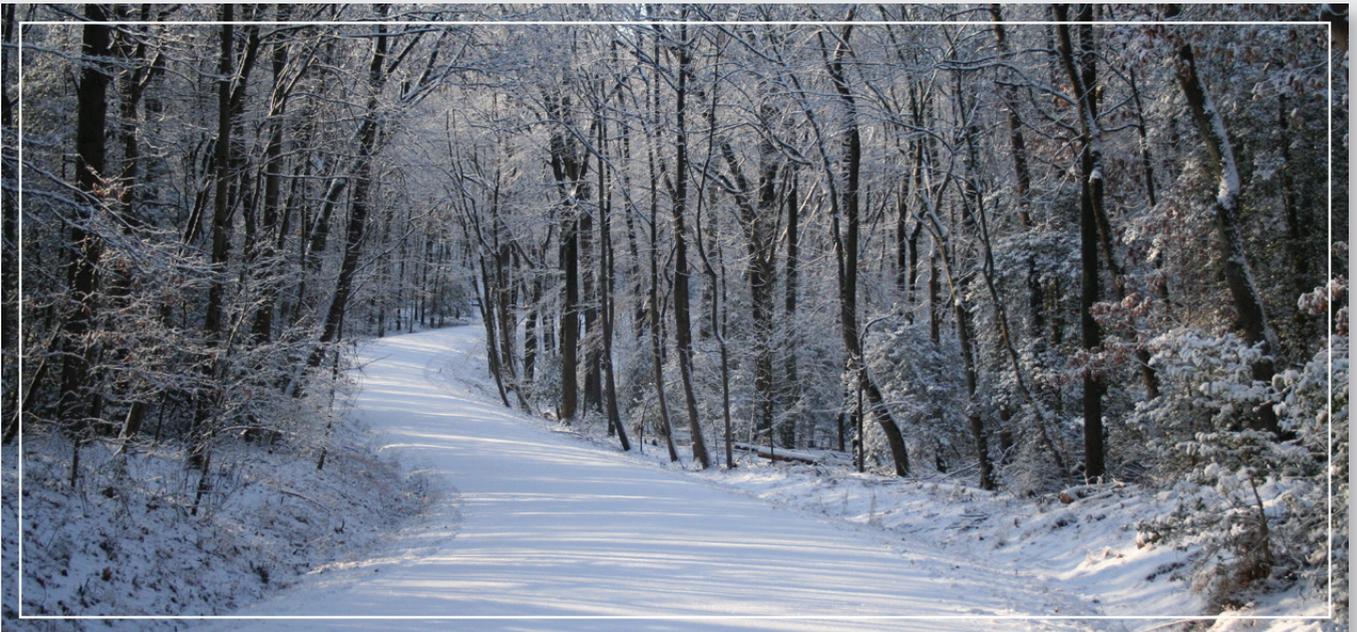


# National Capital Parks—East Sites

The sites managed by National Capital Parks—East include:

- Piscataway Park, including the Fort Washington Marina and Marshall Hall
- Oxon Cove Park, including Oxon Hill Farm and Oxon Run Parkway
- Harmony Hall
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site\*
- Greenbelt Park
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site\*
- Fort Washington Park
- Civil War Defenses of Washington
- Baltimore-Washington Parkway\*
- Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site\*
- Anacostia Park and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens
- Capitol Hill Parks, including the various U.S. Reservations east of the Capitol and within the L'Enfant Plan for the federal city (122, 279, 280, 281, 283, 315)
- Suitland Parkway\* and U.S. Reservations 295, 296, 297, 336A, 467, 487A, 487B, 487C, 487D, 562, 629, 669, 718, and 718A

\*National Capital Parks—East sites that have specific NPS enabling legislation. All others have legislative origins in the Capper-Cramton Act of 1930.



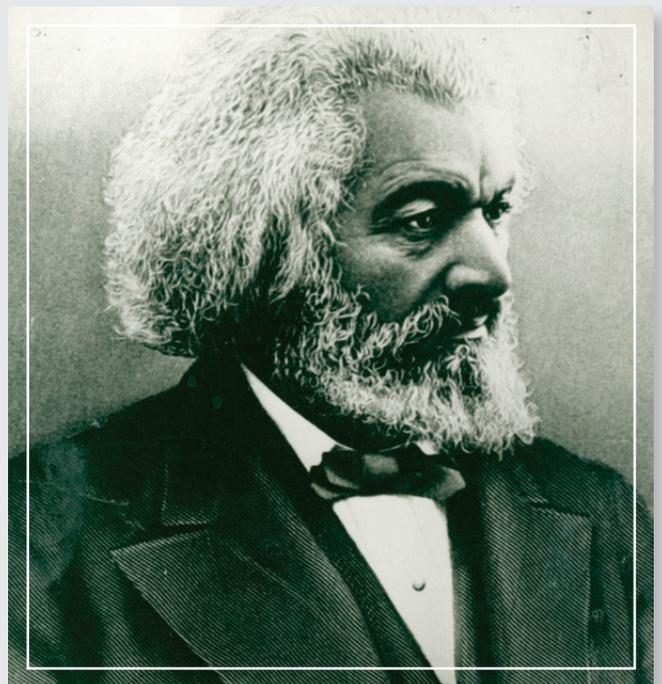
## National Capital Parks—East Description

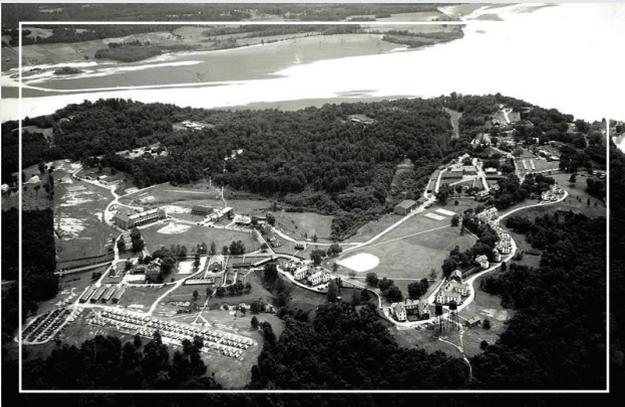
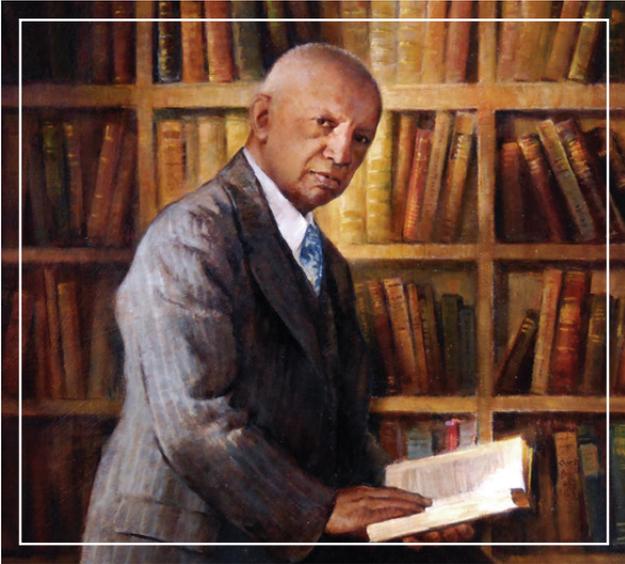
National Capital Parks—East manages a diverse collection of urban park units located in all four quadrants of Washington, DC, as well as in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Charles Counties in Maryland. These park units protect a broad range of locally, regionally, and nationally important resources that engage a broad spectrum of the population. These parks are distributed among 98 locations and total more than 8,000 acres. Park resources consist of natural areas, recreation areas, cultural landscapes, historic homes, parkways, farms, archeological sites, historic forts, environmental clean-up sites, and private properties under scenic easements.

The lands stewarded by National Capital Parks—East create vibrant green space in urbanized areas that allow for passive and active recreation and a wide array of educational programming. This broad and diverse range of sites allows the park to tell important stories that have shaped the Washington, DC, region and the nation. The cultural resources of the parks particularly reflect America's ongoing story of civil rights and social justice, preserve archeological evidence of tens of thousands of years of American Indian lifeways along the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and exemplify the last 225 years of the national capital region's growth and development.

The natural resources of the parks promote biodiversity that encourages economic growth, enhances ecological resiliency, serves as dispersal corridors for plants and wildlife, and allows urban populations to connect with and understand nature. The disparate and dispersed, noncontiguous nature of these urban sites and their complexity creates a number of complicated issues for the park, including the pressures of competing jurisdictions and user groups and the sheer number of community partners, elected officials, and stakeholders.

The park units have come into the national park system at various times and under various legislation and authorities, including the Capper-Cramton Act of 1930. The significance of the Capper-Cramton Act cannot be overemphasized. The Capper-Cramton Act allows for forest conservation and the protection of wetlands and waterways, and encourages the use of open space for diverse recreation opportunities. Many of the park sites are located along the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and provide important ecological buffers between heavily developed urban spaces and river watersheds to protect water quality and ecosystem resiliency. These park units provide respite from the urban environment for park visitors and contribute to the quality of life of the residents in the communities where they reside.





## Piscataway Park Description & Purpose

Piscataway Park was created as a unit of the National Park Service on October 4, 1961, through Public Law 87-362. The park is located along the Maryland shore of the Potomac River approximately 10 miles south of Washington, DC, and contains more than 4,500 acres of park land. Approximately one-third of the land that comprises Piscataway Park is owned by the National Park Service, and nearly two-thirds of the park is privately owned with the National Park Service maintaining scenic easements known as the Moyaone Reserve. Included within the park is the 8.3-acre Fort Washington marina, remnants of the Marshall Hall mansion, Hard Bargain Farm, National Colonial Farm, and the Moyaone Reserve. The National Colonial Farm is operated by the Accokeek Foundation under a cooperative agreement. The Hard Bargain Farm complex, owned and operated by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, provides access to agricultural resources and an environmental center.

The park generally is managed as a natural area characterized by heavily wooded, rolling hills with fields and meadows, streams, and wetlands along the riverfront. The park provides extensive open space and access to the Potomac River near metropolitan Washington, DC, with opportunities for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, and hiking. The diverse habitats and outdoor experiences in the NPS-owned portions offer outstanding opportunities for natural exploration and education in an expanding metropolitan area. Piscataway Park contains a rich prehistoric and historic American Indian archeological record, with sites that are scientifically and historically significant at the local, state, and national levels that exhibit evidence of human occupation that spans more than 11,500 years.

*The purpose of PISCATAWAY PARK is to preserve historic vistas from Mount Vernon estate and Fort Washington while protecting the natural, cultural, ethnographic, scientific, educational, and recreational values of the park.*

## Significance

Significance statements express why Piscataway Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- The protection of Piscataway Park is achieved in part through scenic easements and collaborative partnerships, one of the first of such management models in the national park system and a pioneering strategy for land conservation in the United States.
- The archeological record at Piscataway Park encompasses more than 11,500 years of human history and prehistory, reflecting a diversity of cultures that have occupied this prominent site on the banks of the Potomac River.
- Reflecting Piscataway Park's rich history and use, many American Indians and other groups maintain a deep connection with the park's spiritual landscape through the continuation of traditional cultural practices.
- The Moyaone Reserve at Piscataway Park is rooted in the mid-20th-century American environmental movement and demonstrates a unique approach to conservation in neighborhood planning and nature-oriented architectural design that integrates with the area's natural wooded character.
- Piscataway Park protects native habitats such as inland forests and Potomac tidal marshlands, which support a diversity of natural resources and recreational opportunities in close proximity to metropolitan Washington, DC.



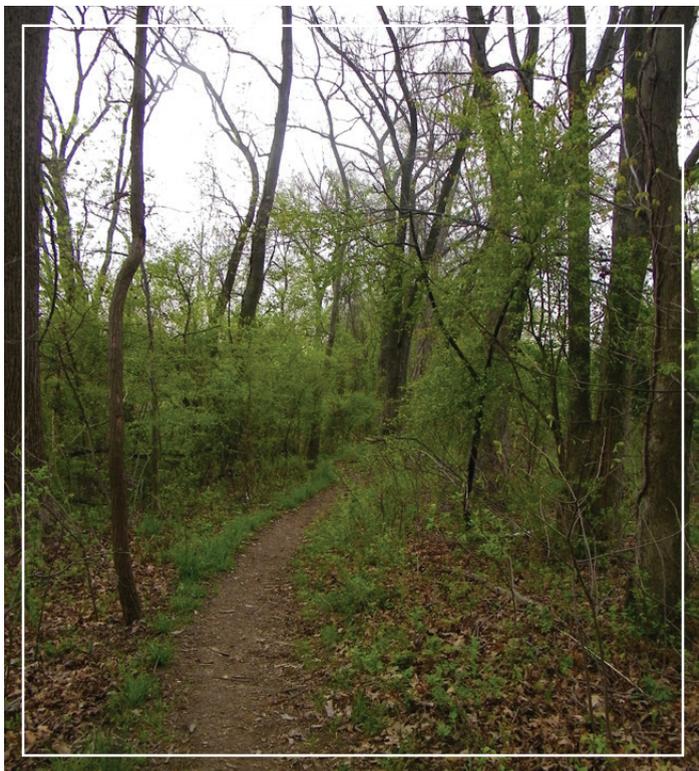
## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Views and Vistas**
- **Archeological Resources**
- **Ethnographic Resources**
- **Historic District**
- **Natural Communities**
- **Recreational Opportunities**
- **Conservation Easements**

Piscataway Park contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Partnerships and Opportunities for Education**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- A place where the land shaped the people and the people shaped the land, the area now known as Piscataway Park has witnessed a confluence of cultures that continues to mold the park.
- As evidenced by its archeological record, the site of Piscataway Park has been culturally significant to various groups of the Potomac region for thousands of years and continues to provide a spiritual focal point and connection for many communities today.
- Through the protection and stewardship of diverse ecology, Piscataway Park provides a sanctuary for both visitors and wildlife along the shoreline of the Potomac River.
- Due to its unique land management partnerships and opportunities to learn sustainable techniques and land stewardship, Piscataway Park serves as an educational landscape where the ideals of preservation, stewardship, agriculture, and sustainability are shared and experienced at the park.



## Oxon Cove Park Description & Purpose

Oxon Cove Park opened in 1967 under the authority of Public Law 71-284, the Capper-Cramton Act of 1930. The park occupies approximately 485 contiguous acres that include sections in Prince George's County, Maryland, and Washington, DC. Many areas of the Oxon Cove Park landscape have been manipulated over time and have become naturalized, wild urban spaces along the riverfront. Oxon Hill Farm, a historic farmstead, lies within park boundaries. An additional 126-acre natural area, Oxon Run Parkway, is located upstream on Oxon Run but is separated from Oxon Cove Park by a section of District of Columbia-managed parkland.

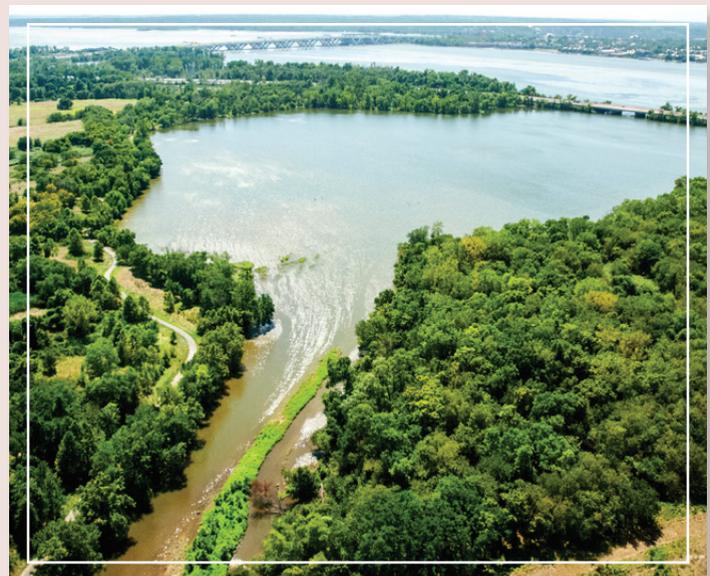
Today, Oxon Hill Farm serves as a working farm that teaches an understanding of agriculture and animals, of independence, and of hard work. Much of the landscape of Oxon Hill Farm reflects the historic rural character of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Major roads that cut through the property and define some of its borders follow historic routes. In general, the landscape retains the historic relation of open field or pasture to woodland. Some fields remain in agricultural cultivation, reflecting continuity of use.

*OXON COVE PARK preserves and interprets historic, agrarian, and natural landscapes along the Potomac River shoreline. It preserves forests, contributes to the protection of the water quality of the Potomac River, and provides recreational opportunities as part of the comprehensive system of parks, parkways, and recreational areas in and around the nation's capital.*

## Significance

Significance statements express why Oxon Cove Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- The historic agrarian landscape of Oxon Hill Farm reflects traditional agricultural use of the site throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, and provides an opportunity to educate visitors and residents about this period in Maryland history, including the practices of slavery and the lives of enslaved individuals.
- Within an intensively developed urban area, the park preserves several distinct natural habitats, a diverse array of wildlife, and scenic views along the Potomac River, while also connecting a number of recreational and natural corridors in and around the nation's capital.
- From the Mount Welby farmhouse, the DeButts family witnessed the burning of Washington, DC, during the War of 1812; Mary DeButts' first-hand account of the event provides an important perspective from a female civilian on the effects of the war on families.
- From the 1890s through the 1960s, the central historic core of the site was managed by St. Elizabeth's Hospital as one of the first agricultural complexes to be used for the therapeutic treatment of the mentally ill.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **The Farmstead Landscape**
- **Potomac River Viewshed**
- **Natural Communities**
- **Historic Roads**
- **Recreational Opportunities**



Oxon Cove Park contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Archeological Resources**



## Interpretive Themes

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- Oxon Cove Park was established as a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.
- The landscape of Oxon Hill Farm provides visitors with an opportunity to understand the evolution of farming at the site—from its connection to early plantation farming, to its use as therapeutic treatment for the mentally ill, to the local food production and sustainability movements.
- From the front porch of the farmhouse at Oxon Hill Farm, visitors can experience the same sweeping views of Washington, DC, as Mary DeButts when she witnessed the destruction of the nation's capital during the War of 1812.
- On a bluff overlooking the nation's capital, Oxon Cove Park protects a varied natural landscape along the Potomac River, supporting a diverse ecology and offering opportunities for peaceful relaxation and outdoor recreation in an expanding urban area.



## Harmony Hall Description & Purpose

Harmony Hall came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service in 1966, under Public Law 71-284, the Capper-Cramton Act. The 62-acre property includes the Harmony Hall manor house, an 18th-century, two-and-one-half-story, Georgian country house; the ruins of Want Water, a dwelling built in about 1736; and the 1748 Want Water Canal.

Located near a tributary of Broad Creek to the northwest of Harmony Hall are the ruins of a house constructed in the early 18th century called Want Water. Only the two brick end walls and chimneys and the fieldstone foundation remain. This house was adjacent to a tobacco inspection station and hand-dug canal that were constructed in 1748. This was the first shipping canal in the Chesapeake region and one of the first in the 13 colonies.

In the 1760s, Enoch Magruder purchased Harmony Hall and Want Water and constructed the manor house to replace an earlier earthfast house. Magruder was a slave-owner, and more than 25 enslaved individuals toiled on the plantation.

A number of 20th-century outbuildings constructed by Charles Collins remain. These outbuildings include servants' quarters, a garage, a smokehouse, a bungalow, and sheds. Collins constructed an English cowherd ditch, known as a ha-ha. Although Harmony Hall manor is currently closed to the public, the site itself offers passive outdoor recreational experiences.

*HARMONY HALL preserves and interprets southern Maryland cultural heritage and the associated historic, scenic, and natural resources of the site. The site also provides opportunities for outdoor recreation as part of a comprehensive system of parks, parkways, and recreational areas in and around the nation's capital that also preserves forests and contributes to the protection of source water and pollution prevention.*

## Significance

Significance statements express why Harmony Hall resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Harmony Hall is significant for its association with 18th century colonial settlement and its Georgian architecture, which is characteristic of early Potomac River masonry plantation houses.
- The site contains important historical remnants of the American colonial era and the early commercial use of the Potomac River, including the ruins of the Want Water house and canal.
- Robert Stein, a well-known explorer and linguist, purchased Harmony Hall in 1892 and encouraged emigration from his homeland of Silesia, Prussia, which has influenced the ethnographic make-up of the surrounding community, now known as Silesia, Maryland.
- In the early 20th century, Charles Collins purchased the property with the intention to create a romanticized southern plantation experience on the site. Collins was a segregationist and strategist for the Dixiecrat Party. His efforts to preserve and re-envision the property are a complex and often ignored component of American history that directly influenced the civil rights movement.
- Harmony Hall is the keystone property of the Broad Creek Historic District, the first historic district in Prince George's County, Maryland.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Cultural Landscapes**
- **Harmony Hall**
- **Natural Communities**
- **Archeological Resources**
- **Want Water Ruins and Want Water Canal**



Harmony Hall contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Recreational Opportunities**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- Harmony Hall tells the story of a changing landscape that provides exceptional insight into commercial uses along the Potomac River, the role of the estate as a catalyst for growth and development in the surrounding community, and the evolution of historic preservation practice.
- The Harmony Hall property represents an opportunity to further investigate the archeology and history of human settlement along the Potomac River.
- The Harmony Hall property represents an opportunity to further investigate the cultural and societal history of enslaved workers on a Maryland tobacco plantation.
- The grounds at Harmony Hall protect a variety of natural habitats that support flora and fauna and provide opportunities for visitors to connect with nature and experience outdoor recreation near a densely developed urban area, including the historic loblolly pine trees.
- Harmony Hall was established as a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.



# Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site Description & Purpose

# Significance

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site was established by Congress on October 15, 1982, through Public Law 97-329. This site recognizes Mary McLeod Bethune's accomplishments as a renowned educator, national political leader, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women.

Mary McLeod Bethune was an influential figure in the civil rights movement, and her life and legacy embodied at this national historic site are important for helping visitors understand the early struggles and victories in the long, difficult battle for civil rights in the United States. The site was the first headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women. Through the preservation and restoration of the site, visitors to the Council House and researchers are engaged through experiential interpretive experiences, focusing on enlightened programming, interactive media, and changing exhibitions. The park envisions the site as a center for leadership studies to empower audiences and engage visitors to strive for freedom and equality in the spirit of Mrs. Bethune's legacy.

The site also stewards the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History. The archives include the largest extant manuscript collection of materials pertaining to African American women and their organizations and contain extensive correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia relating to Mary McLeod Bethune. The museum and archives stewards artifacts, clothing, artwork, and other materials that document the history of African American women and their struggle for civil rights and equality.

*MARY McLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE preserves and interprets the life, legacy, and home of Mary McLeod Bethune and her pioneering work in establishing the National Council of Negro Women. The site also preserves and manages the National Archives for Black Women's History, a living repository that allows for the continued interpretation of the history and influence of African American women in America.*

Significance statements express why Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the residence in Washington, DC, of Mary McLeod Bethune, internationally renowned educator, political leader, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women.
- It was at this location that Mary McLeod Bethune, as the president of the National Council of Negro Women, received heads of state, government officials, and leaders from around the world.
- The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, an organization founded on the principle of social justice that continues to empower African American women to work toward racial and gender equality.
- The National Archives for Black Women's History includes the largest extant manuscript collection of materials pertaining to African American women and their organizations, and also contains extensive correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia relating to Mary McLeod Bethune.
- The National Park Service stewards artifacts and other materials related to the history of African American women and the African American community. These materials are added to the existing collections.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **The Council House and Carriage House**
- **National Archives for Black Women’s History**
- **Museum Collection**
- **Education and Scholarship**
- **Recreational Opportunities**

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Connections to the Logan Circle Neighborhood**



## Interpretive Themes

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- Mary McLeod Bethune’s accomplishments as an internationally renowned educator and political leader in the fight for equality, social justice, and religious freedom encourage us to view civil rights as a universal issue and inspire us to struggle for human rights here and abroad.
- At this site, the National Council of Negro Women carried out planning and implementation of critical and decisive components of the civil rights movement. Not only was this the center of leadership for the organization, but it was also a safe haven for women who were able to board in the house when alternative lodgings were scarce or unsafe.
- The site stewards the National Archives for Black Women’s History. The archives provide opportunities for education and scholarship, and motivate political action in the continuing struggle for social justice and equality.
- Through her work with the National Council of Negro Women and various political and educational groups, Mary McLeod Bethune encouraged respect and social justice not only for African American women, but also for American society as a whole.
- Mary McLeod Bethune was an influential figure in the civil rights movement, and her life and legacy embodied at this national historic site are important for helping visitors understand the early struggles and victories in the long, difficult battle for civil rights in the United States.



## Greenbelt Park Description & Purpose

Greenbelt Park was established by Congress on August 3, 1950, through Public Law 81-643 in association with the creation of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, which traverses the park. This 1,100-acre park is located just 12 miles from downtown Washington, DC, and 23 miles from Baltimore, Maryland.

The park features a 174-site campground, nine miles of trails, and three picnic areas. In some ways, Greenbelt Park is a “backyard” national park unit, as many locals come to camp, hike, picnic, and run. The park provides all the experiences of traditional parks, close to home. Greenbelt Park also attracts visitors from across the country and around the world who are drawn by the recreational opportunities, natural beauty, and the campground that is open all year.

Greenbelt Park is also a great place to experience nature in an urban area. Its high-quality forests serve as a home to a variety of wildlife, including coyotes, neotropical migrant birds, white-tailed deer, red foxes, woodchucks, opossums, skunks, beavers, chipmunks, and flying squirrels. The park also hosts nesting neotropical forest migrants. Fauna in the park includes mixed pine and deciduous forests, an array of wildflowers, and understory ferns.

*Situated along the scenic and historic Baltimore-Washington Parkway, GREENBELT PARK is part of the comprehensive and continuous development of the park system of the national capital. The park provides high quality camping, picnicking, and hiking in wooded areas and along stream corridors, preserving forests, and contributing to the protection of water quality in the Anacostia River watershed.*

## Significance

Significance statements express why Greenbelt Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Located 12 miles from downtown Washington, DC, Greenbelt Park offers more than 1,100 acres of easily accessible open space, camping, and high quality forests in an intensively developed urban area.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Natural Communities.** The park is mainly composed of high quality woodland—mixed pine and deciduous forest—with some small areas of grassy meadow. Two streams, Still Creek and Deep Creek, flow through the park and into the Anacostia River to the west. This natural setting offers visitors a chance to find serenity and quiet and provides an opportunity to escape from the bustle of an intensively developed urban area.
- **Recreational Opportunities.** The park provides visitors with a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Active opportunities include, but are not limited to, bicycling, field sports hiking, camping, picnicking, and bird watching.

Greenbelt Park contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Interpretation and Education.** The history of land use within the park provides opportunities for interpretation and education about the relationship of humans to nature and nature's regenerative ability. The high quality habitat is situated within a heavily urbanized area. It is a place to foster understanding and learning among the broader community about the natural and manmade forces that shaped the landscape, as well as the resiliency of the natural environment.
- **Cultural Resources.** The land contained within the park has a long history of human use, both before and after European settlement on the continent. The land was used by prehistoric American Indians for hunting and camping, and later by European settlers for logging and farmland. The cultural resources associated with these uses can provide valuable insights into trends and patterns in human settlement around the nation's capital.

## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- Greenbelt Park is an area of forest and natural scenery that was established as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.
- Greenbelt Park's quiet forests, trails, and campgrounds provide an easily accessible refuge for urban dwellers to connect with the outdoors for natural exploration, relaxation, and recreation in the metropolitan Washington, DC area.



# Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Description & Purpose

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site was established by Congress on September 5, 1962, through Public Law 87-633. This site at Cedar Hill, where Douglass lived from 1877 until his death in 1895, honors the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass, the most recognizable African American public spokesperson of his time.

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site ensures the preservation of Douglass's Washington, DC, home while inspiring the public through the legacy of his dedication to the ideals of freedom, justice, equality, and activism against oppression. Douglass spent his career as an advocate not only for the rights of minorities and the abolition movement, but also for women's suffrage and temperance. His life triumphs were many: abolitionist, women's rights activist, author, owner-editor of antislavery newspapers, United States Minister to Haiti, and the most respected African American orator of the 1800s.

The Frederick Douglass Home at Cedar Hill is a 14-room house with associated outbuildings that was constructed in the 1850s. The home is situated on a 14-acre tract on a hill with a commanding view of the capital city. The site includes a visitor center, located at the base of the hill of the Cedar Hill estate, and an adjacent, unfinished property that was purchased to support educational activities. Redesign of the visitor center and construction of an education center on the adjacent property will provide space for enlightened programming and experiential learning opportunities using dynamic multimedia. Through the rehabilitation of visitor services areas at the site, the park will provide innovative and compelling educational spaces focusing on the commitment to education, scholarship, collaboration, and agitation that was central to Douglass's life and legacy.

*The purpose of FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to inspire and educate the public through the preservation and interpretation of the home, life, and legacy of Frederick Douglass through his Cedar Hill estate in Washington, DC.*

# Significance

Significance statements express why Frederick Douglass National Historic Site resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- The importance of Frederick Douglass's legacy inspired visionary grassroots preservation efforts—led by the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and the local community—to preserve his historic Anacostia home, one of the first historic sites dedicated to an African American.
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, with its landscape, home, and rich collection of original Douglass objects that embody the power of the place, challenges and inspires us as a tangible symbol of the social revolution in 19th century America. That revolution saw Frederick Douglass rise from enslavement to one of the most prominent African Americans of his time.
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, along with its rich collection of original Douglass objects, reveals the many facets of Douglass the man: intellectual, advocate, statesman, ambassador, writer, orator, musician, family man, friend, colleague, farmer, and Victorian gentleman.
- Frederick Douglass built and worked with a powerful network of vibrant leaders whose fight for social justice continues to inspire us today. His associates included Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, and Senator Blanche K. Bruce.
- Frederick Douglass's Cedar Hill is positioned in the heart of historic Anacostia. This historic structure is an icon of American history and serves as both a steady influence and a catalyst for change in the community.
- Offering commanding views of the nation's capital, Frederick Douglass's Cedar Hill estate was a symbol of his achievements and influence, a center for activism, and his personal refuge.
- A visit to Frederick Douglass National Historic Site exposes visitors to tangible symbols of African American achievement against overwhelming odds and also provides visitors of all backgrounds an opportunity for personal inspiration.

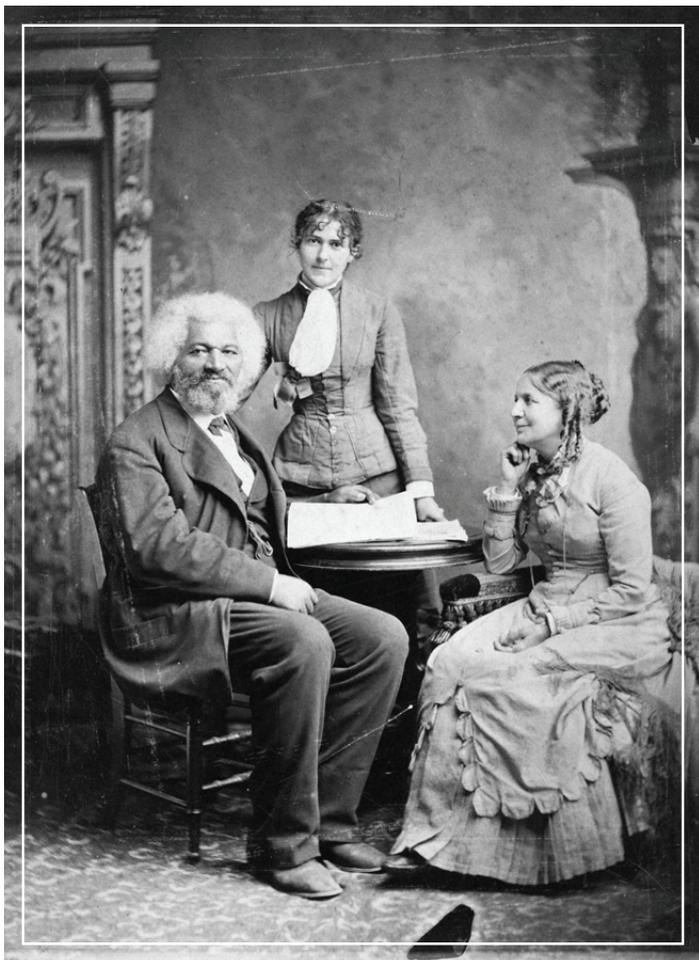
## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **The Douglass Home**
- **Cedar Hill Estate Cultural Landscape**
- **Museum Collection**
- **Opportunities for Learning and Understanding**

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

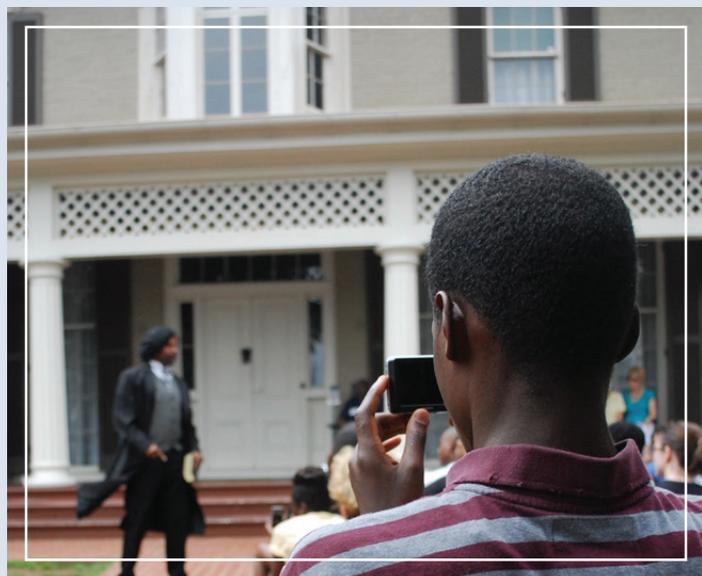
- **Connections to the Anacostia Neighborhood**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- The life and ideals of Frederick Douglass, centered in our nation’s 19th-century struggle for civil rights and social justice, continues to challenge and inspire us today.
- The story of Frederick Douglass’s journey from enslavement to prominence, achieved against overwhelming odds, challenges and inspires us to work untiringly to achieve our own aspirations.
- On a hilltop overlooking the City of Washington, Frederick Douglass’s estate, including its extensive collection of original Douglass objects, symbolizes his unparalleled success and embodies the heights to which the “Sage of Anacostia” rose by the end of his life, inspiring Americans to preserve his home and continue his legacy.
- Frederick Douglass’s broad-ranging advocacy for social justice issues including abolition, civil rights, and equal education regardless of race or gender helped to transform a nation struggling to live up to its ideals, and continues to be relevant by challenging and inspiring those who seek freedom and equality today.



## Fort Washington Park Description & Purpose

Fort Washington Park was established by Congress on May 29, 1930, through Public Law 71-284, the Capper-Cramton Act. For more than 200 years, Fort Washington Park has been under the jurisdiction of the federal government, serving as a defensive outpost for Washington, DC, a training facility for military and civilian forces, and as a provider of inspirational, educational, and recreational opportunities for thousands of visitors annually.

In 1793, President Washington first proposed construction of the original fort, Fort Warburton. Having frequently crossed between Mount Vernon and the ferry at Warburton Manor, Washington recognized that the heights above the confluence of the Potomac River and Piscataway Creek were the best strategic spot to defend the future national capital from the river approach. Fort Warburton was constructed between 1808 to 1809, and it guarded the nation's capital until 1814 when it was destroyed by American soldiers in anticipation of a British attack during the War of 1812.

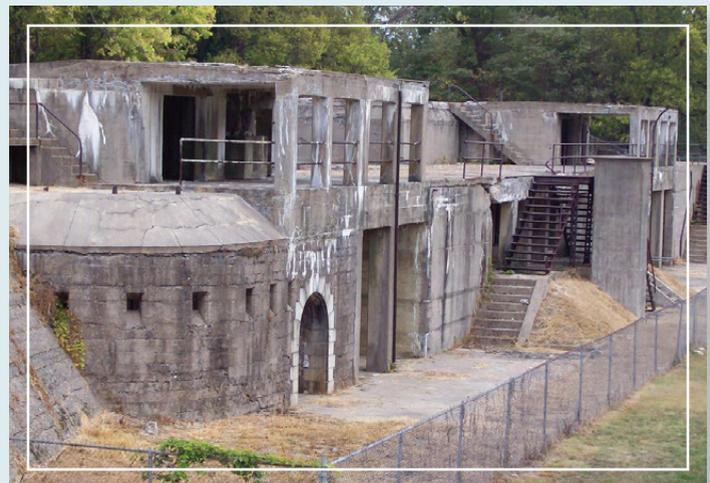
Today, the 341-acre park serves as a premiere historical and recreational area. The grounds feature the historic fort, hiking and biking paths, Potomac River access, and a view of the river that provides a scenic place for picnicking and fishing in a historic setting.

*The purpose of FORT WASHINGTON PARK is to preserve and interpret a key historic river defense of Washington, DC, while protecting the scenic and recreational opportunities of the Potomac River as part of a comprehensive system of parks established to preserve forests and provide protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.*

## Significance

Significance statements express why Fort Washington Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Fort Washington is the only pre-Civil War permanent masonry fortification on the Potomac River, constructed to guard and defend this strategic gateway to the nation's capital.
- Fort Washington's occupation and use by the United States military for more than 130 years illustrates the advances in coastal defenses and weaponry between the 19th and 20th centuries.
- The Battery Decatur, completed in 1896, was one of the first Endicott period masonry batteries ever built.
- Situated high atop a peninsula on the Potomac River, the sightlines that made Fort Washington a strategically important defensive position now provide exceptional views of the Potomac River and the nation's capital.
- Fort Washington preserves natural features, plant communities, and biodiversity that support the quality and ecological function of the region's natural resources. The park also protects the Potomac River watershed and preserves forests and natural scenery in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, while providing a tranquil natural setting that allows visitors opportunities for personal contemplation and rejuvenation.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Historic Fortifications**
- **Views and Vistas**
- **Archeological Resources**
- **Natural Communities**
- **Recreational Opportunities**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- The evolution of Fort Washington represents changes in both defensive and offensive military strategies and technologies used in defense of the nation and the security of Washington, DC.
- Originally built to defend the waterway to the nation's capital, Fort Washington Park is now charged with protecting natural communities and green space, rare within the vast metropolitan area of Washington, DC.
- Overlooking the Potomac River, the location that once made Fort Washington an ideal defensive position, now provides access to a wide range of opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and renewal.
- Fort Washington Park was established as a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.



# Civil War Defenses of Washington

## Description & Purpose

## Significance

Of the surviving features of the system of defenses termed the Civil War Defenses of Washington, National Capital Parks—East administers nine: Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Dupont, Davis, Stanton, Ricketts, Greble, Foote, and Battery Carroll, in addition to the adjacent park land and connecting park corridors, including Shepherd Parkway. The other defense sites administered by the National Park Service are part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Rock Creek Park. These sites came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service under the authority of Public Law 71-284, the Capper-Cramton Act.

The Civil War Defenses of Washington were constructed as a circle of fortifications on the high ground surrounding Washington, DC, to protect the city during the Civil War. The city had not been threatened militarily since the War of 1812 and was initially undefended against Confederate incursion as the Civil War began in 1861. Outside the city's urban core was a rural landscape consisting of larger estates and family farms, crossroads communities, turnpikes and farm lanes, and, critically, the topographic high ground. This dispersed, open rural environment was the landscape context for the engineered construction of the Civil War Defenses of Washington between 1862 and 1865.

Today, each of the historic fort sites plays an important role in its local community, both as an area for recreation and as a place to learn about the history of the Civil War in Washington, DC.

*The CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON protects and interprets the remnants of historic Civil War forts while preserving a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for preservation of substantial tracts of forests, protection of source water, and recreation in and around the nation's capital.*

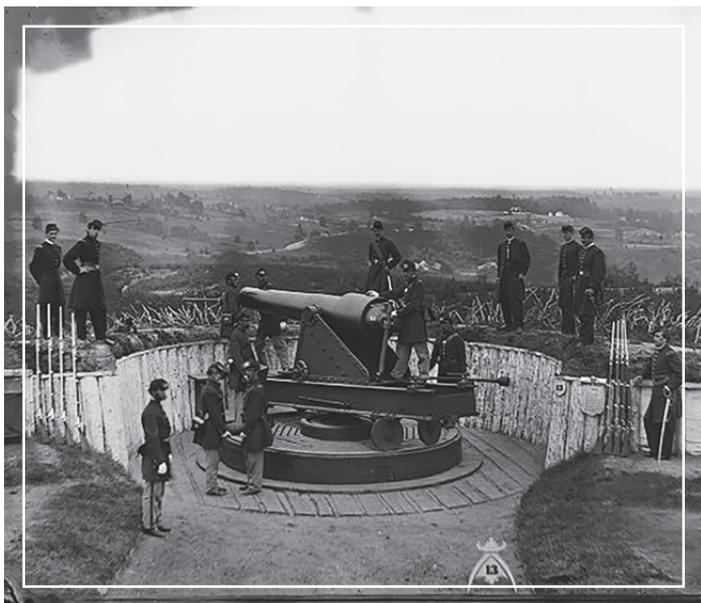
Significance statements express why Civil War Defenses of Washington resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- The scale, inventive design, and speed of construction of the Civil War Defenses of Washington resulted in a system of forts, batteries, and rifle trenches that effectively deterred the invasion of the nation's capital by the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and are a tangible reminder of the capital city's rich Civil War history.
- The defensive position of the forts on hills surrounding the city provides an outstanding opportunity to explore and understand the strategic interaction between the environment and cultural history.
- The significant natural features and processes preserved by the Civil War Defenses of Washington provide viable corridors for both plant and wildlife diversity and exceptional recreational opportunities, which help create a healthier natural and human environment in the nation's capital.
- The Civil War Defenses of Washington were havens of safety for the many contrabands and formerly enslaved Africans who fled to Washington during the Civil War and influenced African American settlement patterns in the nation's capital. ("Contraband" is a historical term that refers to individuals who escaped slavery and sought refuge behind Union lines).
- The McMillan Commission's 1902 plan, as realized when the acquisition of fort sites began in the 1920s, represented visionary urban planning efforts for public recreation and preserved a scenic backdrop for the nation's capital.
- The green space and extensive trail network protected by the Civil War Defenses of Washington help to shape, strengthen, and provide identity for communities in the city through recreation, cultural events, and neighborhood activities.

## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **The Fortifications**
- **The Natural and Scenic Features of the Green Space Corridor**
- **Recreational Opportunities**
- **Cultural Landscapes**
- **Archeological Resources**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- The Civil War Defenses of Washington were established as a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.
- In the nation's capital, tense with the daily presence of war, the Civil War Defenses of Washington effectively deterred the advance of the Confederate Army and the invasion of the capital, and served as a proving ground for military innovation.
- In transforming themselves from enslaved to emancipated, contrabands sought the freedom and security of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. They contributed to the construction of the defenses of Washington, founded many of Washington's historically African American communities, inspired their own and future generations, and helped to redefine the citizenry of the United States.
- The preservation of the Civil War Defenses of Washington created significant natural corridors that provide exceptional views of the city, offer opportunities to learn about nature in an urban setting, support species and habitat diversity, and enhance environmental quality by contributing to stormwater runoff control, mitigating the effects of urban heat islands, and providing tree canopies for shade and cleaner air.
- The CWDW sites represent visionary urban planning efforts at the turn of the 20th century aimed at providing recreational opportunities through public parks, preserving significant historical and natural resources, and using the parkway concept to link preserved public spaces at the advent of motorized travel.
- The Civilian Conservation Corps operated locally out of Fort Dupont and completed several important projects throughout the Civil War Defenses of Washington, working to rebuild the nation during the Great Depression.

## Baltimore-Washington Parkway Description & Purpose

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway was established by Congress on August 3, 1950, through Public Law 81-643. Opened in 1954, the parkway is a 19-mile scenic highway that connects Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC. It is one of four parkways in the nation's capital and integrates a majestic parkway design that serves as a scenic entry to the capital city.

Since the parkway opened, maintenance on road and park land has been aimed at the preservation of the parkway's aesthetic qualities with the objective of not only minimizing negative impacts, but also of enhancing parkway character wherever possible. The parkway features several unique architectural treatments, including stone facing on bridges and guardrails. The facing generally consists of stone of varied colors obtained from local quarries, with granite masonry trimming. The architectural features were varied to give each bridge or guardrail a distinctive, individual appearance. This was a major departure from typical roadways of the time, which were primarily constructed of concrete.

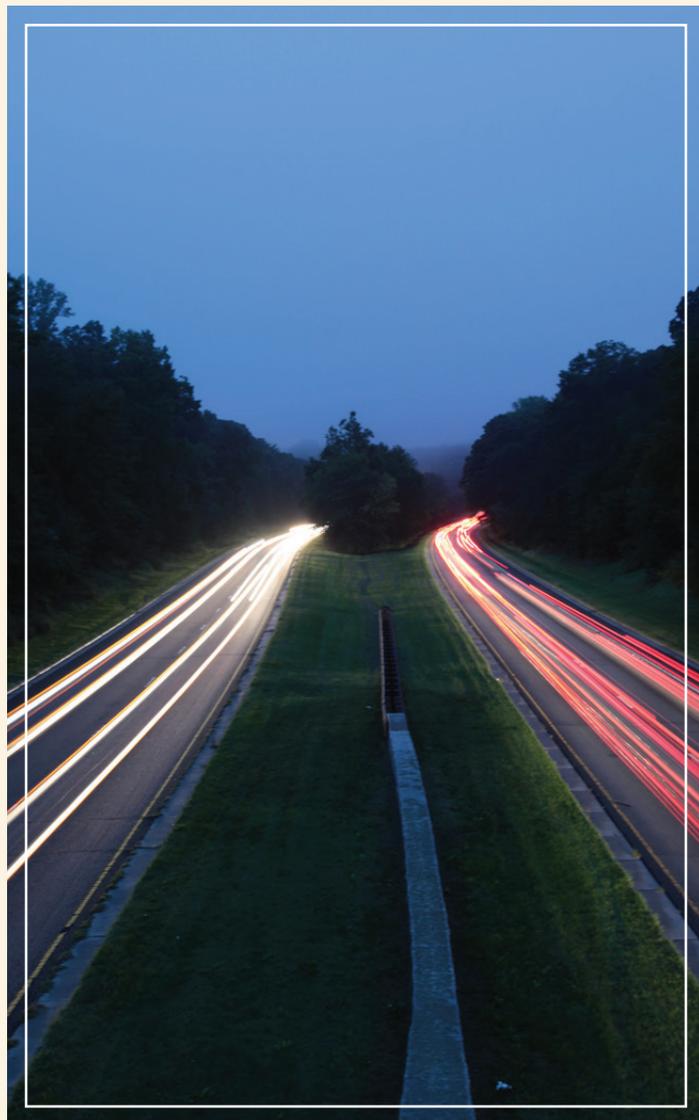
The parkway is a cultural landscape, intended to retain a combination of thick, forested woodland forest and grassy lawn within the median in accordance with the landscape standards set forth in mid-20th century parkway construction. The native forests not only provide scenic views for visitors, but also serve as an increasingly important corridor for wildlife, from forest-dwelling species to migratory birds.

*The BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PARKWAY, an extension of the park system of Washington, DC, is a limited access transportation corridor that provides a scenic, safe, and suitable gateway to the nation's capital while linking federal facilities.*

## Significance

Significance statements express why Baltimore-Washington Parkway resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

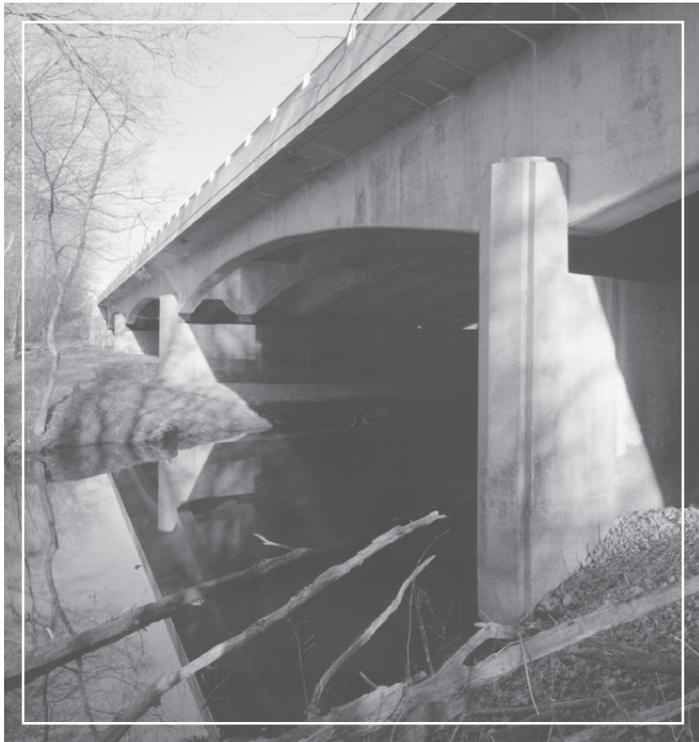
- The Baltimore-Washington Parkway was designed to blend with the natural topography and preserve a scenic, forested transportation corridor between Washington, DC, and Baltimore, Maryland.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

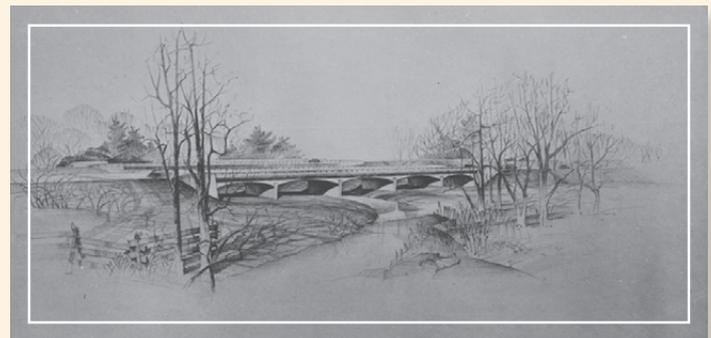
- **Transportation Safety and Infrastructure**
- **Parkway Landscape**
- **Architectural Treatments**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- A functional highway with elements of traditional parkway design, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway provides a tangible link to the story of post-World War II suburban growth in Washington, DC, and serves as a ceremonial approach to the capital city.
- The parkway contains evidence of human habitation and use over thousands of years. These archeological resources inform our understanding of the past inhabitants and what the meanings and significance of their lives hold to present-day visitors.
- The screening along the parkway consists of thick, forested vegetation within the interspersed areas of grassy lawn. The screening frames the views and vistas for drivers, blocking adjacent intrusions and providing habitat for wildlife.
- The road corridor has a long history of providing transportation between Baltimore and Washington, DC, and is part of a wider planning effort to establish a network of parkways, playgrounds, and protected open spaces in the Washington, DC, area.
- The parkway's forested corridor serves as a dispersal corridor for wildlife. The forest reduces habitat fragmentation, protects plant and animal species against increased urbanization, and reduces potential impacts from climate change. The forested buffer along the parkway assists with the protection of regional species and enhances biodiversity.



# Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Description & Purpose

# Significance

Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site was established by Congress on December 19, 2003, through Public Law 108-192. This site is intended to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson—a pioneering figure for the study and celebration of African American history and heritage. The home was designated a national historic landmark in 1976.

The Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site ensures the preservation of the Woodson home while promoting and interpreting the life, message, and legacy of Dr. Woodson and the work of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Woodson's home is one of three adjoining structures within the national historic site, which also includes two adjacent row houses, at 1540 and 1542 Ninth Street NW. These three buildings are components of a block of nine row houses on the street that originally had identical facades exhibiting the simple, vernacular, Victorian Italianate architectural style of the late 19th century. These structures were constructed between 1872 and 1874. The adjacent row houses will be rehabilitated for interpretive and educational use.

The Woodson home and adjoining row houses are undergoing significant rehabilitation and restoration efforts. When completed, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site will include a restored home and visitor center that will include community meeting space and dynamic, interactive exhibits that take advantage of technology and focus on Woodson's message of higher education and preservation of history.

Significance statements express why Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- The Carter G. Woodson Home was the residence of Dr. Woodson from 1922 until 1950, serving as a center for his pioneering work on scholarly research of African American history and his groundbreaking educational programs that promoted an appreciation of African American culture and history throughout the nation and beyond.
- The Carter G. Woodson Home was a community focal point in the Shaw area of Washington, DC, where the interaction of African Americans of diverse trades, professions, and economic backgrounds strongly influenced Dr. Woodson's work, research, and teachings.
- While living at his home on Ninth Street NW, Dr. Woodson founded Negro History Week (now Black History Month), which continues to have a broad impact around the world and has inspired similar events celebrating cultural identity and awareness.
- In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which operated out of his home after 1922. Now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, this organization continues to promote his scholarly work and vision.
- Established by Dr. Woodson in 1921, Associated Publishers, Inc. was one of the first publishers to print and distribute the works of African Americans, women, and minorities, giving a voice to traditionally underrepresented groups.

*The purpose of CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to inspire and educate through the preservation of the home, life, and legacy of the preeminent historian and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson.*



## Fundamental Resources and Values



Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

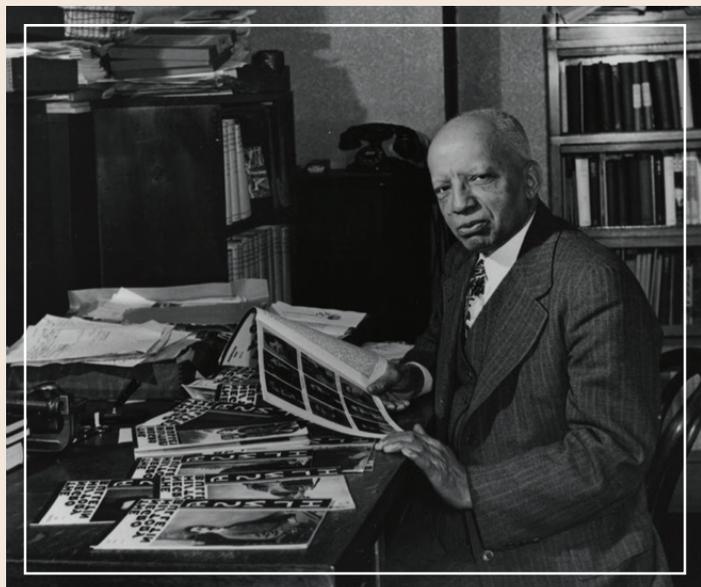
- **Carter G. Woodson Home**
- **Education and Scholarship**
- **Connections to the Shaw Neighborhood**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- Dr. Carter G. Woodson was driven to change our understanding of American history, which had a profound and lasting influence on the cultural identity and awareness of the African American community in the United States and throughout the world.
- Dr. Woodson's scholarly work, organizational vision, and entrepreneurial spirit continue to influence a broad spectrum of society, including the African American community and historical researchers.
- A visionary, Dr. Woodson devoted his life to education and to influencing the content of our nation's educational curricula.
- The Woodson home served as a focal point for the African American community and provides contemporary visitors a tangible link to Dr. Woodson, his social focus, and his cultural legacy.
- A realist, Dr. Woodson recognized that he could not accomplish his visions of American history without the participation of others through organization and institution building.



Anacostia Park came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service in 1933 and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens in 1938 under the authority of the Capper-Cramton Act (PL 71-284). The purpose of these park sites is to preserve the flow of water and prevent pollution in Rock Creek and the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, to preserve forests and the natural scenery in and about Washington, DC, and to provide recreational opportunities in the nation's capital. The National Park Service administers approximately 1,108 acres along both banks of the Anacostia River and manages the bed of the Anacostia River.

As a natural resource, these park sites serve as a buffer between heavily developed urban areas adjacent to the river. Through strategic planning efforts, urban waterfronts can serve as community gathering places for both humans and wildlife alike that encourage economic growth, promote ecological resiliency, and provide opportunities for personal tranquility. Waterfront restoration can reduce flooding and erosion and improve air and water quality, while creating both tangible and intangible community benefits. These resources also create vibrant green space within the city. The Anacostia River watershed drains approximately 176 square miles in Washington, DC, and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland and is home to 43 species of fish and more than 200 species of birds.

*ANACOSTIA PARK, which includes the KENILWORTH PARK AND AQUATIC GARDENS, preserves forests and contributes to the protection of the water quality of the Anacostia River, protects historic, scenic, and natural resources and values, and provides high quality waterfront recreation opportunities for the local community and the visiting public.*

Significance statements express why Anacostia Park and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Anacostia Park is one of the largest recreation areas in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, and is situated along the Anacostia River waterfront. The vision for the park's more than 1,100 acres is to restore and protect the quality and resiliency of the riverine ecosystem, while providing high quality naturalized spaces close to where people live that offer a wide range of recreational and educational programming.
- Anacostia Park embodies the network of parks and parkways envisioned for the federal city in the 1791 L'Enfant and 1902 McMillian Plans, which specifically recommended the extension of public park land along both sides of the Anacostia River. Situated within the heavily urbanized metropolitan area of Washington, DC, the park contributes to the quality of life for visitors and local residents by providing a variety of opportunities for recreation, reflection, and learning in an urban environment.
- Anacostia Park is an important ecological buffer between heavily developed urban spaces and the Anacostia River. It is actively managed to preserve and enhance forested areas and protect the water quality and resiliency of the Anacostia River ecosystem.
- Anacostia Park's naturalized shorelines provide habitat for a diverse population of plant and animal species not commonly found in an urban environment. The rare tidal wetlands of the Anacostia River reflect the natural and manmade processes that shaped the park and the river, and provide opportunities to learn about the natural and cultural history of the landscape.
- Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens constitute some 700 acres of Anacostia Park. The Aquatic Gardens are the only National Park Service unit devoted to the propagation and display of aquatic plants. The gardens provide a respite to visitors from locally heavily urbanized areas. Kenilworth Park also includes trails and recreational fields along the Anacostia River.
- Anacostia Park preserves and maintains the historic Langston Golf Course, opened in 1939 to provide golfing opportunities to African Americans during the segregation era. The semi-elite course illustrates the struggles of African American athletes to have access to recreational facilities of equal quality to white golf courses during the civil rights movement in Washington, DC. In 2013, the golf course was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame.

## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Natural Communities**
- **Recreational Opportunities**
- **Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens**
- **Anacostia River Corridor**

Anacostia Park and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens contain other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Archeological Resources**
- **Anacostia Seawall**



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- Anacostia Park was established as a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.
- Urban rivers are critical economic centers around which communities thrive due to the aesthetic, therapeutic, cultural, recreational, and education opportunities garnered through high quality interaction with the environment. Waterfront restoration can reduce flooding and erosion, make cities more resilient to storms, and improve air and water quality, while creating both tangible and intangible community benefits. Anacostia Park can provide enhanced access to natural resources in an urban setting and inspire community understanding of the natural world and the benefit of green corridors within Washington, DC.
- The National Park Service, in partnership with a large network of public, private, and nonprofit organizations, is committed to improving the health of the Anacostia River and its riparian corridor. The river and its ecosystems have changed significantly over the centuries; those changes are partly reflected in the engineered creation of Anacostia Park.
- Sites across Anacostia Park are critical to the stories of civil rights and social equity in the United States, such as the history of segregation and desegregation represented at Langston Golf Course, and the Bonus Expeditionary Force marchers who embraced the American right to free speech, attracting the attention of the nation and inspiring future generations to strive for economic justice.
- Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens protect a diversity of aquatic plants, serves as a serene environment for recreation, reflection, and environmental discovery, and communicates the commercial benefits of nurseries and water gardens.

