



**S T R A U G H A N**  
**E N V I R O N M E N T A L**  
**S E R V I C E S , I N C .**

# Environmental Assessment Anacostia Park Riverwalk

**Location:** Washington, D.C.

**Client:** National Park Service-National Capital Parks East

**Description:** Anacostia, a long-neglected, yet historically and culturally rich area of the District of Columbia, is the focus of a major restoration and revitalization effort known as the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. Straughan Environmental Services, Inc. (SES) provided the environmental services necessary to develop the Anacostia Riverwalk multi-use trail running along both the east and west sides of Anacostia Park. The overall purpose of the Anacostia Riverwalk is to provide a safe and convenient means for park visitors to access the Anacostia waterfront and enjoy Anacostia Park. The Riverwalk trail provides:

- Nearly continuous access to the east side of the river from South Capitol Street to the Bladensburg Trail in Maryland, a distance of seven miles;
- Continuous access to the west side of the river from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to Benning Road, a distance of three miles; and
- Safe and convenient access points to enter the Park from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Working with National Park Service to identify environmentally sensitive wetland, floodplain, and habitat areas, SES identified multiple alignment options to avoid and minimize impacts. SES also assisted in identifying and evaluating low-impact trail strategies such as use of boardwalks in certain areas. Using the NPS Director's Order 12, implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, SES analyzed the following environmental issue areas for the Environmental Assessment:

- Communities and neighborhoods;
- Economics;
- Environmental justice;
- Land use plan consistency;
- Aesthetics;
- Historic and archeological resources;
- Wetlands;
- Habitats, and
- Rare, threatened, and endangered species.