

Erin Garnaas-Holmes

MLA, MURP



PORTFOLIO

URBAN PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Ambassador
2019 - Present

I manage a partnership between Federal agencies, local government and community stakeholders. As an independent contractor, I convene meetings, share information and collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to implement restoration, planning, outreach and engagement projects within the Anacostia River watershed in Washington, DC and Maryland.

Anacostia Waterfront Trust

Project Director
2017 - 2019

I directed planning, research, engagement and placemaking projects related to the Anacostia River waterfront in the District of Columbia and Maryland, under the leadership of former DC Mayor Anthony Williams. I also raised funds and supported strategic planning initiatives.

Stantec's Urban Places Group

Urban Designer
2015 - 2017

I produced detailed and innovative plans for the redevelopment of urban land into walkable, mixed-use, mixed-income and sustainable districts. I also analyzed demographics, produced content for comprehensive plans, managed GIS datasets, created maps, designed public realm improvements, drew renderings, planned events and led public engagement efforts.

Stantec

Landscape Designer
2014 - 2015

I designed landscapes and green infrastructure installations. I created construction drawings, graphics and renderings for numerous projects across the U.S. including major city parks.

Center for Changing Landscapes

Research Fellow
2013 - 2014

I managed a research-based design team that partnered with small communities throughout Minnesota. I created a joint database to evaluate state park and trail systems, contributed to riverfront master plans and created landscape-based tourism plans for a rural region.

National Park Service

Park Ranger
2012 - 2013

I created digital, interactive content for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I also maintained computer networks and repaired equipment.

Walker Art Center

Artist
2012

I collaborated with team of artists to design and build interactive art pieces that explored the relationship between ritual, food and place for the Walker Art Center's "Open Field" program.

Bread for the City

Volunteer Coordinator
2009 - 2011

I facilitated the creation of a green roof vegetable garden construction project and managed thousands of volunteers across five different community-serving programs.

ACCOLADES

Merit Award

Boston Society of Architects, 2018

Feature: Designing for Social Good

Impact Design Hub, 2017

Charter Award

Congress for the New Urbanism, 2017

Olmsted Scholar

Landscape Architecture Foundation, 2014

National Honor Award

American Society of Landscape Architects, 2014

Merit Award

American Society of Landscape Architects - Minnesota Chapter, 2014

Professional Award of Excellence

American Society of Landscape Architects - Minnesota Chapter, 2013

RECENT PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

Civic Participation: More Than Just Volunteering

Workshop Leader, River Rally, Virtual, 2020

Anacostia River Swimming: A Path Forward

Poster Presentation, Tenth International Conference on the Remediation and Management of Contaminated Sediments, New Orleans, LA, 2019

Equity, Resilience and the Anacostia Corridor

Event Organizer, Anacostia Waterfront Trust Ideas Forum, Washington, DC, 2018

Engaging Diverse Stakeholders: The Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative

Panelist, Trash Free Waters Summit, Baltimore, MD, 2018

Waterfront Redevelopment and Urban Resilience

Panelist, Metropolis, Washington, DC, 2017

The Future of the Anacostia Waterfront

Key Speaker, Public Forum on the Future of the Anacostia Waterfront, Washington, DC, 2017



EDUCATION

Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
2014

Master of Landscape Architecture

College of Design, University of Minnesota
2014

Bachelor of Arts

Macalester College
2009

SOFTWARE SKILLS

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe InDesign
- Autodesk AutoCAD
- ESRI ArcGIS
- HTML & CSS
- Rhino
- SketchUp
- Unity
- Pure Data

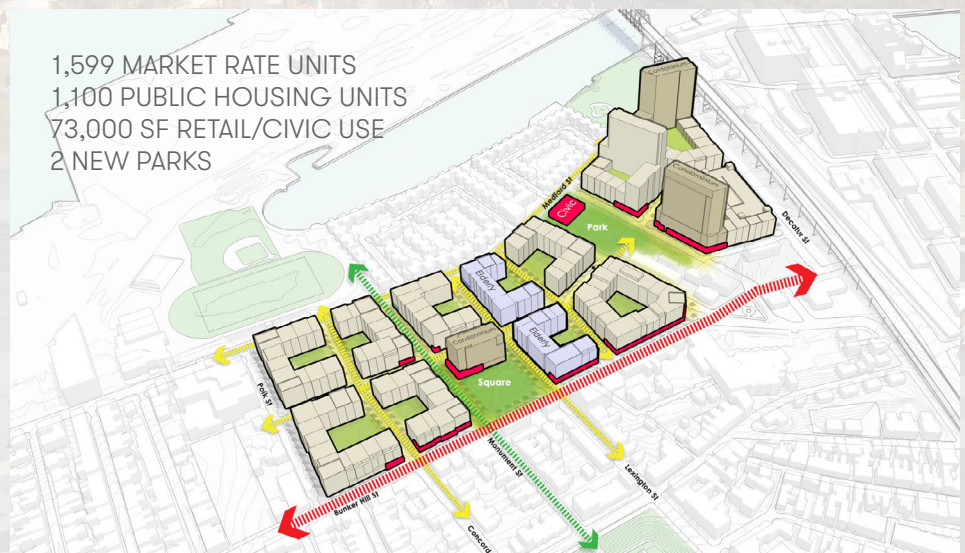
I help build

**resilient
equitable
thriving
sustainable
diverse
ecological
multifunctional
connected
strong
beautiful
better**

cities.

Boston, MA
One Charlestown

I was an urban designer for the single largest planned development in New England at the time, originally designed to accommodate 3,100 units (later reduced to 2,699). The redevelopment of 1,100 existing affordable housing units in poor condition put an emphasis put on rehousing every existing tenant and reducing temporary displacement during construction. The team engaged early and directly with the existing tenant association to inform public realm, architecture and other design elements.



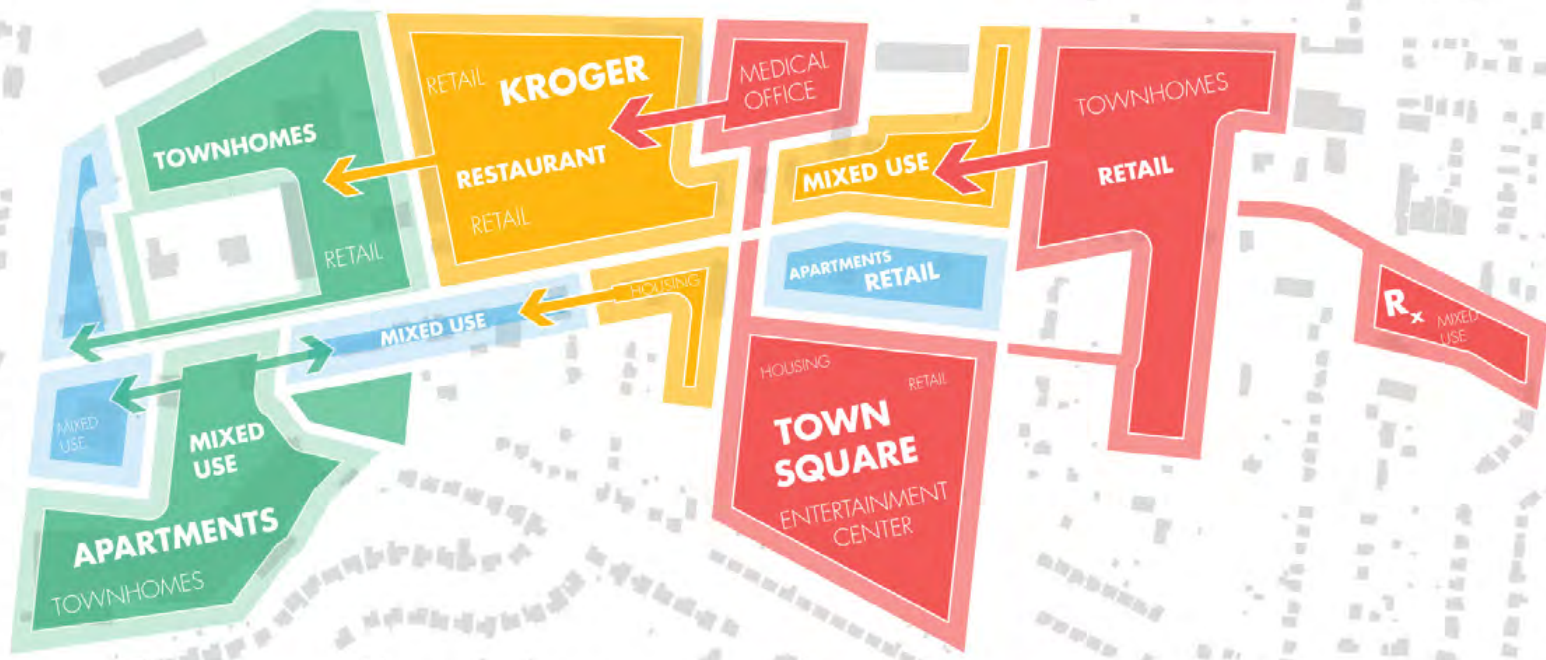
Charlottesville, VA
Friendship Court Redevelopment Plan

I was an urban designer for this mixed income redevelopment of affordable housing. My team created a phasing plan designed to facilitate zero temporary displacement during construction of the new neighborhood, which reconnected the site with the existing street grid. I wrote design guidelines for streets, streetscapes, buildings, parks and plazas.

Delhi, OH

“Plan the Pike” Strategic Redevelopment Plan

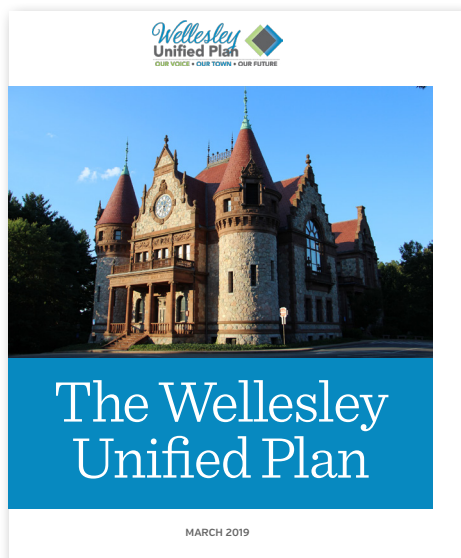
I analyzed development potential along a suburban retail strip near Cincinnati, demonstrating that suburbs can take advantage of the same demographic and economic trends catalyzing new real estate development in urban cores.



Wellesley, MA

Town of Wellesley Unified Plan

I helped create a Unified Plan (a combination of a comprehensive plan and town-wide strategic plan) for this wealthy, well-educated suburb of Boston. I led research and analysis efforts, created maps and supported a robust public engagement process that included several large events, online surveys and interviews with community leaders.



Miami Township, OH

Dayton Mall Area Master Plan

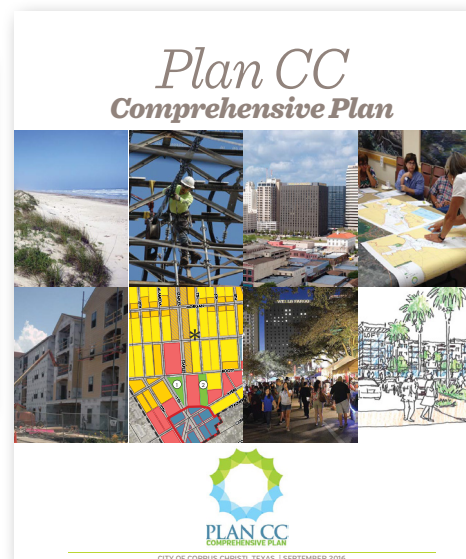
I created scenario plans for how this suburban mall surrounded by surface parking lots could transform into a mixed-use, walkable district over time. The Dayton Mall Joint Economic Development District is now implementing the project.



Corpus Christi, TX

Plan CC: Comprehensive Plan

I was a planner for this city's comprehensive plan. I managed and analyzed GIS data, created future land use maps and drew neighborhood plans for the city of Corpus Christi.



I help connect people to their environment.

Washington, DC

Year of the Anacostia Campaign

I spearheaded a collaborative campaign to celebrate a milestone year for the Anacostia River in 2018. Over 65 different agencies, organizations and business in the region participated in the campaign that hosted over 200 events and attracted over 50,000 people to the Anacostia.



Washington, DC

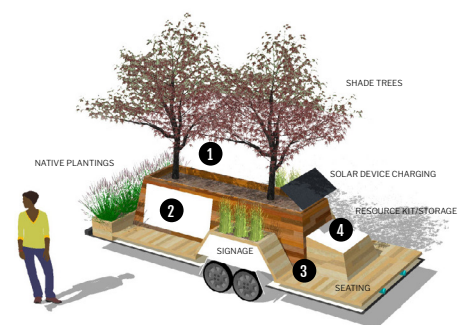
Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative

I help organize an innovative coalition of environmental organizations and community groups based in the District's Wards 7 and 8, focused on equitably maximizing the value of the Anacostia River for longtime residents of the watershed. We explore ways to create relevant, meaningful park experiences for stressed families and organize workshops on topics like trauma-informed community engagement, civic ecology, and more.

Washington, DC

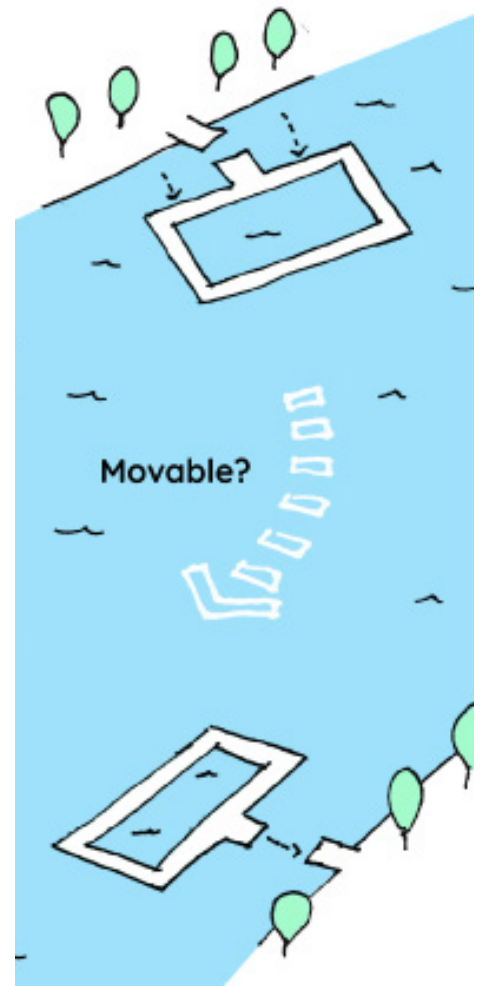
Anacostia Park "PARK-PARK"

I constructed a mobile green infrastructure installation intended to demonstrate the benefits of green infrastructure. The Anacostia Park PARK-PARK featured self-watering native plant containers, a solar powered device charger, four seats, a retractable shade umbrella and informational panels.



THE ANACOSTIA RIVER POOL

A Feasibility Study for a Swimming Facility in the Anacostia River, Washington DC



Boston, MA

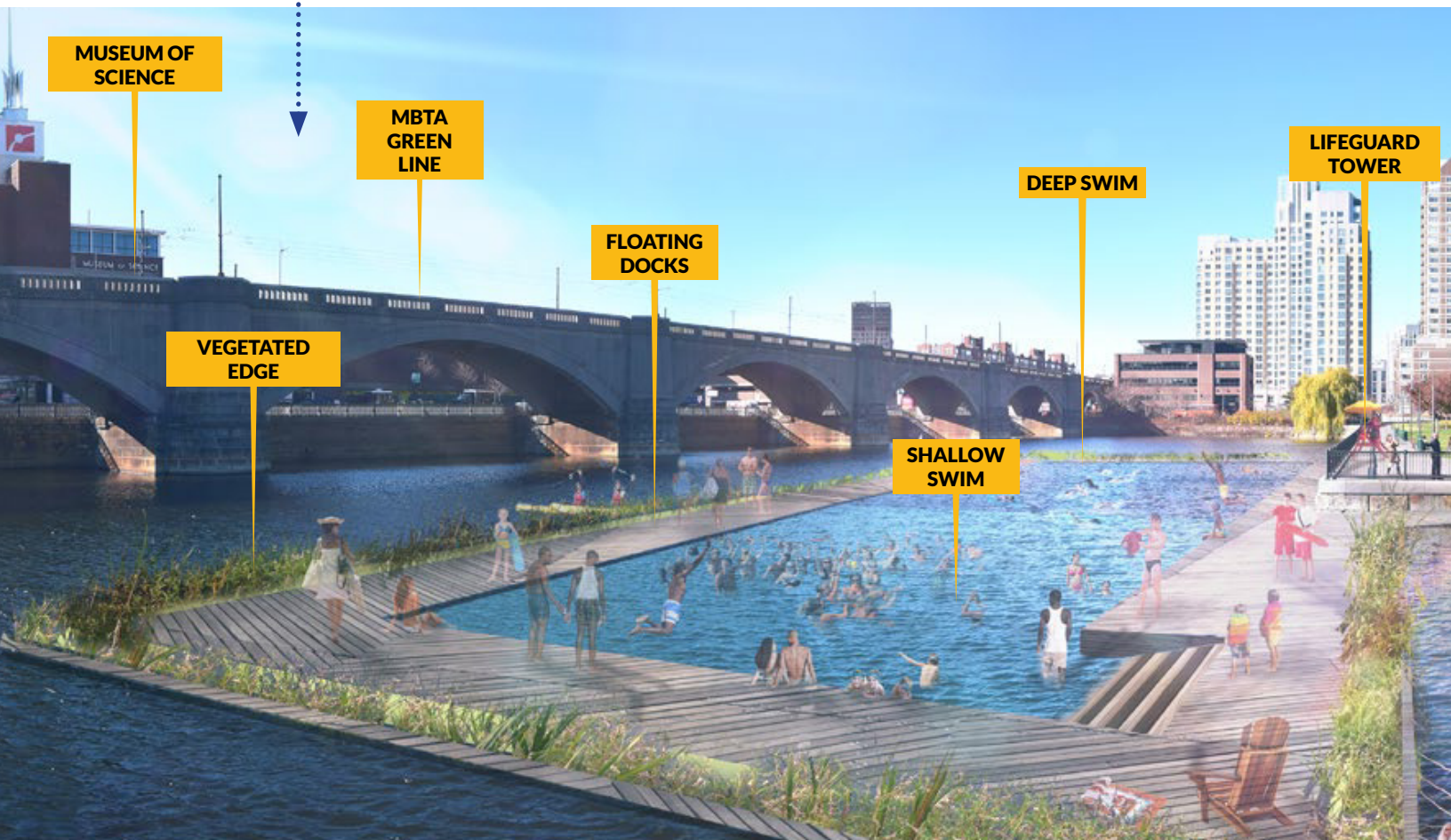
Swimming in the Charles River

I led a multidisciplinary team of volunteers to complete a design, planning and engineering analysis of creating a permanent swimming facility in Boston's Charles River on behalf of the Charles River Conservancy. Water quality has steadily improved in this river and a river pool may soon become a reality. This project won a Merit Award from the Boston Society of Architects in 2018.

Washington, DC

The Anacostia River Pool: Feasibility Study

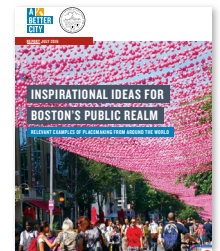
After completing the Charles River project in Boston, I arrived at the Anacostia Waterfront Trust as a project director in 2017 and recruited a private firm to complete a similar study of swimming in the Anacostia River, a degraded but steadily improving urban river. Once published in 2018, the study resulted in the new laws allowing swimming in the Anacostia River during permitted events.





Boston, MA Public Realm Planning Studies

I wrote two studies about Boston's public realm for A Better City, a local business leader. They featured case studies of exemplary public realm projects and a strategy to improve public space through transportation projects.



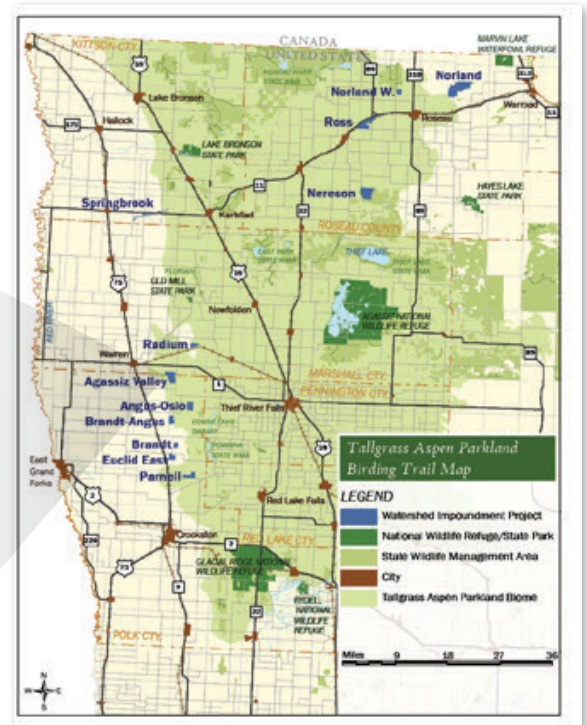
Roslindale, MA Street Ops Bicycle Corral

I was a member on a team of designers and planners that won a grant to build a temporary bicycle corral in the downtown core of a small Boston suburb. The project was so well-received that it became a permanent installation through a public-private maintenance agreement with the city and a local cafe.

Middle-Snake-Tamarac Watersheds, MN

Tallgrass Aspen Parkland Birding Trail

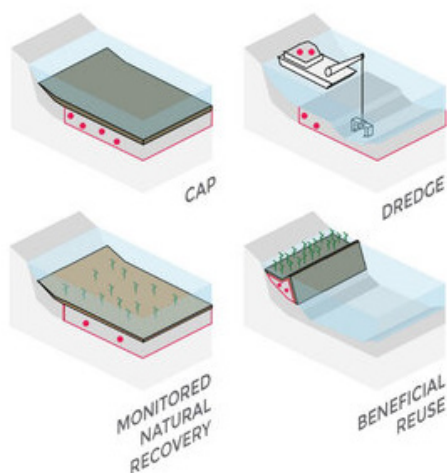
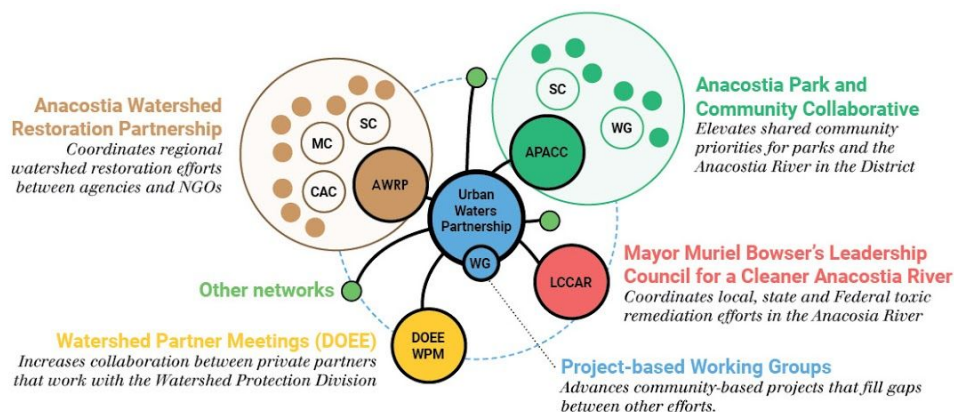
I supported what became a broad community effort to enhance economic development in northwestern Minnesota by attracting wildlife and bird enthusiasts to vast, unique landscapes. Numerous large-scale watershed management projects completed after recent flood disasters had unintentionally created large patches of seasonal pools; attractive habitat for migratory birds. I created plans and materials for a regional trail that could attract some of the billions of dollars spent on wildlife-watching each year in the United States. Each of the planned Tallgrass Aspen Parkland Birding Trail information kiosks are designed to function as habitats for Chimney Swifts.



I help government work better.

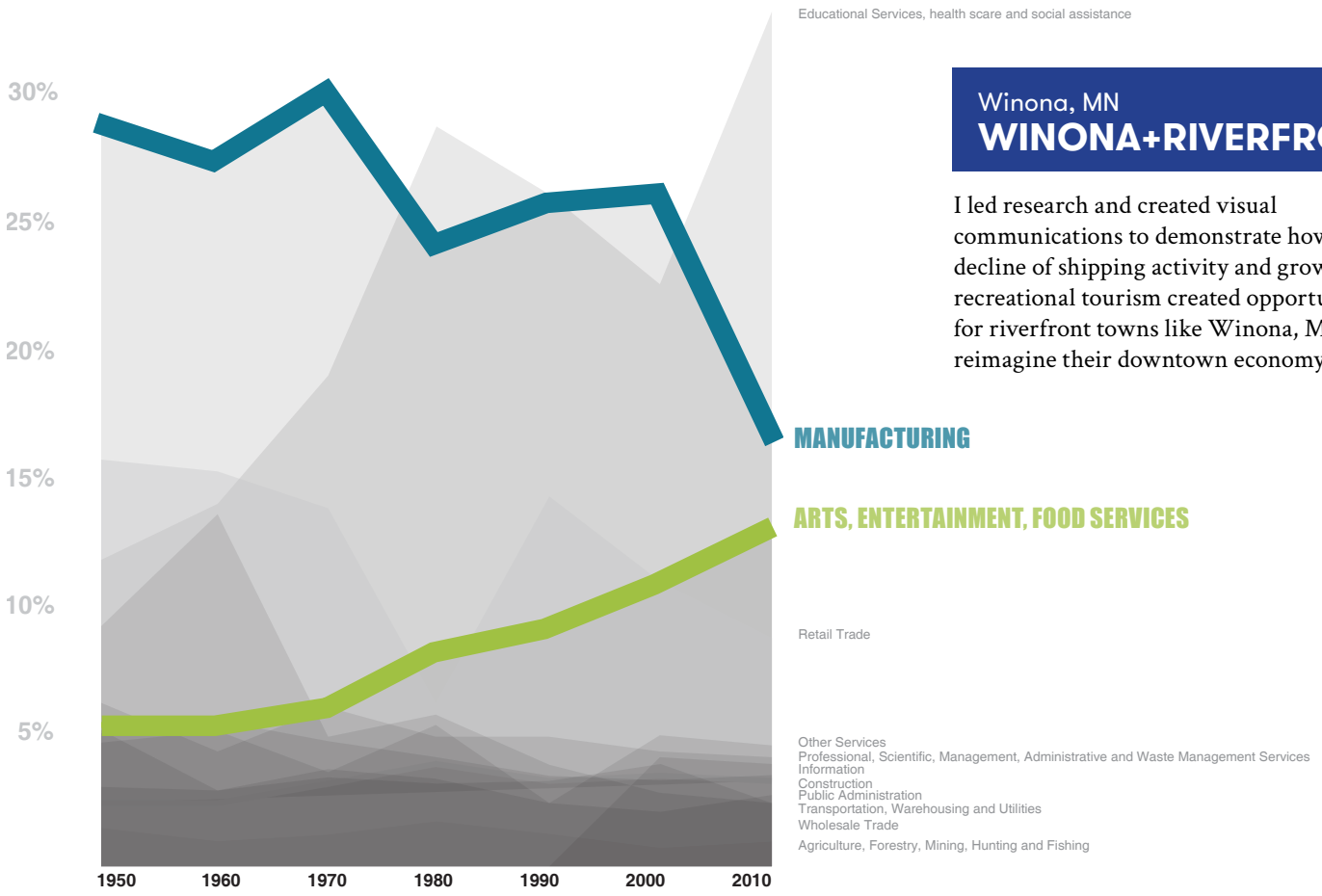
Washington, DC Urban Waters Federal Partnership

I serve as the Ambassador to the Anacostia Watershed Urban Waters Federal Partnership, which includes 15 Federal agencies and numerous state and local partners. I serve as an inter-agency coordinator, track restoration and community development efforts across jurisdictions in the watershed, initiate new projects, share information between agencies and community groups, and host numerous meetings and events.

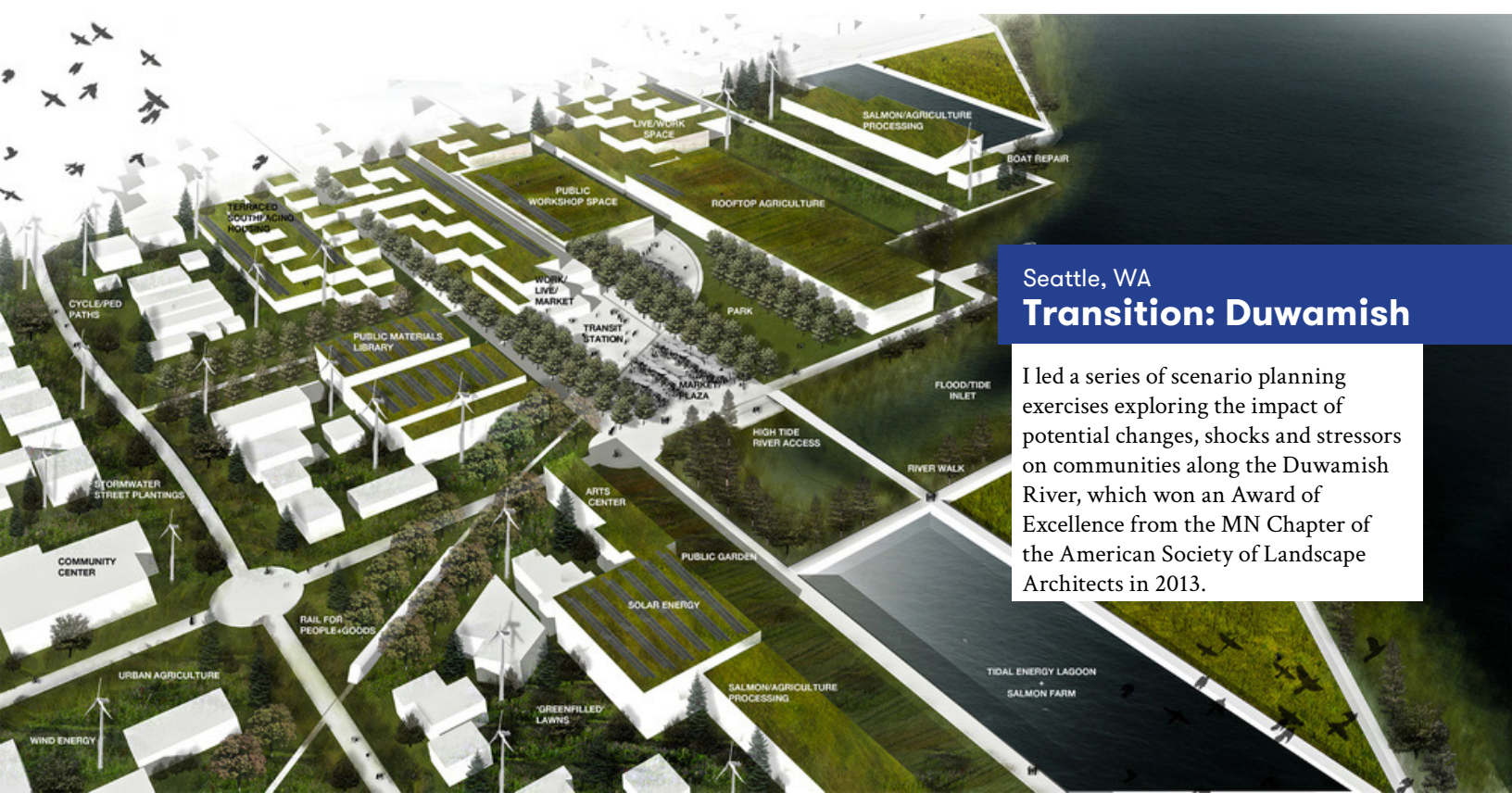


Washington, DC Anacostia River Sediment Project

I supported both the District Department of Energy and Environment and the National Park Service to engage the public about this complex restoration effort by planning community engagement events, launching a program to hire community leaders as outreach ambassadors for the project and creating visual materials.



I prepare for the future.



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