

Restoring the Anacostia River Progress on Commitment

Mayor Williams' Administration has made a commitment to clean up the Anacostia River and revitalize its waterfront. The restoration of the river and its neighborhood streams is an important component of the District's comprehensive initiative to revitalize the community from the Southwest Waterfront up to the Maryland boundary. Below is a list of water quality enhancement projects underway in the watershed in support of the Mayor's Anacostia Initiative.



- Combined Sewer Overflows:** DC WASA has proposed a plan to control Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) in the District at a proposed cost of \$1.265 billion in current dollars. The plan calls for reducing CSOs by 96% overall, and by 98% in the Anacostia. This will be achieved by constructing approximately 10 miles of underground tunnels to collect the mixture of wastewater and stormwater. The stored material will be pumped to Blue Plains for treatment before being discharged to the river. In addition, the plan calls for separation of sewers in selected areas, and removal of 13 of the current 59 outfalls.



- Wetland Restoration:** In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Department of Health Environmental Health Administration (DOH EHA) has restored 42 acres of wetlands in Kingman Lake in the Anacostia. DOH EHA is building on that success by creating 18 additional acres of fringe wetland in the upper Anacostia and 10 acres near Heritage Island.
- Kingman and Heritage Islands:** Jointly funded by USACE and DC, the goal of this project is to restore the southern half of Kingman Island as a natural recreational area. Habitat restoration efforts will focus on enhancement of vernal pool habitat on Heritage Island, reforestation of Kingman Island, and creation of tidal wetlands and a tidal gut for access by water to the islands. Construction is scheduled for Winter 2003. In a similar partnership, the US Navy completed reconstruction of the pedestrian bridges in August 2001.
- RFK Stormwater Retrofits:** The goal of this project is to filter pollutants from two stormwater outfalls discharging into the Anacostia River. The outfalls are located along the RFK Stadium parking lot within the Kingman Park community. The USACE recently conducted a feasibility study to determine different design options for these filters, or BMPs. The DC DOH is working with the DC Sports Commission to install these BMPs in the winter of 2003. Funding for these projects is cost shared by USACE and DC.
- Low Impact Development:** DC DOH and DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs have completed an assessment of impediments to low impact development in the building permit process and have taken steps to remove them. DC DOH has identified \$200,000 in its USEPA grant funds and is aggressively looking for sites in the Anacostia watershed on which to demonstrate LID concepts.



- **Watts Branch:** The goal of this project is to restore the in-stream habitat and improve the water quality of Watts Branch. Restoration will be achieved through stabilizing eroded stream banks and reconstructing stream sections to better accommodate stormwater flows. Phase I, aimed at stabilizing the most problematic stream banks, was completed by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in August 2001. Phase II will target restoring the entire watershed, and include natural stream channel design and stormwater management. DC already has contracted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to design and implement the stream restoration.



- **Lower Anacostia Park Water Quality Enhancements:** The goal of this project is to restore habitat and improve water quality in lower Anacostia Park. Restoration efforts will include planting of native trees, restoring tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and opening a portion of Pope Branch that is currently piped under the Park. Funding for this project is cost shared by the USACE and DC.
- **Hickey Run Restoration:** The objective of this project is to improve water quality and habitat conditions of Hickey Run. Improvements include installation of a stormwater management facility to filter pollutants such as oil and grease, and in-stream restoration to rebuild channelized portions of the stream. Partners on this project include US National Arboretum, the USFWS, DC, and the USEPA Chesapeake Bay Program.



- **Fort Dupont Restoration:** The goal of this project is to restore habitat and flow conditions of the Fort Dupont stream. Restoration efforts include managing peak stormwater flows in the headwaters, creating in-stream habitat, and daylighting tidal portions of the stream as it enters the Anacostia River. US Geological Survey and Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments completed initial studies. USACE is responsible for final restoration designs and implementation. Funding for this project is cost shared among USACE, USEPA, and DC.
- **Fort Chaplin Restoration:** The goal of this project is to completely restore the Fort Chaplin tributary by stabilizing stream banks and reducing the amount of sediment entering the stream and the Anacostia. This project also is examining the possibility of reforming the stream to better accommodate stormwater flows. This project will be implemented after the restoration of Fort Dupont. The USACE is currently conducting a feasibility study of the stream to determine design options. Funding for this project is cost shared between USACE and DC.
- **Poplar Point:** The goal of this project is to conduct an environmental assessment, site remediation and wetlands restoration of property under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. The project includes constructing an entrance to Anacostia Park from Poplar Point. DC is working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to address the environmental tasks. Funding for this project comes from a U.S. Congress FY 2000 appropriation to DC for \$3.45 million.

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