



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S 1999 BAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The annual Executive Council meeting is an excellent time to review and highlight the accomplishments of the District of Columbia as it strives to meet the goals and commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. As a partner in the Chesapeake Bay Program since the signing of the historic *1983 Chesapeake Bay Agreement*, the District of Columbia has worked hard in many areas including sustainable development, nutrient and toxic reduction, habitat restoration, and education. The hard work of the citizens of the District is paying off. The Potomac and Anacostia Rivers are cleaner and healthier than they were just 15 years ago. Progress has been steady in other areas as well. Today, we would like to take a few minutes to give you an overview of what we've been working on the behalf of a cleaner, healthier more resilient Chesapeake system.

We have made significant progress in the following areas:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A strong diversified economy, and a clean, healthy environment are the goals of an extensive community reinvestment and economic revitalization.

C **Brownfields Program**

This is a strategic plan developed to remediate contaminated sites that will be redeveloped.

C **First Time Home Buyers Tax Credit**

This tax incentive provides up to \$5,000 for individuals purchasing their first home in the District.

C **Home Purchase Assistance Program**

This program offers loans to low and moderate income families seeking to purchase a home in the District.

C **Rehabilitation and Reoccupation of Abandoned Properties**

The District is using financial incentives to promote the rehabilitation and reoccupation of abandoned properties.

C **Public Transportation**

The District has always been in full support of public transportation, and has invested in an extensive bus and subway system.

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PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- C Education curriculum are planned to prevent additional increases in nonpoint source pollution nutrients to the rivers.
- C Educators, students and community groups are the targeted audiences for pollution prevention/environmental education efforts.

40 % NUTRIENT REDUCTION GOAL

- C The District is confident that it will reach the 40% Chesapeake Bay Program nutrient reduction goal.
- C This will be accomplished using innovative technology at Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant.
- C Further reductions will be achieved by targeting controllable sources of nonpoint source pollution.

HABITAT RESTORATION

- C** The District has partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to restore 40 acres of tidal wetland in Kingman Lake, on the Anacostia River.
- C** The District has partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to restore 32 acres of tidal fringe wetland on the banks of the tidal portion of the Anacostia River.
- C** The District is using a comprehensive approach to Anacostia River restoration by restoring stream habitat and stream side forests upstream in non tidal tributaries such as Fort Chaplin, Fort Dupont, Hickey Run and Watts Branch.

ANACOSTIA RESTORATION

Mayor Anthony Williams has made restoration of the Anacostia River a top priority of his administration. The goal is to make the river fishable and swimmable without health concerns.

- C Restoration efforts include restoring tidal wetlands, stream side forests and naturalizing streams that have been hydrologically engineered, and daylighting streams that were contained in pipes.
- C Innovative technology is being used to filter storm water before it enters the river.
- C The District is increasing public access to the Anacostia river through the restoration and conservation of Kingman Island.
- C Restoration of the Watts Branch, a tributary to the Anacostia is a model for watershed planning that

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combines community participation and partnerships with habitat restorations, pollution prevention education, and modifications of District services that work to the benefit of the watershed.

- C The District is imparting ideals of environmental stewardship through education and outreach efforts such as the annual Anacostia Park Environmental Fair, Project Wet and Project Wild.

As we head into 2000 we are on the edge of change. As water quality increases and living resources rebound, citizens will place a renewed importance on the Bay and its tributaries as a site for recreation, a source of serenity, and a place of beauty. The work that has gone into restoring the Bay and its tributaries up to this point has created strong working partnerships, identified the myriad actions we must take to reach our goals, and laid the groundwork for us to reach the increasingly tough goals that we will set for ourselves for the next twenty years.