

# Regional Blue-Green Infrastructure Project Overview

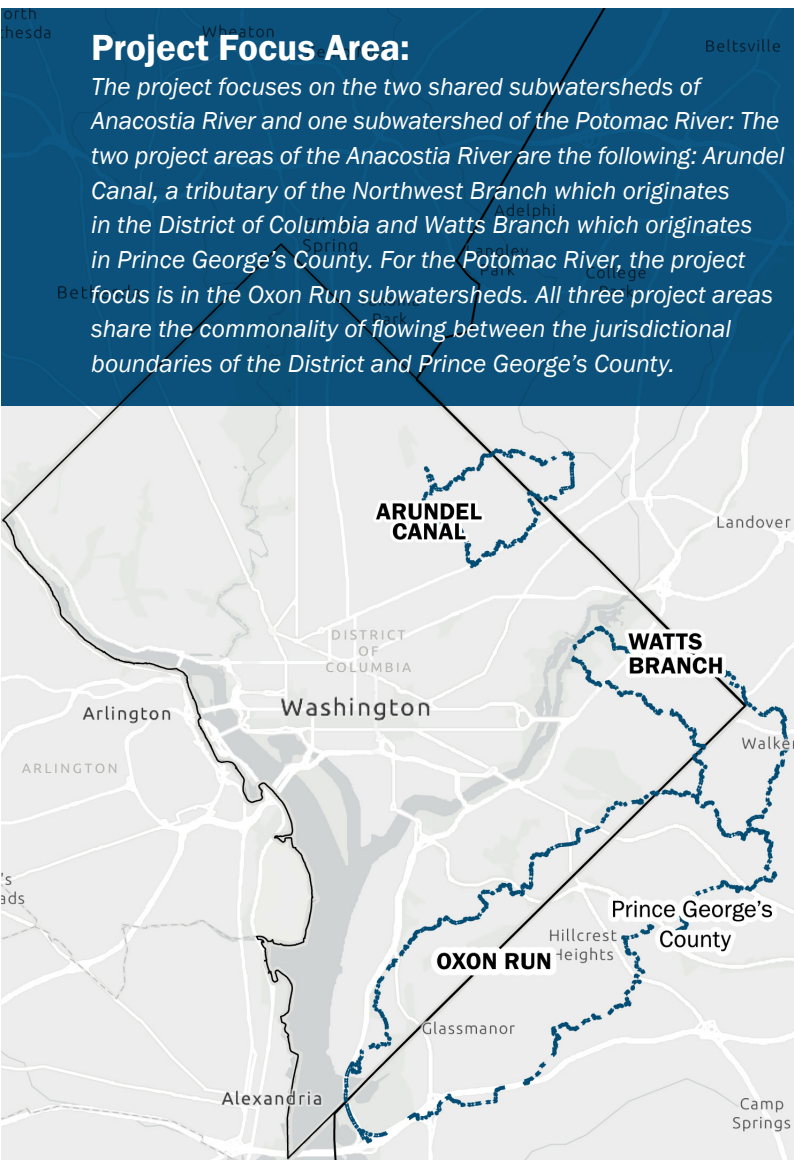
## Overview

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is working with the District of Columbia and Prince George's County on a project to address flood concerns across jurisdictional boundaries. This **Regional Blue-Green Infrastructure Community Engagement and Planning Project** looks to increase resilience in three subwatersheds that span between the District of Columbia and Prince George's County—**Watts Branch** and **Arundel Canal (part of the Northwest Branch)** of the Anacostia River, and **Oxon Run** which is part of the **Potomac River watershed**. This collaborative project will prioritize areas vulnerable to flooding

and other social, economic, and environmental stresses. The project takes a regional approach to strengthen community resilience by designing blue-green infrastructure (BGI) based on a watershed-wide holistic assessment to deliver improved flood resilience and environmental sustainability for residents of both jurisdictions. Through community engagement and flood analyses, the project will identify potential BGI projects and establish partnerships to seek funding for future implementation. This community engagement and planning project will be completed in June 2025.

## Project Focus Area:

The project focuses on the two shared subwatersheds of Anacostia River and one subwatershed of the Potomac River: The two project areas of the Anacostia River are the following: Arundel Canal, a tributary of the Northwest Branch which originates in the District of Columbia and Watts Branch which originates in Prince George's County. For the Potomac River, the project focus is in the Oxon Run subwatersheds. All three project areas share the commonality of flowing between the jurisdictional boundaries of the District and Prince George's County.



Metropolitan Washington  
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## Goals and Objectives

The planning study will identify potential BGI projects intended to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, reduce stormwater volume, add to recreational spaces, and promote environmental sustainability. The planning study will also create partnerships for implementation of proposed projects in collaboration with the District and Prince George's County.

## The BGI Project Aims To

- **Reduce Flooding**  
Identify strategies that improve flood resilience and protect communities and critical infrastructure.
- **Foster Collaboration**  
Engage residents, community-based organizations (CBOs), and local municipalities to gather input, shape strategies, and encourage participation in environmental solutions.
- **Enhance Community Co-Benefits**  
Develop project concepts with social, environmental, and economic benefits for residents including green space, air and water quality improvement, and recreational opportunities.

## Call to Action

We invite you to [participate in our upcoming workshops and engagement opportunities](#). **Help spread the word in your communities!** These workshops will:

- Share information about ongoing and upcoming flood resilience projects
- Provide educational resources on flood preparedness and BGI solutions
- Offer community members a chance to share their experiences and shape future strategies
- Highlight collaboration opportunities between local municipalities, community organizations, and residents

# Blue-Green Infrastructure

“Blue-Green Infrastructure” (BGI) combines nature-based solutions for stormwater management. Blue elements like ponds and rivers handle water above ground, while green infrastructure uses plants to reduce runoff. Gray infrastructure—like drains and pipes—supports both systems to prevent flooding.

## Common BGI Strategies

The following are examples of standard BGI practices and strategies. These definitions are intentionally inclusive. BGI projects use multiple strategies in tandem across the watershed to maximize benefits.

## List of Common BGI Strategies

- Multi-Purpose Floodable Recreational Spaces
- Stream, Wetland, and Floodplain Restoration
- Stream Daylighting
- Pond Retrofits
- Stormwater Reuse and Stormwater Storage
- Storm Drain Outfall Retrofits
- Bridge and Culvert Modifications
- Impervious Reductions
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)
- Green Streets
- Tree Plantings

## Key Partners

The project is a collaboration between COG, the District, and Prince George’s County. The project is funded through a \$1.4M grant received from the District of Columbia’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency through the Federal Emergency and Management Agency’s Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program. Consultant support is provided by ICF, Straughan Environmental Inc., and CHPlanning.



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