

Update on Anacostia Restoration Progress
The Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan: Green Communities/Clean Water

Presented to the MWCOG Board
November 12, 2009

The Anacostia Watershed in Brief

- Covers 176 square miles in the District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties
- 10% of Maryland's population and 42% of the District's population live in the watershed
- Widely believed to be one of the most polluted in the nation

Milestones on the Road to Restoration

- **June 2006** – The Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (AWRP) is created by the MWCOG Board
 - Includes the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Maryland, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, environmental and business representatives and others
 - MWCOG provides technical and administrative support
- **November 2007** – Congress directed the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop a comprehensive restoration plan now known as the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan (ARP)
- **February 2010** – The planned date of issuance of the ARP

Environmental Setting & Water Quality Conditions

- **Water Quality & Related Problems:** The pollution and ecological damage are primarily the result of uncontrolled stormwater, combined sewage overflows (CSOs), and legacy toxic contamination. Only about 36% of the watershed has stormwater controls.
- **Sediments and trash are especially bad**—USGS says the Anacostia has 10 times the sediments of any other Bay watershed it has studied. 70-75% of the sediments come from stream bank erosion associated with stormwater flows. The second area in the Nation to have pollution limits for trash set by its regulatory agencies.
- **Urban and Suburban Development has also resulted in:** 70% loss of forest cover; 93% loss of tidal wetlands; 63% loss of nontidal wetlands

Proposed Restoration Plans and Programs

- DC-WASA CSO Long-Term Control Plan required by court-ordered consent decree at a cost of \$2.2 billion: 40% reduction has been attained, 98% reduction by 2025
- ARP Recommended Projects
 - 1,781 stormwater retrofit projects controlling 8,587 impervious acres—upon completion, 65% of the impervious area in the watershed will have stormwater controls.
 - 279 stream restoration projects covering 38 miles
 - 114 wetland creation projects covering 133 acres
 - Other projects: removal of fish passage blockages; riparian reforestation; trash reduction; toxics remediation; and parkland acquisition
 - Recommended Programs and Policies

Funding for the ARP

- Total cost to implement: over \$1 Billion over 10 years
- The Partnership will seek federal funding to help with implementation



Value to the COG Region

- Significant improvement to the Anacostia watershed and Potomac and Anacostia rivers
- Greening our communities with stormwater retrofit projects involving “environmental site design” such as green streets, trees, and rain gardens will have significant benefits relating to air quality, energy conservation, heat island mitigation, aesthetics, job creation
- Jurisdictions can use identified projects to meet Clean Water Act requirements