



# COMMUNITY STORMWATER SOLUTIONS EVALUATION AND EXPANSION GRANT

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**Department of Energy and Environment**

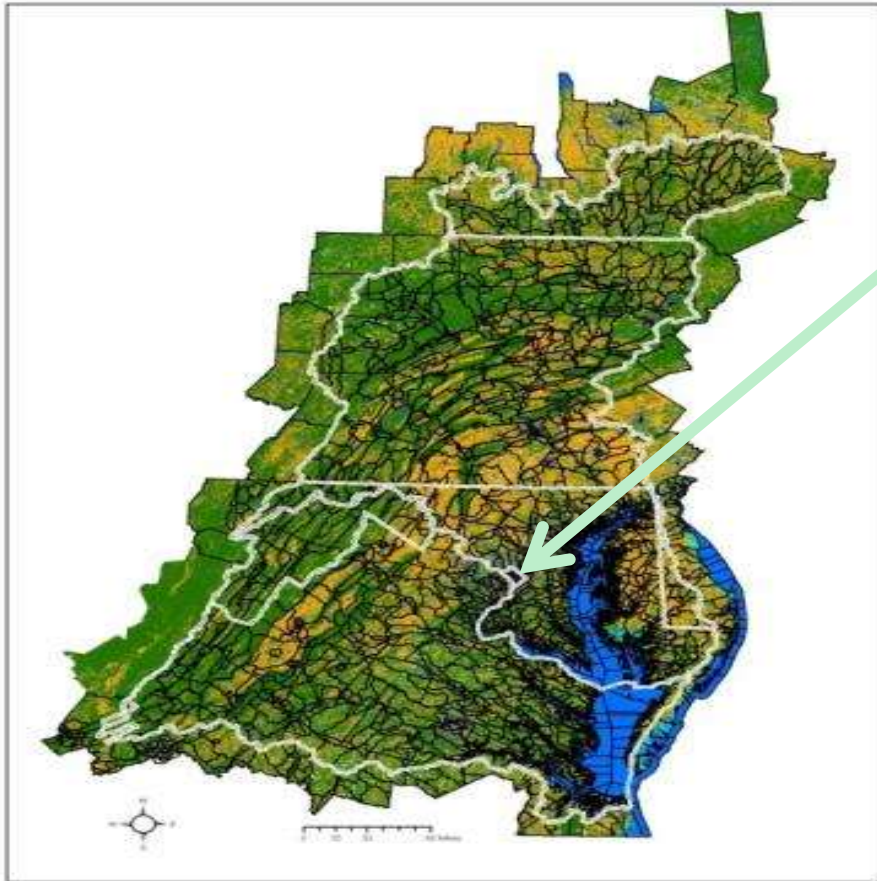
Natural Resources Administration



# AGENDA

- » Background
- » Overview of existing program and snapshot of past grantees
- » Overview of this RFA
- » Who and how to apply
- » Scoring
- » Timeline
- » Q&A

# Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Washington, DC

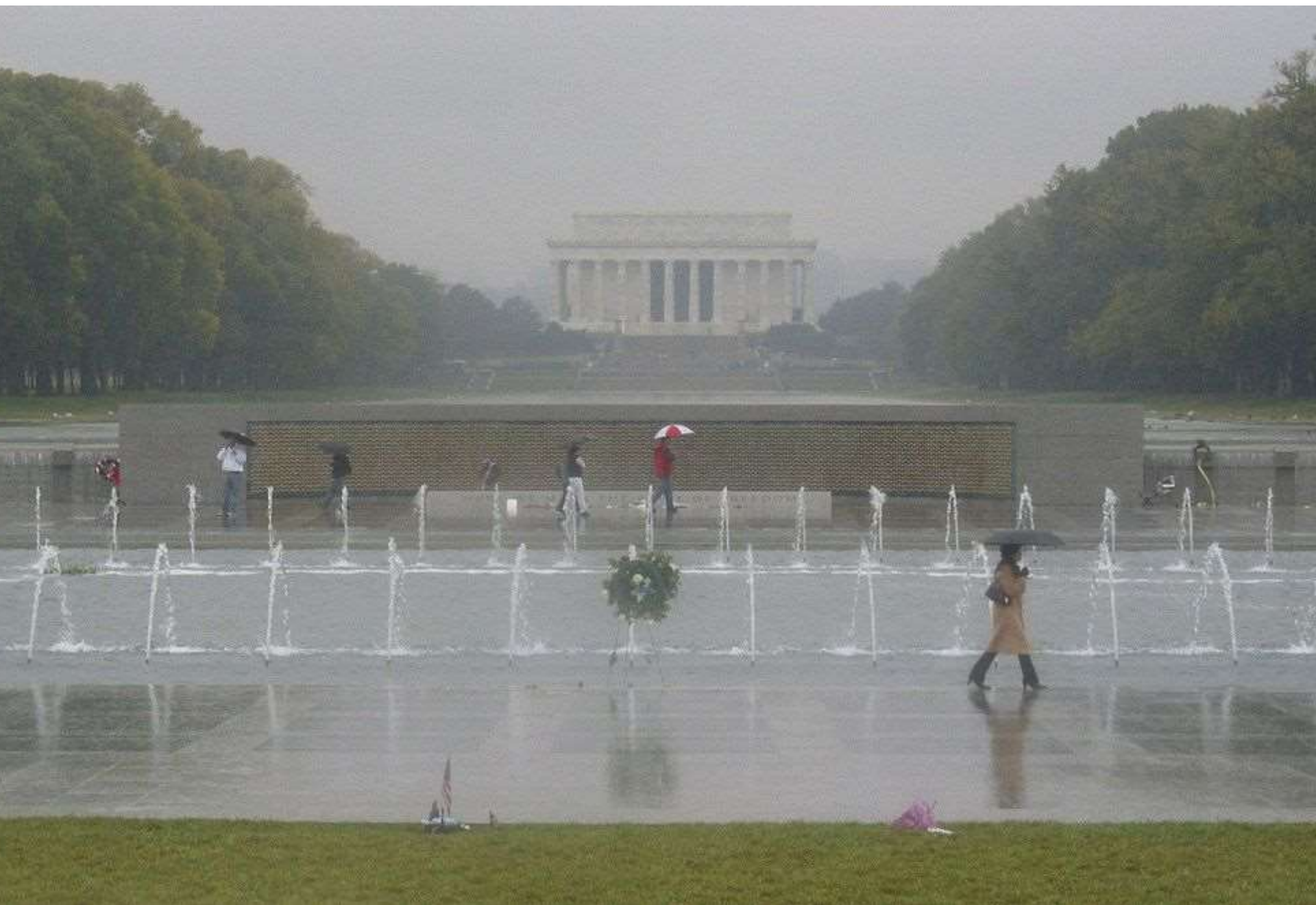




An aerial photograph of a vast parking lot filled with hundreds of cars, mostly from the mid-20th century. In the background, a large, multi-story building with many windows is visible. The image has a sepia or aged tone.

**43%**

**Impervious Surfaces in DC**









*Credit: Krista Schlyer*











*Credit: Krista Schlyer*



















# Meeting our Water Quality Goals

1. EPA issues the District a MS4 Permit, which requires us to reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff from the District's watersheds.
2. We developed a Watershed Implementation Plan that details actions to help achieve these requirements.
3. The District implements these actions through a variety of programs and regulations that incentivize, or in some cases require, use of green infrastructure to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff.
4. To fund these initiatives, the District established two special revenue funds.

# Special Revenue Sources to Improve Watersheds

## 1. Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund (“Bag Fund”)

- Comprised of the 5 cent fees on paper and plastic bags
- ~\$2.5 million annually

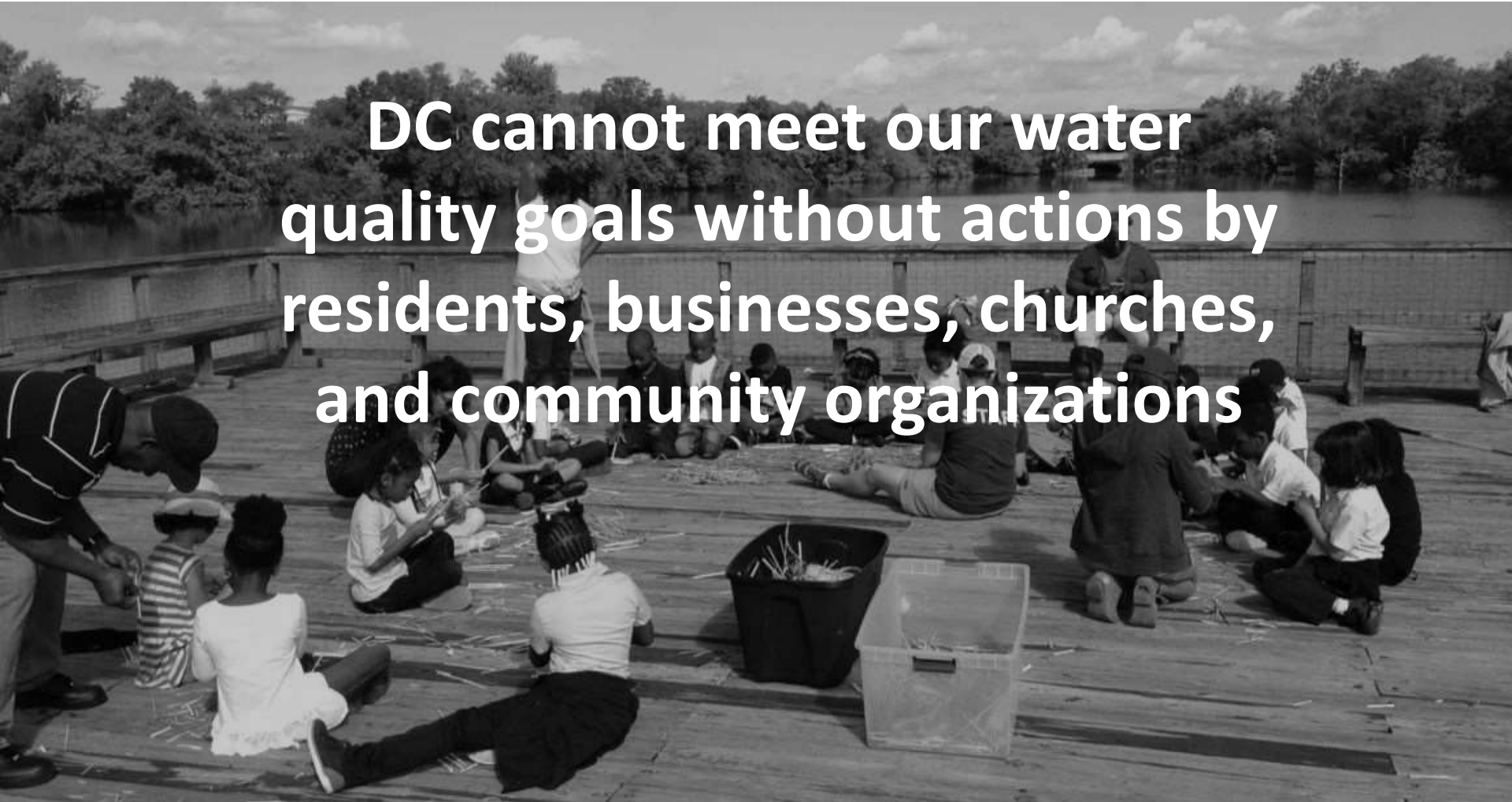
## 2. Stormwater Enterprise Fund

- Fees assessed on all District properties, including public lands
- Based on the property’s amount of impervious surface
- ~\$13 million annually



# The Bottom Line

DC cannot meet our water quality goals without actions by residents, businesses, churches, and community organizations



# Background on the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program

Launched in 2016 with the following goals:

1. Reduce impacts of stormwater runoff on the District's watersheds
2. Fund community-oriented and –inspired projects
3. Expand DOEE's work with community partners and strengthen existing relationships
4. Provide assistance to small, low-capacity, and new organizations and small businesses to help them build capacity
5. Foster innovative and creative ideas
6. Achieve quantifiable results
7. Special priorities on projects in the MS4 and Anacostia Watershed



# Other Program Considerations

- Applicants must be physically located in the District.
- Projects located in the District's separated storm sewer system (MS4), Anacostia Watershed, and other Targeted Subwatersheds receive priority points.
- Applicants that have never received a Community Stormwater Solutions Grant received priority points.

Annually – DOEE funds about 10 projects totaling \$200,000.

# Types of Projects Funded

- Design, install, and maintain green infrastructure
- Support the District's emerging green economy, social entrepreneurs, and environmental start-ups
- Restore natural habitat
- Litter cleanups and prevention
- Engage communities, raise awareness, and bring about behavior change





# Results

- Awarded 41 grants totaling \$764,627
- 60% of grants went to community partners that had not previously received a DOEE grant
- Project budgets range from \$2,000-\$20,000
- Hosted a 5-week grant writing workshop series



# Some of our Past Grantees

**Anacostia Waterfront Trust**

Mobile “Park-Park”





## Changing Perceptions

Building Opportunity and  
Awareness



**Bancroft ES PTO**

Piney Branch Restoration  
Project





## Urban Learning and Teaching Center

### Hidden Waterways



# Dance Place

## 8<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Park Artistic Downspout and Trash Receptacles





## Building Bridges Across the River

THE ARC Living Classroom



# Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant



# GOALS

1. Enhance, expand, and implement the current Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program
2. Support the positive environmental efforts of District-based small businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and educational institutions
3. Promote and enhance, directly or indirectly, the District's waterbodies and watersheds
4. Support the District's emerging green economy, environmental start-ups, and social entrepreneurs through capacity-building initiatives like grant writing and management trainings

# OVERVIEW

- \$400,000 available for the two-year grant period
- Option to extend an additional two years for a total of \$800,000 for four years.
- DOEE has budgeted \$200,000 for the first year, so consider that in developing your budget
- Available funding is to be used for administration of the program, including the small subgrants that the selected organization will award.
- Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, advances available on a limited basis and must be requested as part of your proposal (see section 6.2 of RFA)



# PROPOSAL CONTENT (See Section 3 and Section 7.2.2)

1. An **evaluation strategy** for how the applicant will assess the existing program.
  - Review past years' RFAs and read about past/current grantees
2. A **robust outreach and meaningful engagement plan**.
3. A **detailed plan for how the applicant will compete funding opportunities** to potential subgrantees in order to better active the program objectives – include how you will:
  - Implement a fair and transparent competition for applications and the selection of grantees (conflicts of interest, confidentiality, promoting accessibility to/for lower-capacity applicants)
  - Encourage capacity-building, particularly for entities that might not otherwise apply for the grant (pre-application meetings, grant writing workshops, post-award support)
4. A **description of how you will execute the plan** (how will staff or project partners achieve the goals of this RFA?)

# Elements of the existing program that must remain (Section 7.2.3):

1. Subgrant projects must be located in the District
2. Subgrantees must be physically located in the District.
3. A subgrant shall not replace funding for a grantee's existing program, activity, or general operating funding.
4. Subgrants must advance the objectives of the Program. Objectives restated:
  - Enhance, expand, and implement the current CSS program
  - Support the positive environmental efforts of District-based entities
  - Protect and enhance the District's watersheds
  - Support the District's emerging green economy through capacity building initiatives
5. Subgrant application must be awarded additional points for projects that benefit the MS4 and Anacostia Watershed.
6. Grantee must consult DOEE to determine special focus areas each funding year.
7. Subgrant must produce quantifiable improvements or lead to behavior change.



# Continued...

8. An ideal subgrant should do one or more of the following:
  - Test a new concept
  - Have a potential to be replicated to wider audiences, if successful
  - Employ meaningful engagement strategy
  - Use art or another creative solution to communicate a message or create a result
  - Further existing efforts to reduce the impacts of SW runoff that can be implemented without requiring significant effort or support by DOEE program staff.

# Deliverables

1. A completed evaluation of the Program
2. An outreach and engagement plan that addresses barriers to entities that have not previously received a CSS grant
3. A report that details the year's subgrants
4. Initial subgrant awards by April of 2020
5. Quarterly progress reports
6. A final report



# WHO CAN APPLY?

1. Nonprofits
2. Faith-based organizations
3. Schools, universities, and other educational institutions
4. Businesses

# HOW TO APPLY

**DEADLINE:**     **August 30 at 4:30pm**

PDF proposal can be emailed to  
[communitystormwater.expansion@dc.gov](mailto:communitystormwater.expansion@dc.gov)

**OR**

Deliver five hard copies to DOEE

# How projects will be scored:

Scoring Criteria	Points
Presents a clear and feasible plan and schedule	20
Presents a detailed, numeric budgeted and narrative that includes a clear justification for the funds requested	10
Budget includes matching funds that will cover, at least partially, the costs of administering the program.	10
Demonstrates deep experience in environmental or social program implementation, or in management of a grants program.	20
Shows the staffing capacity to excellently administer the program	20
Demonstrates deep experience in environmental or social program evaluation and improvement.	10
Demonstrates deep experience in nonprofit and business capacity-building.	10
Additional points will be awarded for local entities. See Appendix 5.	5



# Timeline

RFA  
announced  
July 12

Informational  
meetings  
July 25 and  
Aug 6

Application  
deadline  
Aug 30 at  
4:30pm

DOEE reviews  
proposals and  
makes a  
selection in  
October

Winners  
notified in  
October

Grantees start  
work as soon  
as receives  
Grant Award  
Notice

Grantee  
makes initial  
subgrant  
awards by  
April 2020



THANK YOU  
QUESTIONS?

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