

STORMWATER RETROFIT PROJECT

CONGRESS HEIGHTS RECREATION CENTER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019 AT 6:30 PM

CONGRESS HEIGHTS RECREATION CENTER, 611 ALABAMA AVE SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20032



The Congress Heights Recreation Center is located in the Oxon Run watershed and is about four acres in size, one acre of which is impervious surface. The recreation center recently received playground upgrades through the Play DC initiative which included some reduction in impervious surface and the installation of a bioretention cell.

This project involves the restoration of woodlands and a woodland stormwater gully on the south side of the recreation center. Currently, stormwater runoff enters the gully from the surrounding area including the apartment complex to the east. We will be restoring this gully so that it provides better water quality and habitat. This project includes the removal of invasive species in the woodlands, installation of a “regenerative stormwater conveyance” (RSC) like system with boulder step pools that safely convey storm flows while encouraging stormwater treatment and infiltration in the gully along the approximately 300’ long existing conveyance channel (care will be taken to minimize the number of trees removed in the installation of the RSC), and creation of a trail through the gully area using wood chips or some other low-impact material and potentially using existing social trails through the area.

The stormwater retrofits to be installed as a part of this project are funded through the DOEE Stormwater Enterprise Fund and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The goal of this project is to improve water quality in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers for the benefit of District residents, visitors, wildlife, and the environment, while providing high quality outdoor recreational space and facilities for children and adults to learn, play, and connect with nature. A further goal of the project is to reduce the stormwater pollutants that enter local waters (e.g., rivers, streams, estuaries) as required under the current applicable EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the District’s municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).

For more information, please visit the project website: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1321666>