



February 2024

Dear Watershed Partners,

We may still be experiencing some winter chills, but we are already thinking about springtime activities! One of them is the **Spring 2024 Watershed Partners meeting**, which will take place in early June and focus on **environmental education**. We will share more information later, but for now please email Sonia.Saini@dc.gov if you have any ideas or suggestions for exploring this topic, or to be on the invite list to attend.

Keep reading to learn more about an exciting art contest for students and some new funding opportunities, as well as other watershed updates.

Fish Art Contest for students – deadline February 28

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) is partnering with [Wildlife Forever](#) for **The Art of Conservation Fish Art Contest**. The contest uses art, science, and creative writing to foster connections to the outdoors and inspire the next generation of stewards. Entries are judged in four separate age divisions and first-place winners go on to the national competition!



The contest Deadline is Feb 28, 2024.

For additional information on the contest visit the AREC's Fish Art Contest [Webpage](#).

To get started, the [Aquatic Resources Education Center \(AREC\)](#) is hosting two **Fish Art Family Discovery Day** workshops on Saturday, February 10 and Friday, February 16, from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will see local fish on exhibit and learn how to draw fish from a local artist. To register, visit the [Eventbrite](#) page.

Trash Free Communities Grant – applications due March 8



DOEE is excited to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Trash Free Communities Grant. Through this RFA, DOEE seeks eligible entities to design and implement a District-wide litter reduction campaign. Projects will identify litter hotspots in the District and identify key groups in those communities to engage in developing an anti-litter campaign. The amount available is \$230,000 for 24 months of implementation, with options to extend. **The application deadline is Friday, March 8, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.** via the application portal.

DOEE will host a pre-application meeting to discuss the RFA and answer questions on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Learn more about the RFA, the pre-application meeting, and the application process here: doee.dc.gov/node/1705266. Please direct any questions to 2024TFC.grants@dc.gov.

RiverSmart Schools – applications due March 1

The [RiverSmart Schools](#) program is for K-12 students and teachers of DC Public Schools, DC Public Charter Schools, and parochial schools. It provides teachers with training and financial resources to install conservation sites (like rain gardens, cisterns, shade trees) and outdoor learning labs on their school grounds.

Applications are due March 1, 2024. For questions, contact P. Trinh Doan at patricia.doan@dc.gov.

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) – applications due March 7

This grant program supports design and implementation of green streets, community greening, and urban tree canopy projects that enhance livability in cities and communities, in addition to white papers that address these topics. Local governments such as municipalities, non-profit organizations, neighborhood/community associations, and other nonprofit entities are eligible to apply. Learn more about the grant program and the application process on the Chesapeake Bay Trust's [G3 program webpage](#).

Small Watershed Grants Program – proposals due April 3

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership, is soliciting proposals for the [Small Watershed Grants \(SWG\) Program](#). The program is for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. **Proposals must be submitted no later than April 3, 2024.** For more information, visit the [program webpage](#).

EPA Community Change grants – through November 2024

EPA has a new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program, with awards up to \$10 million to \$20 million each. There are approximately \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through November 21, 2024.** If you have questions after reviewing the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), contact Janani.Shankaran@dc.gov.

Just released: Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring Report

The results of a five-year water quality monitoring program are in. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Anacostia Riverkeeper, Nature Forward (formerly Audubon Naturalist Society), and Rock Creek Conservancy teamed up to train more than 400 volunteers from all eight wards, collecting more than 5,000 water samples and providing more than 13,500 data points to gather weekly water quality updates. DOEE funded this program. You can read the report [here](#).



World Wetlands Day – February 2, 2024

DOEE staff celebrated [World Wetlands Day](#) with a litter cleanup in Fort Dupont Park on Friday, February 2, 2024. The District has more than 300 acres of wetlands and is actively working to create more. Learn more about District wetlands and check out the Wetland Program Plan [here](#).



In case you missed it

Check out some recent published pieces related to the watershed:

During Storm, New Tunnel Kept 233 Million Gallons Of Sewage Out Of Anacostia River (DCist, January 10, 2024): dcist.com/story/24/01/10/during-storm-tunnel-233-million-gallons-sewage-anacostia-river/

Even With Less Snowy Winters, Road Salt Can Pollute Waterways (DCist, January 16, 2024): dcist.com/story/24/01/16/dc-road-salt-pollutes-waterways/

First they tackled plastic bags. Now they're taking aim at bottles. (Washington Post, January 15, 2024): [washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/01/15/waterway-plastic-bottle-cleanup/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/01/15/waterway-plastic-bottle-cleanup/)

Route 1 Nonprofit Aims to Bring More Bats to the Anacostia River (Hyattsville Wire, January 19, 2024): hyattsvillewire.com/2024/01/19/anacostia-watershed-society-bats/



[Manage Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)

