



March 2024

Dear Watershed Partners,

Spring activities are kicking into gear and there is some summer planning happening as well. Keep reading to learn about current funding options (some with fast approaching deadlines!) as well as job and training opportunities. Also noteworthy: the District government released the Zero Waste DC Plan last month, outlining goals and actions to reduce waste across the city to keep our streets and waterways cleaner. Happy reading!

Community Stormwater Solutions – applications due March 28

The Community Stormwater Solutions (CSS) grant program is back! This program supports community-oriented projects to increase knowledge and promote behavior change on watershed and stormwater-related issues. Project areas include environmental justice, environmental education, green infrastructure, green jobs, habitat restoration, litter and pollution reduction, and out-of-school time programming.



About \$350,000 in funding is available to support projects of up to \$35,000 each. Learn more about the CSS program, including a list of past projects, at DOEE's [CSS program webpage](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Trust administers the program. Visit their webpage for the Request for Applications and to apply: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/district-of-columbia-community-stormwater-solutions/>.

Applications are due on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 4:00 PM. Please contact Marylin Veiman-Echeverria at mveiman@cbtrust.org with questions.

Green Zone Environmental Program RFA – applications due April 1

DOEE released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2024 [Green Zone Environmental Program \(GZEP\)](#), a summer workforce development program for District youth ages 14-24.



Through this RFA, DOEE seeks eligible entities to conduct programs to engage participants in activities that establish or deepen participants' connection to the environment, strengthen their résumés, provide skills for green careers, and raise awareness about the impacts of stormwater runoff.

\$80,000 is available; DOEE intends to award four grants of up to \$20,000 each. DOEE will hold a pre-application meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 12:30 PM.

The application deadline is Monday, April 1, 2024 (no joke!). The full RFA, link to pre-application meeting, and more information is at this webpage: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1710346>. Please direct questions to 2024GZEP.grants@dc.gov.

Summer and short-term job opportunities with GZEP

Are you a high school senior, college student, recent graduate, or young adult interested in a short-term or summer job working with youth and the environment? If so, you can apply for one of several staff positions with the [Green Zone Environmental Program \(GZEP\)](#).



Positions include site manager, team leader, communication coordinator, and more. Being a GZEP staff member is a great way to earn money and gain leadership experience!

Learn more about the available opportunities and apply here: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/58752>.

FY24 Rock Creek Stream Restoration and Outfall RFP – closes March 24

DOEE has a new RFP posted to prepare and advance designs and NEPA compliance for the restoration of several outfall, gully, and stream sites in Rock Creek Park within the District of Columbia. This project will address eleven (11) separate project sites where uncontrolled stormwater has led to outfall failure, severe erosion, and incision within the outfall gullies and streams.

The new RFP has been posted here: <https://contracts.ocp.dc.gov/solicitations/search>. You can search "Open Solicitations" by solicitation number **Doc686174** to see more details or to apply. **Closing date is Sunday, March 24, 2024.**

Watershed Stewards Academy – recruiting Spring 2024 cohort

Anacostia Watershed Society's Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) equips and supports community leaders to recognize and address local pollution problems in nearby streams and rivers. The program includes 30+ hours of both virtual and field sessions on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings in April and May (starting April 3) and a capstone project. WSA is funded by DOEE, Campbell Foundation, the University of Maryland, and the National Science Foundation.



Spread the word! Visit the WSA webpage to learn more and apply:

<https://www.anacostiaws.org/what-we-do/education/adult-education/watershed-stewards-academy.html>.



Just released: Zero Waste DC Plan

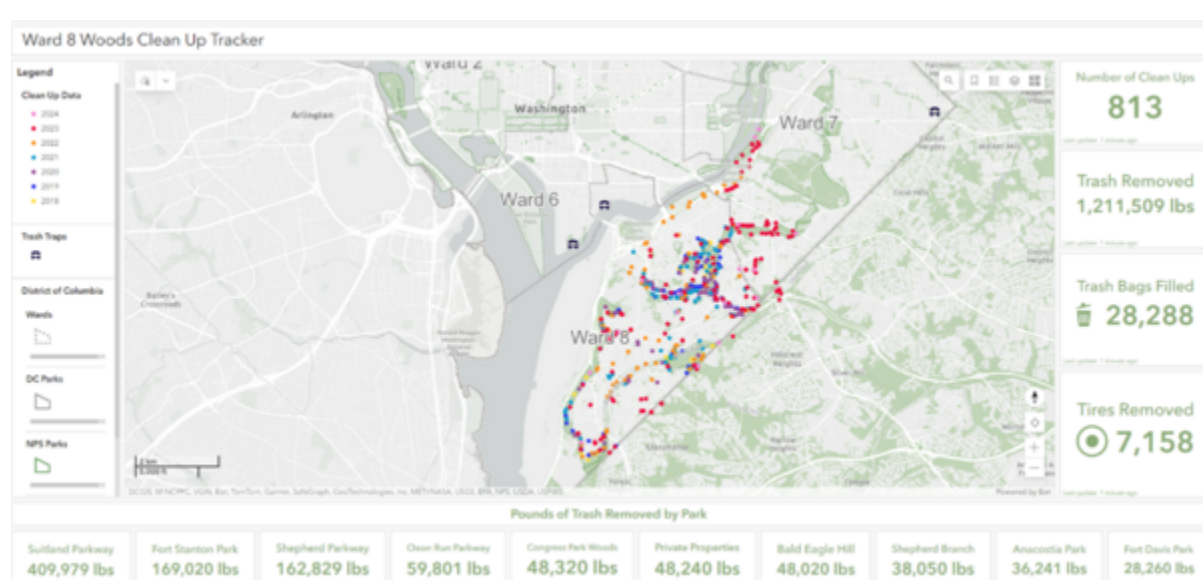
The highly anticipated Zero Waste DC Plan was released in February 2024. The Plan outlines 43 actions within 7 overarching goals to achieve a Districtwide solid waste diversion rate of 80% by 2040.

One of the goals is to transition from single-use toward re-use, with single-use items being a main source of the [trash](#) that ends up polluting local waterways.

Read the plan [here](#) and learn more about Zero Waste DC by visiting the webpage zerowaste.dc.gov.

Ward 8 Woods Cleanup Tracker

A new GIS-based tracker from [Ward 8 Woods](#) provides a map and data dashboard to illustrate the scale of the illegal dumping and trash harming communities in Ward 8. You can view the tracker [here](#) and see a screenshot below.



RiverSmart Homes – sign up now

[RiverSmart Homes](#) works Districtwide with residents to reduce stormwater runoff on their properties through green infrastructure practices, such as rain barrels, native landscaping, pervious pavers, and more. You could receive high quality green features at little to no cost! [Apply here](#) to receive an on-site assessment.

In case you missed it

Check out some recent published pieces related to the watershed:

Tire Dumping Epidemic: D.C. Residents Fight Back Against Illegal and Dangerous Trash (Washington Informer, February 26, 2024): <https://www.washingtoninformer.com/dc-tire-dumping-environmental-racism/>.

Kingman Island Closed As D.C. Removes Decades-Old Toxic Debris (DCist, February 14, 2024): <https://dcist.com/story/24/02/14/kingman-island-closed-dc-removes-decades-old-toxic-debris/>

Could 2024 be the Year of the Reusable Coffee Mug? (Zero Waste in DC blog, February 7, 2024): <https://www.zerowasteindc.com/blog/could-2024-be-the-year-of-the-reusable-coffee-mug>

Very cool: trees stalling effects of global heating in eastern US, study finds (The Guardian, February 17, 2024): <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/feb/17/us-east-trees-warming-hole-study-climate-crisis>



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