



August 2024

Dear Watershed Partners,

We have some exciting announcements in this month's newsletter, including an opportunity to earn money while climbing trees, information on how to become a founding member of the [District Waterways Advisory Commission](#), and information on some federal grant opportunities. First, take a moment to read about the sustainability progress we have made so far, highlighted in the Sustainable DC progress report linked below.

Some watershed-related accomplishments:

- The Stormwater Retention Credit program surpassed **2 million credits** traded
- RiverSmart Homes installed its **20,000th best management practice**
- Per capita water consumption **dropped almost 18%** from the 2012 baseline

Enjoy these last weeks of summer and stay tuned for September updates!

2024 Sustainable DC Progress Report released



The latest [Sustainable DC](#) progress report was released earlier this month. This year's report marks the halfway point toward reaching the environmental, economic, and equity goals first outlined in the original plan in 2013. It highlights achievements from District government agencies and partners to transform DC into the healthiest, greenest, most livable city for all.

Check it out, including the section on water to learn about the District's achievements in protecting the watershed and local waterways: [Sustainable DC 2024 Progress Report](#).

District Bag Fee Evaluation – full report released

In Spring 2024, [Anacostia Riverkeeper](#) worked with a group of graduate students from George Washington University to examine plastic bag pollution in the Anacostia River. They conducted an evaluation of the District's [Bag Law](#), examining the impact and alternative policies.

Check out the [summary and infographic](#) of the study and read the [full report](#) as well.

DOEE welcomes your feedback on this study and anything else about the Bag Law as we approach its 15th anniversary. Please email CAPteam@dc.gov to share any thoughts and suggestions for this policy that is pivotal to a cleaner and healthier river.



Apply today to join District Waterways Advisory Commission

Are you passionate about the future of the District's waterways? **DOEE is thrilled to announce its new Office of District Waterways Management (ODWM) is seeking visionary leaders to join the District Waterways Advisory Commission.** This commission will spearhead the development of a strategic vision for the District's waterways and surrounding lands. With a diverse team of 14 voting members—7 appointed by the Mayor and 7 by the D.C. Council—the Commission aims to encompass a wide range of professional and personal perspectives.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to shape the future of our waterways. Apply today or share this opportunity with someone who you believe would make a great addition to the Commission. Learn more about ODWM and this opportunity, including application links, at <https://doee.dc.gov/service/odwm>. **Applications are due by September 30, 2024.**

Tree Climbing Academy this November! Apply by September 20th



Casey Trees, Montgomery Parks, and Bartlett Tree Experts are hosting an exhilarating week at our [Tree Climbing Academy!](#) This immersive program will be held at **Wheaton Regional Park in Silver Spring from November 4th – 8th** and is perfect for individuals passionate about arboriculture, forestry, or the tree care industry.

Over five action-packed days, you'll be guided by seasoned instructors through essential climbing skills and safety practices. Here's what you'll dive into:

- **Safe Working Concepts:** Understand the principles of safety in tree climbing
- **Ropes and Knots:** Master the ropes with knot-tying techniques essential for climbers
- **Climbing Saddles and Equipment:** Get hands-on with the gear that keeps you safe and efficient
- **Industry Best Practices:** Learn the standards and practices that set the bar in tree care

Learn more about the program by visiting the [webpage](#). Ready to take the leap? Apply by filling out the form [here](#). **Applications are open until September 20, 2024** and confirmed candidates will be notified by early October. If you have any questions, reach out to friends@caseytrees.org.

Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Network Grants – due October 21st

The grant application cycle for the third round of **Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Network** grants opened July 29, 2024 and has an application deadline of October 21, 2024.

Chesapeake Gateways is a network of places and their partners, providing opportunities to enjoy, learn about, and help conserve the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Included in the network are diverse natural, cultural, historical, and recreational sites, trails, museums, parks, refuges, and interpretive and orientation facilities. These places serve as entry points and the key guide for experiencing the Chesapeake watershed. Approximately \$1,000,000 in funding is available for supporting community collaboration projects and events.

The application period will be open until 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, October 21, 2024. For full details and a link to the application, go to [Chesapeake Gateways Grants - Chesapeake Bay Watershed \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#). If you have questions, please contact Chesapeake_grants@nps.gov.

Racial Equity Action Plan: Public comments open through September 30th

DOEE has drafted a [Racial Equity Action Plan](#) (REAP) as part of its commitment to achieving racial equity in the District. We encourage all our partners to provide feedback on how we can strengthen and improve our processes and programs.

Share your ideas on how the agency can strengthen bonds with the community, better prepare staff to deliver programs equitably to everyone regardless of race, income, and background, and more effectively measure environmental justice progress.

The plan is open for public comment through September 30, 2024. Visit doee.konveio.com to share your thoughts.

EPA Community Change Grants – open until November 21, 2024



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is still accepting applications for the [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program](#). There is approximately \$2 billion in Disadvantaged Community funds for environmental and justice activities to benefit in disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges.

Initial selections for the grants can be viewed [here](#) – among them is a DC-based organization! Some changes were made to the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) on August 6, 2024, so be sure to read the updated version. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through November 21, 2024.**

In case you missed it

Check out some recent published pieces – you might spot DOEE staff or partners!

[Inside America's billion-dollar quest to squeeze more trees into cities](#)

Washington Post, 6 July 2024

[Trash traps, clean teams, and other solutions for a trash-free Anacostia River](#)

Chesapeake Bay Program, 19 July 2024

[From DC's 'forgotten' river to the Seine, pollution cancels swim events](#)

Agence France-Presse, 31 July 2024

[A reimagined Oxon Run Park takes shape in the heart of Southeast Washington, D.C.](#)

Chesapeake Bay Program, 9 August 2024



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