



## Watershed Partners Newsletter

November 2024

Dear Watershed Partners,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Kingman Friends and Family Day last month! Enjoy the photos below and follow this newsletter for more updates and events at this unique gem in the District. This month's newsletter includes recaps of recent events and opportunities to join our work in protecting the Anacostia watershed.

See you next month!

### Kingman Friends and Family Day Recap – thank you for joining!

Last month, hundreds of District residents and neighbors joined DOEE and partners on Kingman and Heritage Islands for the [4th Annual Kingman Island Friends and Family Day!](#) From painting and planting to fishing and paddling, we soaked up the sun and had fun getting our hands dirty. Thanks to all who came out to explore and celebrate the beauty of this unique wildlife area in the District.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's event! In the meantime, stay in the loop about other programming on the islands, and find general visitor information at [kingmanisland.com](http://kingmanisland.com).



### Saturday, November 16 is National Stormwater Day!

We know it can be hard to think about stormwater when the District is experiencing one of the longest droughts on record. Managing stormwater and the pollutants it carries is required and is a major initiative across DOEE's Natural Resources Administration. Learn more by watching this [video](#) about RiverSmart.

Stormwater runoff negatively impacts our rivers, lakes, and drinking water. With every rain event, pollutants like fertilizers, pet waste, oil, and trash get washed into our surface waters. These pollutants cause excessive weed and algae growth in our waters, harmful algae blooms, sedimentation, and many other environmental and ecological problems.



You can help keep water clean by:

- Planting native plants and trees – [sign up for RiverSmart Homes](#) to see if you qualify for free trees or discounted native plants
- Properly disposing of chemicals and hazardous waste
- Keeping storm drains clear of debris like leaves and litter
- Always picking up and throwing away pet waste
- Volunteering at or organizing a stream or trash clean-up event

### Apply today to join the District Waterways Advisory Commission

**DOEE's new Office of District Waterways Management (ODWM) is still accepting applications from passionate river users to join the District Waterways Advisory Commission.** This pivotal 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.

**Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all positions are filled.** Learn more about the ODWM and this opportunity, including the application links, at <https://doee.dc.gov/service/odwm>.

### DOEE hosts CUSP field tour



On Friday, November 8, DOEE staff hosted the Chesapeake Stormwater Network (CSN) and 15 participants from their [Chesapeake Urban Stormwater Professionals \(CUSP\)](#) certificate program for a tour of restoration projects at and around the National Arboretum. Participants learned about stream restoration and how work on [Springhouse Run](#) has brought beavers back to continue restoring the watershed. They also learned about Best Management Practices (BMP) maintenance and how DOEE staff are addressing it through better practice design and more efficient inspection programs. They also learned about the [RiverSmart Homes](#) program and the impact it has had on increasing resident participation in local watershed protection efforts. DOEE's Watershed Protection Division loves showing off our hard work and making new connections with folks working to tackle the same issues we are facing. Thanks to CSN and the CUSP students for making the time to visit the District!

### Community Stormwater Solutions Grants – opening soon!

The next Request for Applications (RFA) for the [Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program](#) is opening soon! The program provides funding for innovative and community-centered projects that increase knowledge and change behavior around watershed and stormwater-related issues in the District. From litter reduction to water quality education programs and rain gardens to accessible nature walks, get inspired by the amazing projects of our current grantees and start dreaming up your ideas for 2025! Check back on the linked webpage in the coming weeks for the RFA.

### EPA Community Change Grants – open until November 21



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is still accepting applications for the [Environmentally and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program](#).** There is approximately \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds for 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 accepted on a rolling basis through November 21, 2024.**

### In case you missed it

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

[To Heal the Anacostia, Citizen Scientists Wade Into Troubled Waters](#)  
MarylandToday, 9 September 2024

[DC is ahead of some sustainability goals – and not slowing down anytime soon](#)  
NBC Washington, 3 October 2024

[New DC law aims to sue illegal dumpers for damages and clean up costs](#)  
WUSA9, 1 November 2024

[Magnet fishermen recover dozens of electric scooters from the Anacostia River in DC](#)  
WUSA9, 10 November 2024



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