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From: DC Department of Energy and Environment <doee@subscriptions.dc.gov>

Subject: April Watershed News



## April 2025

Dear Watershed Partners,

Happy Earth Month, everyone! At DOEE, every month is Earth Month and every day is Earth Day. Keep reading to see a list of exciting events taking place over the next few weeks.

In this 15th anniversary year of the Bag Law, we are continuing to spotlight different programs funded by it. This month we are sharing about Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs), which since 2003 has helped District students to connect with their local environment.

DOEE offers various MWEE programs in District Schools. Nature Near Schools is a fourth-grade program where students experience multiple sessions on topics including watershed health, air quality, and food webs. The Overnight MWEE is a fifth-grade program where students participate in a three-day, two-night immersive overnight experience, with hands-on activities such as water quality monitoring, habitat hikes, and teambuilding. Lastly, the Middle School MWEE works with sixth- through eighth-grade students to increase their connection to local watersheds and habitats. These MWEE programs have engaged more than 20,000 students since 2003.

## Earth Month events in the area

There is no shortage of ways to be involved this Earth Month! Check out the events below and visit the links for more details.



### Friday, April 18

- Good Projects DC, Southwest Garden Fest, 12:00pm to 4:00pm – details [here](#).

### Saturday, April 19

- Anacostia Riverkeeper, Earth Day Clean Waterways Cleanup at Kenilworth Park, 10:00am to 1:00pm, details [here](#).
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- Mayor Bowser and the Mayor's Office of the Clean City, Annual Spring Cleanups in all eight wards, 10:00am to 3:00pm – details [here](#).

#### Saturday, April 26

- Anacostia Watershed Society is hosting their annual series of cleanups at various sites – full details [here](#).
- Potomac Riverkeeper Network, DOEE, and partners at Oxon Cove Earth Day River Cleanup from 9:00am to 3:00pm – details including signing up for a shift [here](#).

Find a list of additional events on our website [here](#).

### Join the Kingman + Heritage Islands Community Advisory Group



DOEE and Friends of Kingman and Heritage Islands are seeking community members to reestablish an [advisory group](#) for Kingman + Heritage Islands! The group will help shape the future of the Islands, inform projects, share community priorities, and engage with the greater community about the collective work happening on the Islands.

The commitment includes four quarterly meetings starting in June 2025. Members will serve for one year with the ability to renew their commitment for up to three years.

Interested candidates should express their interest through [this form](#) by **Wednesday, April 30 at 5:00 PM**. Find more information about the group on the Kingman + Heritage Islands Website [here](#).

### RFA: RiverSmart Schools grant applications due April 25

**DOEE seeks eligible entities to design and implement the RiverSmart Schools Education program.** The program (1) restores selected schools' green infrastructure installations, (2) teaches teachers in selected schools how to use the sites as educational tools, with students' hands-on care, and (3) provides "light" assistance and/or resources to schools not selected for the more intense work. **The amount available for the project is approximately \$75,000.**

Find more information [here](#). **The deadline for application submissions has been extended to Friday, April 25, 2025.**

### Community Stormwater Solutions Mini Grants





The RFA for our main Community Stormwater Solutions Grant program recently closed, but we're excited to announce a new [mini grant program](#)! The program aims to fund small organizations and new or inexperienced applicants. Applicants can request up to \$5,000 to revitalize existing green infrastructure sites, connect communities to nature through programming at Kingman + Heritage Islands and other green spaces, or launch innovative pilot projects that explore new community-driven approaches to stormwater management. This DOEE-funded program is currently administered through a partnership with the [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until all funding is expended.

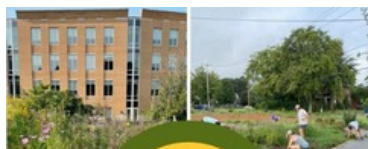
## Everyday river-friendly practices for spring cleaning



Spring cleaning is for outside the home too! Cars, home exteriors, and walkways get dirty and grimy during the winter months, but did you know washing these can contribute to pollution in our local waterways? With these Everyday River-Friendly Practices, you can help protect native wildlife, plants, and local ecosystems by reducing the amount of sediment, soaps, oils, metals, and other pollutants that enter storm drains and flow untreated into Rock Creek and the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers.

- **Keep it Commercial.** Commercial carwashes and eco-friendly professional services are the best options. Most carwashes clean and recycle water several times before it goes to the Blue Plains advanced wastewater treatment plant. Professionals should use EPA-recommended practices to contain and dispose of used water.
- **Try it Dry.** Try the waterless method for window and car washing, a spray-on product that lets you clean without a hose and bucket – all you need is a dry microfiber cloth. To clean sidewalks, patios, and driveways, try sweeping up debris instead of hosing it down.
- **Contain the Runoff.** When dry cleaning methods are not an option, the best practice is to properly contain and dispose of any wash water. This can include using the bucket method instead of a hose, disposing of wash water in a sink or toilet, or washing your car on or diverting water to a grassy or gravel area where it can be absorbed.

## Cast Your Vote for the Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award!



.....  
**WELCOME TO**  
**THE BUBBA**



Several DC-based projects were recognized and/or selected as finalists in the Chesapeake Stormwater Network's 2025 [Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award](#) (BUBBA) contest!

The BUBBAs contest recognizes the best practices and programs being implemented in the urban environment across the Chesapeake Bay watershed and shines a light on local innovators using creative approaches to protect and restore local watersheds.

Congratulations to the DC projects recognized in this year's contest:

- [Park Drive Stream Restoration](#)
- [Stormwater Retention Credit Program](#)
- [Hamlin Street, NE LID Retrofits Project](#)
- [Stormwater Retrofits on Parkland](#)
- [GSI Maintenance in D.C.](#)

**The general public has the chance to vote for the 2025 Grand Prize People's choice winners!** [Cast your vote](#) by 11:59pm on April 21. Winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22.

## New video: tree planting in the District



DOEE is committed to investing in, maintaining, and expanding the number of healthy native trees across the District. Trees are not only a great investment that have been shown to increase property value and improve public health and safety, but they have multiple benefits for achieving our environmental goals. Specifically, trees help to:

- Absorb and reduce stormwater runoff
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- Create a more diverse ecosystem so wildlife can thrive

Check out [DOEE's new tree video](#) for more information. Do you want to see gorgeous spring blooms like the ones at the National Mall? Sign up for DC's [RiverSmartHomes](#) program to get FREE beautiful blooming trees at your home!

## Small Watershed Grants Program due May 13

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is soliciting proposals through the [Small Watershed Grants Program](#) 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 tributaries.

Please review the attached Request for Proposals for all program details, including program priorities, important program dates, eligibility criteria, and other important considerations. Full proposals must be submitted through NFWF's Easygrants system no later than **12:00PM Tuesday, May 13, 2024**. For immediate questions, please contact Jake Reilly ([jake.reilly@nfwf.org](mailto:jake.reilly@nfwf.org)) or Oleksandr Faryga ([oleksandr.faryga@nfwf.org](mailto:oleksandr.faryga@nfwf.org)).

## In case you missed it

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[Anacostia High School seniors author new book 'Young Voices of the Anacostia River'](#)

WTOP, 12 March 2025

[D.C. is seeing more intense rainstorms amid climate change](#)

Axios, 7 April 2025



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8

\*April 2025\*

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\* Potomac Conservancy, Earth Day trash cleanup at Anacostia Park, 9:00am to 11:00am - details here [ <https://potomac.org/pc-events?view=calendar&month=04-2025> ].

\* Good Projects DC, Southwest Garden Fest, 11:00am to 5:00pm - details here [ <https://www.goodprojects.org/SWGF> ].

\* Mayor Bowser and the Mayor's Office of the Clean City, Annual Spring Cleanups in all eight wards, 10:00am to 3:00pm - details here [ <https://servedc.galaxydigital.com/event> ].

\*Saturday, April 26\*

\* Anacostia Watershed Society is hosting their annual series of cleanups at various sites - full details here [ <https://www.anacostiaws.org/what-we-do/river-restoration-projects/earth-day/registration-portal.html> ].

\* Potomac Riverkeeper Network, DOEE, and partners at Oxon Cove Earth Day River Cleanup from 9:00am to 3:00pm - details including signing up for a shift here [ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-oxon-cove-earth-day-river-cleanup-tickets-1286423781159?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> ].

Find a list of additional events on our website here [ <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1775696> ].

\*Join the Kingman + Heritage Islands Community Advisory Group\*

6

DOEE and Friends of Kingman and Heritage Islands are seeking community members to reestablish an advisory group [ <http://kingmanisland.com/community-advisory-group> ] for Kingman + Heritage Islands! The group will help shape the future of the Islands, inform projects, share community priorities, and engage with the greater community about the collective work happening on the Islands.

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Interested candidates should express their interest through this form [ <https://forms.office.com/g/7TNDtU3wUa> ] by \*Wednesday, April 30 at 5:00 PM\*. Find more information about the group on the Kingman + Heritage Islands Website here [ <http://kingmanisland.com/community-advisory-group> ].

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Find more information here [ <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1766841> ].\*The deadline for application submissions has been extended to Friday, April 25, 2025.\*

Community Stormwater Solutions Mini Grants

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- \* Stormwater Retrofits on Parkland [ <https://doee.dc.gov/service/innovative-stormwater-retrofits> ]
- \* GSI Maintenance [ [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V5pa3nz9STcP0C4W0XBKA\\_YpzI13MiXy](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V5pa3nz9STcP0C4W0XBKA_YpzI13MiXy) ] in D.C. [ [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V5pa3nz9STcP0C4W0XBKA\\_YpzI13MiXy](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V5pa3nz9STcP0C4W0XBKA_YpzI13MiXy) ]

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\*Anacostia High School seniors author new book ‘Young Voices of the Anacostia River’\* [ <https://wtop.com/dc/2025/03/anacostia-high-school-seniors-author-new-book-young-voices-of-the-anacostia-river/> ]

WTOP, 12 March 2025

\*D.C. is seeing more intense rainstorms amid climate change\* [ <https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2025/04/07/dc-weather-rain-more-intense-climate-change> ]

Axios, 7 April 2025

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logos

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