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- [Email \(Plain Text\)](#)

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

Subject: July Watershed News



## July 2025

Dear Watershed Partners,

15 years ago, the Bag Law helped DC cut down on plastic waste. Today, the same 5-cent fee is fueling something even bigger: a greener, more resilient city for future generations.

Thanks to bag fee revenue, DOEE has funded many impactful programs, including a 2023 grant to [Casey Trees](#), which supported a citywide inventory of invasive vines with the [Chesapeake Climate Action Network](#). Why does that matter? Because these fast-growing, non-native vines can smother trees by blocking sunlight, adding excess weight to branches, and taking water and nutrients away from trees. With this data in hand, local volunteers are now stepping up to remove vines and give our urban forestry the care it needs to thrive.

Protecting the existing tree canopy is essential to meeting [DC's goal of reaching 40% tree canopy by 2032](#). Through smart funding, strong partnerships, and collective action, DC is investing in its leafy legacy as the City of Trees.

🌱 5 cents per bag may not seem like much but look at what it's growing. Want to get involved? [Volunteer opportunities](#) are sprouting up across the city.

### New Community Stormwater Solutions projects awarded

The 2025-2026 sub-grantees for the main track of the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant program have been selected. Congratulations to Soul Trak Outdoors, Gentrified Wood, Wheatley Education Campus, National Wildlife Federation, Pipkin Creative Communications, and We Act Radio on their awards! Learn more about their projects [here](#).

### Still open: Community Stormwater Solutions mini grants

Applicants can request up to \$5,000 for creative and innovative projects that explore new community-driven approaches to stormwater management and watershed protection.

**Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through August 29, 2025, or until all**

**funding is expended, whichever comes first.** Priority is given to small organizations, new applicants to the program, and Minority/Women's Business Enterprises. Support is available to navigate the process. Learn more [here](#) and apply today!

## Outfall and Gully Restoration Project completed



DOEE recently completed the restoration of a gully that had experienced severe erosion in Northwest DC. Stormwater from the surrounding neighborhood had caused excessive flows that destabilized the banks, degraded water quality, and undermined nearby trees. The **DOEE Linnean Outfall and Gully Restoration Project** established a new stable channel, preventing an estimated 85 tons of suspended sediment from entering Soapstone Creek each year. Visit the [project webpage](#) and watch [this video](#) to learn more.

## What's happening on Kingman + Heritage Islands

There is a lot happening this summer at Kingman + Heritage Islands, the District's only State Conservation Area.

**FrogWatch:** The final FrogWatch monitoring session is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 5 from 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM**. Don't miss your chance to join DOEE and Living Classrooms to monitor frog call activity and other nocturnal animals. Register in advance [here](#).

Plus, join us at the Aquatic Resources Education Center at Anacostia Park to celebrate the end of the FrogWatch season on **Wednesday, August 13, from 4:00 - 6:00 PM**.

**Anacostia River Discovery Boat Tours:** Join the Anacostia Watershed Society for an upcoming boat tour launching from Kingman Island's dock on the Anacostia River. View the upcoming dates [here](#).

**Green Boats:** Join Living Classrooms from May to October for free opportunities to paddle and clean the river. Due to popular demand, you must [enter the monthly lottery](#). There are multiple sessions each week.

**Invasive Plant Management Workdays:** Join DOEE to remove invasive plants from the riparian area between Kingman Lake and the RFK Campus. These workdays are important early steps in DOEE and DMPED's ecological restoration efforts in the riparian area and our existing efforts on the Islands themselves. Register in advance [here](#).

- Saturday, September 6, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Saturday, September 27, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**Looking to book your own event, educational programming, or volunteer opportunity on the Islands?** Contact Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region at [kingmanisland@livingclassroomsdc.org](mailto:kingmanisland@livingclassroomsdc.org).

To stay connected to all things Kingman + Heritage Islands, subscribe to our newsletter in the footer of the [Islands' website](#).

## Now open: RiverSmart Schools RFA, deadline August 11

DOEE has released a Request for Applications (RFA) to support a grantee to design and implement the RiverSmart Schools Education, Training, and Maintenance program. The goals of this program are to restore selected schools' green infrastructure installations, train teachers on how to use GI as educational tools, and provide light assistance and/or resources to schools. The amount available for the project is \$75,000.

The full RFA and more information can be found [here](#). **The deadline for application submissions is Monday, August 11, 2025 by 11:59 PM.** For questions, please contact [2025RSSEducation.grants@dc.gov](mailto:2025RSSEducation.grants@dc.gov).

## Coming soon: Kingman Rangers RFA

DOEE will release a Request for Applications (RFA) soon for the Kingman Rangers Workforce Development Program. The workforce development program provides a pathway to employment for high school students and adult District residents with barriers to employment, while helping to restore and maintain Kingman + Heritage Islands and provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming experience to visitors. The opportunity will be available on the [DOEE grants webpage](#) once released.

## Feedback solicited on Bay watershed agreement

The Chesapeake Bay Program invites your feedback on the [Draft Revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#), which will guide restoration and protection efforts beyond 2025. As the only urban jurisdiction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the District plays a unique and vital role in the future of the Bay. Help shape the shared goals for healthy watersheds, engaged communities, clean water, and thriving Anacostia and Potomac Rivers.

More information can be found [here](#). **Public feedback is accepted through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 1, 2025.** Please email feedback to [comments@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:comments@chesapeakebay.net).

## New Bag Law decal is here – take a sneak peek



The Bag Law decal has a new look! Stores, restaurants, and other DC businesses can now go to the [Bag Law webpage](#) and print the newly redesigned decal and display on cash registers, doors, windows – anywhere customers will see! Be sure to encourage the businesses you frequent to display the new decal to do their part for a cleaner, healthier watershed.

## In case you missed it

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

[Science says plastic bag bans really do work](#)

Grist, 19 June 2025

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NRC Washington 11 July 2025

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logos

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