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

Subject: March Watershed News



### March 2025

With 2025 being the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the District's [Bag Law](#), throughout the year this newsletter will spotlight different programs funded by bag fee revenue. What better program to spotlight this month than the ever-popular warm weather activity of [educational boat tours](#)?

**Since 2015, this program has taken 49,029 people on tours of the Anacostia River.** Countless student groups have participated during school field trips and the boat tours are a highlight of the annual [Anacostia Environmental Youth Summit](#). Participants learn about the river's history and wildlife, as well as the environmental impacts it faces.

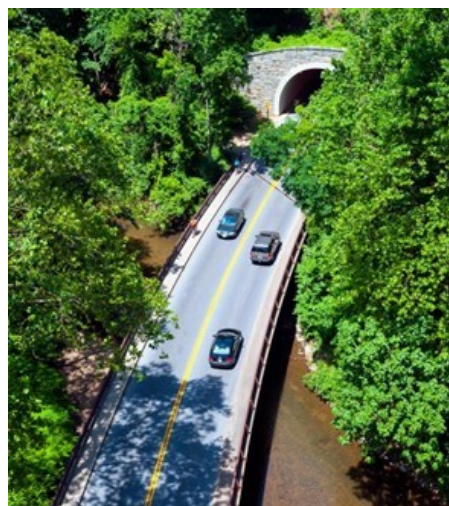
Tours launch from five different locations along the river. The spring boat season is planned to launch in March, weather permitting. Visit these pages from our nonprofit partners for updates on their 2025 boat tour seasons:

- [Anacostia Riverkeeper](#)
- [Anacostia Watershed Society](#)

See you on the river!

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### Urban Forestry Advisory Council – applications open



**Are you a community member interested in urban forestry?** The Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments is accepting applications for public representatives of the community for [DC's Urban Forestry Advisory Council](#).

The purpose of the council is to ensure coordination between District agencies responsible for achieving the tree canopy goal of 40% canopy cover by 2032 and partners engaged in programs and activities geared toward achieving this. Community representatives should be knowledgeable in urban forestry, public policy, environmental protection, public administration, and/or environmental justice and equity. Interest in engaging the community in Wards 7 and 8 is encouraged.

The application can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, reach out to Erica Carlsson at [erica.carlsson@dc.gov](mailto:erica.carlsson@dc.gov).

## Green Boats hiring part-time paddlers



**Living Classrooms is hiring part-time lead and assistant paddlers for the 2025 season.** This is a great opportunity for people who love being on the river, working with people, and keeping waterways clean. Responsibilities include setting up paddling sessions, reviewing safety procedures, aiding with emergency response, and helping with debris collection and data recording.

More information about Green Boats can be found on the [program webpage](#). If you are interested in applying for an assistant or lead paddler position, the application can be found [here](#). **The position starts on April 1, 2025, so apply soon!**

## RFK land use survey

**Now that the RFK campus is back with the District of Columbia, do you have ideas for the open space?** The District is beginning the process of community engagement, feedback, and conversations to help guide RFK's future. Take [this brief survey](#), to share your ideas!

## Kingman and Heritage Islands: New life coming this spring!



**If you have visited Kingman and Heritage Islands over the past few years, you have likely noticed the changes in invasive plant overgrowth.** In 2023, DOEE hired Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) and Sarver Ecological to restore the ecology on 47 acres of conservation area. RES has significantly decreased populations of bush honeysuckle, porcelain berry, knotweed and other invasive species. There was a time not long ago when you had no idea you were on an island 50 feet from the river because the brush was so thick. Now, there are clear sight lines and the invasives that have ruled the islands for the past 30 years are making way for the native plantings outlined in the [ecological restoration plan](#) developed by RES and Sarver Ecological.

**As of March 1, 2025, RES has planted 11,500 native trees according to this plan and intends to plant another 25,000 native shrubs and perennials this spring.** We're looking forward to what the islands will look like in May as all these new plants spring to life! There is still a seedbank of invasive plants in the soils, so DOEE will continue to remove invasive plants and propagate natives to protect this investment in the coming years.

## In case you missed it

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

or partners!

[D.C.'s proposed bottle bill aims to tackle high-profile pollution in Anacostia River](#)

WasteDive, 27 January 2025

[Human, Bird, or Dog Waste? Scientists Parsing Poop To Aid DC's Forgotten River](#)

KFF Health News, 27 February 2025

[Kingman Island – DC's first conservation area – getting major restoration](#)

NBC Washington, 28 February 2025



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\*March 2025\*

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\* Anacostia Watershed Society [ <https://www.anacostiaws.org/events-and-recreation/signature-events/anacostia-river-discovery-series.html> ]

See you on the river!

\*Urban Forestry Advisory Council – applications open \*  
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NBC Washington, 28 February 2025

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