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



September 2025

Dear Watershed Partners,

We hope you are all enjoying these last days of summer. We are in full planning mode for fall activities, including our signature event Kingman Friends and Family Day. Scroll down to learn more and mark your calendars to join us there on Saturday, September 27!

RiverSmart Homes Showcase on September 6

There will be a RiverSmart Homes showcase in Ward 7 on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This annual event gives DC residents the opportunity to learn about the program and the different green infrastructure practices it installs.

See the flyer below and visit the registration link here. The showcase will be in the Capital View neighborhood, with the location shared two days prior to the event. Please contact Marie Fritz at mfritz@allianceforthebay.org with any questions. See you there!



SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 from 10:00AM to 12:00PM

RIVERSMART HOMES SHOWCASE

Join us for a FREE community event in Ward 7 hosted by the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Landscaping Advice

Gardening Giveaways

Discover how to beautify your property while managing stormwater with help from the RiverSmart Homes Program!

Learn about stormwater pollution, talk to RiverSmart Homes experts, speak to green infrastructure professionals, and sign up for RiverSmart Homes.

Stormwater Education

If you have questions, please contact Marie J. Fritz at mfritz@allianceforthebay.org tinyurl.com/RSShowcase2025



Kingman Friends and Family Day on September 27

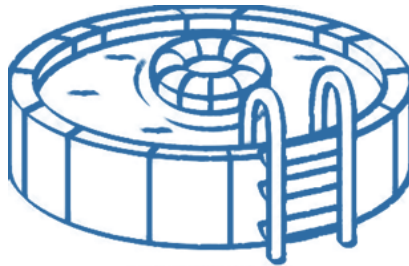
Mark your calendars for the 5th annual Kingman Friends and Family Day on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM! Come celebrate the diversity of the habitats and wildlife of Kingman and learn about the District's conservation, educational, and recreational goals for Kingman and Heritage Islands. DOEE and partners will lead activities like motorized boat tours, kayaking, live music, yoga, and more.

Learn more and register here. The event is open to the public and free to attend.





## Time to drain your pool? Here's how to do it right



As summer wraps up, here are some reminders of river-friendly practices to safely drain your pool. Please consult a professional plumber if you have any questions.

1. Don't drain into storm drains. This pollutes local waterways and can be harmful to aquatic wildlife and drinking water.
2. Use a built-in line to drain through the sanitary sewer cleanout for most in-ground pools.
3. Use a pump and hose to drain pool water into plumbing fixtures like a large sink or bathtub (that is connected to the District's sanitary sewer) if you don't have a cleanout.

### No clean-out connection, no pump, and no hose? No problem! Start here.

1. Dechlorinate the pool before discharging by stopping the addition of chlorine to the pool, leaving it uncovered, and waiting. Sunlight will help to naturally dissipate the chlorine within 10 days. Chlorine in the pool should be reduced to undetectable levels, <0.1 mg/L. Use a swimming pool test kit to measure chlorine throughout the waiting period.
2. If you have a pump and hose, please see instruction #3 above for next steps.
3. If you do not have a pump and hose that can reach a sanitary plumbing fixture like a large sink or tub, please use a hose to discharge onto a lawn that can hold water without overflowing, ponding, or causing erosion. Please do not drain onto the pavement or into any storm drains.

For more details about draining your pool in the District please visit [How to Drain Your Swimming Pool Properly | doee](#).

## Apply for RiverSmart Communities Grant: Empowering neighborhoods to fight stormwater pollution



Is your nonprofit looking to turn rain into a resource? DOEE, in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (the Alliance), is offering funding through the [RiverSmart](#)

[Communities Grant Program](#) to help local organizations tackle stormwater pollution in their communities.

**Eligible 501(c)(3) organizations – including houses of worship and community-based groups—can apply for support to install green infrastructure like rain gardens, permeable pavement, and cisterns.** These nature-based practices help slow, capture, and filter rainwater, protecting nearby rivers and streams.

Applications must present a clear community education plan on stormwater solutions; commit to long-term maintenance of the infrastructure; and propose projects that are feasible, cost-effective, and environmentally beneficial. Through the grant, the Alliance will help develop a project plan and will cover 100% of the installation cost.

For questions, contact Jordan Gochenaur at [jgochenaur@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:jgochenaur@allianceforthebay.org). To apply, fill out this interest form: [RiverSmart Communities Interest Form](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, subject to fund availability.

### In case you missed it

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

[Do Grocery Stores Really Recycle Your Plastic Bags? I Put 7 Chains to the Test.](#)

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, 29 July 2025

[Birds kept dropping dead. A D.C. biologist cracked the case.](#)

Washington Post, 9 August 2025

[As Development Revs Up in Southeast, One Anacostia Native Is Protecting Her Family's Land and the Trees That Make It Home](#)

Washington City Paper, 19 August 2025



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\*September 2025\*

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Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, 29 July 2025

\*Birds kept dropping dead. A D.C. biologist cracked the case.\* [ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/interactive/2025/capitol-hill-bird-murder-mystery-falcon/> ]

Washington Post, 9 August 2025

\*As Development Revs Up in Southeast, One Anacostia Native Is Protecting Her Family's Land and the Trees That Make It Home\* [ <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/769409/trees-development-anacostia-native-conservation-easement/> ]

Washington City Paper, 19 August 2025

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