

Anacostia River Watershed

Initiative/Project Title:

Anacostia Watershed Restoration

Watershed Location:

Maryland

Watershed Size:

112,640 acres

Start-End Dates:

- Planning: 1987-2006
- Implementation: 2007 – 2025
- Monitoring: 2010 - 2025

Project Highlights:

Uncontrolled stormwater runoff and untreated trash and sewage are the biggest issues within the Anacostia Watershed: causing bank erosion and sedimentation in streams.

Additionally, the watershed has lost approximately 6,500 acres of wetlands, which includes 93% of the original 2,500 acres of tidal wetlands. There are 15 subwatersheds within the broader Anacostia Watershed, and 3,018 candidate restoration projects split between the subwatersheds. Of the 3,018 candidate projects, 1,892 of them fall under the stormwater retrofit category/strategy. Other strategies include wetland creation/restoration, riparian reforestation, invasive management, parkland acquisition, trash reduction, and toxic remediation.

Techniques Used: Restore and recreate wetlands to move filtered water to the river in an ecologically sound manner. Other strategies include: fish blockage removal, riparian reforestation, meadow creation, street trees and invasive management, trash reduction, toxic remediation, parkland acquisition, stormwater retrofits and stream restoration.

Expected Benefits: Enhanced wildlife habitat, cleaner water, reduced trash, savings on infrastructure repairs, local green jobs creation, reduced flash flooding, recreational amenities, aesthetic enhancements, and heat island mitigation.

Lessons Learned:

- Manage the progress expectation of any restoration plan.
- Restoration projects will drop out and new projects will be added.
- NPDES permit requirement will dictate project implementation schedule.
- Multijurisdictional watershed will require collaboration.

