

# WATERFRONT WATCH

Anacostia Waterfront News Digest



Vol. 1, No.4

April 2009

# Growing DC



## Greener, Cleaner and More Connected

### Editor's Note:

This special expanded edition of Waterfront Watch has a “green” hue and focus. April is designated as Green DC Month. So we are going to spotlight issues, events, and milestones that capture the growing environmental stewardship in the District – from efforts to combat untreated stormwater in our rivers and streams to a study that attempts to gauge green collar job opportunities for District residents. Certainly, as the Anacostia Waterfront emerges as the city’s largest green corridor, District residents, visitors, businesses, and neighborhood groups will come to enjoy the benefits of a world class waterfront.

Inside:

Green jobs – where? | RiverSmart Film Debut | Kingman Island Day | Anacostia River Clean-up

# Where are the Green Jobs in DC?

A New Study Provides Some Answers.



**W**hat's the potential for creating real green job opportunities in the District of Columbia over the next ten years? That question and others related to sustainable development and workforce readiness are tackled in a recent report produced by the DC Office of Planning in conjunction with the Washington DC Economic Partnership and the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES). The study, entitled "*Green Collar Jobs Demand Analysis Final Report*," is the first of its kind for Washington, DC. Central to the analysis was how best to prepare the District's residents – particularly its hard to employ population – to capitalize on "green collar job" opportunities.

The District government defines "green collar jobs" as career-track employment opportunities in emerging environmental industries as well as conventional businesses and trades, created by a shift to more sustainable practices, materials, and performance. The definition includes both lower and higher skilled employment opportunities that minimize the carbon footprint of all necessary inputs and directly result in the restoration of the environment, the generation of clean energy and improved energy efficiency, the creation of high performing buildings, and the conservation of natural resources.

**"Whatever the size of the economic pie, it seems likely that the slice of the pie that's green will be growing."**

— Harriet Tregoning, Director. DC Office of Planning

Some important findings in the *Green Collar Jobs Demand* study include:

- In most cases, green collar jobs are existing jobs with new skill requirements. (pg. 3)
- There are currently 22,283 "green" jobs in the District. Another 3,167 jobs in DC were classified as "possibly green." (pg. 16)
- Based on existing policies, legislation, and proposed initiatives identified in the report, DC could produce over 169,000 job opportunities between 2009 and 2018. (pg. 2)
- District Department of Transportation infrastructure projects are estimated to generate a labor demand for 10,300 workers over 10 years, in design, construction, and maintenance. (pg. 8)
- 37% of the green job opportunities require little to no preparation, and thus have the fewest barriers to entry. (pg. 2)
- The top occupations that require the least preparation are (pg. 2):
  - Construction laborers
  - Roofers
  - Painters
  - Landscaping and groundskeeping workers
  - Office clerks

Although the District, like most other jurisdictions across the country, faces daunting short-term economic challenges, the green tide in building, employment, and sustainable living will continue to reshape the fabric of this city. As Harriet Tregoning, director of the DC Office of Planning put it, "Whatever the size of the economic pie, it seems likely that the slice of the pie that's green will be growing."

To read the District of Columbia Green Collar Jobs Demand Analysis Final Report, click here [www.planning.dc.gov](http://www.planning.dc.gov) (then go to the Green Jobs Initiatives link)

## “RiverSmart” Film Makes Box Office \$ense of Stormwater Pollution

The cozy theater inside the Landmark E Street Cinema was packed for the world premiere of RiverSmart, the short and entertaining film about the impact stormwater pollution has on the District’s waterways. The 40-minute film, produced by the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), made its world and DC debut March 16th as part of the 17th Annual Environmental Film Festival. RiverSmart presents the innovative practices the District is using to combat combined sewage overflows and stormwater’s impact on area streams and rivers, including the Anacostia River.



Movie-goers packed the world premiere of the DDOE-produced “RiverSmart,” which was shown at the 2009 Environmental Film Festival last month in DC.

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, roads, sidewalks, and sometimes even lawns. Stormwater runoff travels from these surfaces to local streams, picking up pollutants such as oil and grease from roadways and driveways as it goes. Nutrients from lawn fertilizers and bacteria from pet waste may also be picked up by stormwater and carried to local waterways.

RiverSmart strongly emphasizes simple, direct ways citizens can support these efforts to rescue our polluted waterways. “Every homeowner and business owner can help keep dangerous pollutants out the District’s waterways,” said DDOE director George S. Hawkins. “RiverSmart explains how.”

DDOE plans to make RiverSmart available to the public and the department will also use the film as part of its environmental education program.

- \* For more information, visit [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov)
- \* View clips from premiere night on our Facebook page at ‘anacostiawaterfront’

## DDOE Program Offers Grants to Homeowners to Make Stormwater Improvements

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) has launched a new program for District residents called RiverSmart Homes. This program offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing stormwater pollution from their properties. Homeowners receive up to \$1,200 to adopt one or more of the following landscape enhancements: shade trees; above ground cisterns/rain barrels; permeable/porous pavers; rain gardens; bayscaping. The RiverSmart Homes program provides incentives to beautify your property and help the District’s streams and rivers.

To learn more about the RiverSmart Homes Program or to schedule the DDOE to come out to your property to perform an analysis of what changes you can make to reduce stormwater runoff, go to [www.ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes) and fill out an on-line application.

# Cleaner and More Connected

## Reopening of Kingman Island April 25th – A Free Environmental Celebration for District Residents

A hands-on educational experience for District residents, especially youth, interested in environmental restoration efforts is on tap for Kingman Island Day, Saturday, April 25, 2009. The festivities will take place 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and will feature environmental education workshops convened by community-based environmental advocacy organizations, including the Anacostia Community Boathouse Association, the Anacostia Watershed Society, and the Student Conservation Association. These groups will lead on-site restoration efforts and educational activities for participants.

Kingman Island is bordered on the east by the Anacostia River and on the west by Kingman Lake, which also surrounds Heritage Island.

Once closed to the public due to neglect, the reopened park on Kingman Island is being developed as a project of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). Kingman Island will be the home of the Kingman Island Environmental Center, a project coordinated with DMPED.

“We hope that Kingman Island will become a place for the community to come together and participate in environmental revitalization, as well as experience and enjoy the outdoors,” said Matt English, Kingman Island Program Coordinator from Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region.

For more information visit: [www.kingmanisland.org](http://www.kingmanisland.org)

## Annual Anacostia River Clean Up & Earth Day Celebration – April 18th

The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) and its partners invite volunteers to help clean up the Anacostia River during the 15th Annual Anacostia River Cleanup & Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 18, 2009. AWS is coordinating a massive, watershed-wide trash cleanup on April 18th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at more than 30 sites throughout the District of Columbia, Prince George’s County (MD), and Montgomery County (MD). Clean-ups will go on, rain or shine. Following the clean-ups, AWS will celebrate the day with food, live entertainment, and community spirit at its Earth Day Celebration at Bladensburg Waterfront Park in Bladensburg, MD, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For a list of participating clean-up sites, visit:

<http://www.anacostiaws.org/Programs/Honor/EarthDay/edsites2009.html#list>



Every year, nearly 20,000 tons of trash enters the Anacostia River. Community cleanup efforts help to restore the health of the river and promote its role in revitalizing the Anacostia Waterfront.

## DDOT Integrating State-of-the-art Stormwater Management Practices

DDOT is integrating state-of-the-art stormwater management practices in the design and construction plans for Anacostia Waterfront projects such as the South Capitol Street Corridor, the 11th Street Bridges Replacement, Boathouse Row, the Anacostia Riverwalk, as well as other major projects throughout the District. These practices include the use of Low Impact Development (LID), which improves water quality by allowing water to naturally infiltrate and/or be filtered prior to discharge into the stormwater sewer system. DDOT is also implementing structural best management practices (BMPs), such as “water quality catch basins,” to provide additional stormwater quality benefits. These practices will directly improve streams and rivers in the District.

## 2nd Anacostia Waterfront Forum Focuses on Economic Issues

Over 200 District residents attended the Anacostia Waterfront Community Forum on March 17th at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library to learn about the economics of developing the Anacostia Waterfront – both the challenges and the opportunities.



A lively panel discussion led by Don Edwards (far right), moderator and coordinator of the Anacostia Waterfront Civic Engagement Program. Other participants included (left to right) Nina Albert, Project Manager, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, District of Columbia; Alex Nyhan, Development Manager, Forest City Washington; and Dennis Chestnut, Executive Director, Groundwork Anacostia River DC.

Nina Albert, project manager in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, presented the nuts and bolts of long-term financing and investments necessary to revitalize the Anacostia Waterfront, which is estimated to cost \$8 billion dollars and take 20 years to complete. Albert also said the current dour economic climate poses huge challenges to the private sector to maintain momentum on projects along the waterfront. Despite the downturn, Albert assured the audience that Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's administration is pressing ahead with projects like the groundbreaking of Diamond Teague Park, the replacement of the 11th Street bridges and Waterfront Station (on the former Waterside Mall site).

Read the **Washington Post** feature story about the March forum:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/25/AR2009032501267.html?wprss=rss\\_metro/dc](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/25/AR2009032501267.html?wprss=rss_metro/dc)

View photos of the March forum on our Facebook page at 'anacostiawaterfront'

# Mark Your Calendar!

## Anacostia Waterfront Forum: Green Waterfront, Green Jobs, Green Living in a Green DC



**Tuesday, April 21, 2009**  
**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Library**  
**901 G Street, NW**

### Living Green

Sustainable living and development is a choice; it's rooted in the daily actions we take as individuals and as a society to heal and protect the environment. So choose to live green; it's easy.

- Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when not in use.
- When washing clothes, use warm or cold water and rinse with cold.
- Examine and adjust, if necessary, weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds.

For more environmental tips and advice, visit: [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov)



Kathleen Penney, DC Chief Engineer, in a WHUR studio for an interview.

### Anacostia Waterfront in the News

Check out the some the recent coverage of the Anacostia Waterfront Forum and the Anacostia Civic Engagement Program in the news!

To hear WAMU's story about the March forum, click here:  
[www.wamu.org/news/09/03/18.php#25604](http://www.wamu.org/news/09/03/18.php#25604)

To hear WHUR's "Insight" interview with Kathleen Penney, the District's Chief Engineer, go to our 'anacostiawaterfront' Facebook page.

For more information about how the District of Columbia is creating a world class Anacostia Waterfront, visit our web site : [www.theanacostiawaterfront.com](http://www.theanacostiawaterfront.com)

Waterfront Watch is published by the Anacostia Waterfront Civic Engagement Program.

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