



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

September 10, 2009

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
MEDIA ADVISORY**

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Anacostia Watershed Society 20th Anniversary and United We Serve Campaign River Cleanup

Media representatives are invited to document a major volunteer cleanup effort along the Anacostia River on **Saturday, September 12, 2009**. The cleanup will take place during the morning at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, and will be followed by a celebration featuring several special guests (see below). The event will honor the Anacostia Watershed Society's 20th year of service to the environment in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. It also represents the culmination of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) participation in President Barack Obama's Summer of Service—an official call to action from the United We Serve Campaign (<http://www.serve.gov/>). Approximately 500 volunteers are expected. Our staff and speakers will focus on the following themes:

- The progress that has been made over the last 20 years in cleaning up the Anacostia River, and the work that remains
- The domino effect of “travelling trash” and how it ends up in our waterways and threatens marine wildlife and ecosystems, undermines tourism and economic activity and poses a potential threat to our food supply and human health.
- The commitment of community volunteers to keep waterways clean and encourage others to prevent marine debris
- The role corporations play in recognizing that they may be part of the problem and therefore must be part of the solution
- State-by-state data on the litter/marine debris problem and how this information plays a role in identifying solutions.

Since this is an on-water event, reporters and crews will be able to visit with volunteers and document riverside activities during an organized pontoon boat tour. The media boat will depart at 10AM and return to dock by 11AM. If interested in the boat tour,

CLEAN THE WATER, RECOVER THE SHORES, HONOR THE HERITAGE

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please RSVP as soon as possible to avoid being left behind.

What: United We Serve Campaign Anacostia River Volunteer Cleanup & Anacostia Watershed Society 20th Anniversary Celebration

When: September 12, 2009; River Cleanup from 8:30AM to Noon; Celebration (featuring guest speakers) from Noon to 2PM. Media boat: 10AM to 11AM.

Where: [Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Rd., Bladensburg, MD.](#)

Who: U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD); U.S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD); U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson or EPA Senior Advisor on the Chesapeake Bay Chuck Fox; National Ocean Service Director Jack Dunnigan; Maryland State Senator David Harrington; Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari Wilson; and others.

More information at www.anacostiaws.org.

Cleanup volunteers will be picking up trash along the shores of the river, and collecting data which will be included as part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup (www.oceanconservancy.org) which is occurring the following weekend on September 19th.

Event sponsors include, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; the Ocean Conservancy; The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; Black Youth Vote; Howard University; Earth Conservation Corp; Anacostia Riverkeeper; the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources; Greater D.C. Cares; Accenture; Seafarers Yacht Club; the Town of Edmonston, MD; the City of Hyattsville, MD; Port Towns Community Development Corporation; End Time Harvest Ministries; the Port Towns Youth Council; the Aman Memorial Trust; Ecoprint; Train Printing Co.; Americana Grocery; D.C. Materials, Inc.; W.B. Maske Sheet Metal.