



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

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Anacostia Watershed Society Releases 2017 State of the Anacostia River Report Card

Improvement Across Almost All Water Quality Indicators

AWS Issues Special “Behavior Threatening Promotion” Warning

Washington DC, May 4, 2017 – The Anacostia Watershed Society today released the 2017 State of the Anacostia River Report Card, building on more than 20 years of scientific monitoring and data collection. Using the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science EcoCheck methodology, the Report Card shows improvement in key water quality indicators, including Water Clarity, Chlorophyll a, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Toxics, and Trash.

While the overall grade remains an “F”, progress continues with strong leadership by local government agencies, nonprofit organizations and the private sector to clean up and restore the river.

But for the first time in its history, Anacostia Watershed Society issued a special “Behavior Threatening Promotion” warning because of the threat of devastating cuts to the EPA budget for restoration of the Anacostia River and greater Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

As just one example of the impact of EPA funding on the improving Water Quality indicators in this year’s Report Card, with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Chesapeake Bay Program, Anacostia Watershed Society was able to restore 13 acres of marshland around Kingman Island – planting native vegetation, controlling the invasive and destructive geese population, and removing dangerous invasive plants. The before and after photos show a healthy marsh which filters out pollutants and provides habitat for fish, mussels, beavers and other wildlife.

But the behavior of the Administration, by proposing the elimination of this vital funding, seriously threatens the chances that the Anacostia River will progress to a passing grade.

“For the first time in a generation, we’re facing the very real threat of going backwards instead of forwards in the efforts to restore the Anacostia River.” said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “The President’s 2018 Budget, which severely cuts funding for the EPA and totally eliminates all funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program would be yet another environmental disaster inflicted on the Anacostia River.”

The Report Card, and supporting data is available at www.anacostiaws.org/programs/publicaffairs/2017-state-river-report-card

About the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. The vision is to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by 2025, in keeping with the Clean Water Act, for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. Community involvement is critical to achieving this vision and AWS seeks strong partnerships and coalitions with all parts of the community, government, and other stakeholders. Anacostia Watershed Society’s programs include environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. www.anacostiaws.org

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