



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

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Anacostia Watershed Society Unveils Latest River Restoration Project

University Park Elementary School and Riverdale Elementary School Retrofitted with State of the Art Green Infrastructure

Washington DC, September 5, 2017 – The Anacostia Watershed Society, in partnership with the Prince George’s County Public Schools, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the leadership of University Park Elementary School, today unveiled comprehensive redevelopment of the school grounds incorporating storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will manage and treat storm water.

Among the BMP’s installed over the summer at University Park Elementary are bio-retention cells that capture storm water and slowly release it into the ground, rain gardens with native plants and trees, porous pavement in the parking lot and sidewalks to absorb water rather than creating runoff, and swales that channel the water from impervious surfaces to the newly installed features.

This latest project is part of an integrated set of efforts along Wells Run, a tributary of the Anacostia River. A similar project is underway at Riverdale Elementary School, a little lower on Wells Run. By installing storm water Best Management Practices at schools, churches and other places of gathering, Anacostia Watershed Society and its partners provide community connection, engagement and education efforts.

“We’re grateful not only to be part of helping to restore the Anacostia River, but to have our school yard beautified and filled with opportunities for outdoor learning for our students,” said Mrs. Toi Davis, Principal of University Park Elementary School.

“The retrofit that we’re unveiling today coincides with extensive work with teachers and students at University Park Elementary School, Riverdale Elementary School and other schools across the watershed,” said Ariel Trahan, Director of River Restoration for the Anacostia Watershed Society.

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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