



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

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Anacostia River BioBlitz Finds Over 500 Species

Anacostia River Watershed Becoming Increasing Biodiverse and Healthy

(Bladensburg, MD – October 24, 2017) – Anacostia Watershed Society, along with partners and more than 100 volunteer observers recently conducted a weekend long BioBlitz - an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. First conducted at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the BioBlitz concept is now an international practice, supported by National Geographic Society, among others.

More than 100 volunteer observers fanned out across the Anacostia River Watershed, which includes the eastern part of D.C., northern Prince George's County, and the eastern portion of Montgomery County. Using an online tool called iNaturalist, these citizen scientists recorded 1,814 observations of 522 unique species. Among the highlights were:

- 11 rare, threatened or endangered species;
- 69 introduced species, including invasive species;
- 289 plant species;
- 39 bird species;
- 6 amphibian species;
- 8 reptiles;
- 9 mammals (including dogs and humans!)
- 13 fish species;
- 8 mollusk species;
- 13 arachnid species;
- 98 insects;
- 28 fungi species; and
- 5 protozoan (mostly slime molds).

“The BioBlitz is definitely a great way to mobilize people, to engage volunteers as citizen scientists, and to get them to experience the Anacostia watershed's incredible

biodiversity.” said Jorge A. Bogantes Montero, Stewardship Program Specialist at the Anacostia Watershed Society.

If you missed the BioBlitz, but still want to participate, there’s an ongoing project called "Biodiversity of the Anacostia River" hosted on the iNaturalist platform. This project will further document the species of the Anacostia River watershed and use the information for science, conservation, ecological restoration, outdoor recreation and education. For more information, go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/biodiversity-of-the-anacostia-river>

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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