



## ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries*

March 17, 2011

Department of Environmental Protection  
Montgomery County  
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Department of Environmental Protection staff,

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC) here submits comments about the Montgomery County's draft strategy to meet water quality requirements. These comments focus on the draft Public Outreach Stewardship Education Practices in Appendix E of the Coordinated Countywide Implementation Strategy online at

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/Content/dep/water/countywideStrategy.asp>.

Practice 2 (Lawn Stewardship Education and Outreach Campaign) should add the MNCPPC to the list of Existing Partnerships to Nurture. Mowing practices by MNCPPC should be a model for homeowners. No mow zones in the parks should be greatly expanded and educational signage used to explain the water quality benefits of this practice.

Practice 3 (Anti-Littering Education and Outreach Campaign) lists as a measure of litter reduction "reduction in citations after initial baseline year where enforcement is stepped up." This is implausible. Watershed group experience from holding clean-ups is that a significant expansion of enforcement for several years will be required to bring about the behavioral change to reduce littering in the County. We also recommend the Department of Transportation be listed as an Existing Partnership to Nurture. The DOT Adopt A Road program is very helpful in reducing trash in the County; a complementary program would be useful for willing citizen volunteers who aren't able to commit to six clean ups in a year on one site required by Adopt A Road. Known trash hotspots on DOT property such as roadway medians and swales should be listed in addition to public recreation areas as places to measure the effectiveness of the Anti-Littering Education and Outreach Campaign.

Practice 4 (Innovative Stormwater Management Awareness Campaign) notes that prioritization should be given to watersheds with Environmental Site Design (ESD) goals including the Anacostia, should build on existing restoration plans that exist for Sligo Creek and Rock Creek, and install signs and awareness activities at locations where foot traffic is expected to be highest. AWCAC asks that this reasoning be continued to its logical conclusion: the Wheaton Urban District should be explicitly identified in the strategy as the ideal location to highlight best management practices for stormwater management. As the only urban district in the County now in the beginning stages of redevelopment, and in the headwaters of both the Anacostia and Rock Creek, Wheaton offers unique opportunities to showcase the potential of redevelopment to bring water quality improvements. The County should enthusiastically seize this opportunity while it has the chance.

c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
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Finally, we recommend that the County gather and collectively publicize all water quality monitoring work done on the County's waters by both the County and outside agencies including the USGS, MDE, MDDNR, WSSC, and MNCPPC. This will help identify gaps in information and sources of pollution for the general public.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment on the Countywide Coordinated Strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Smith  
2010 - 2011 AWCAC Chair