



# ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

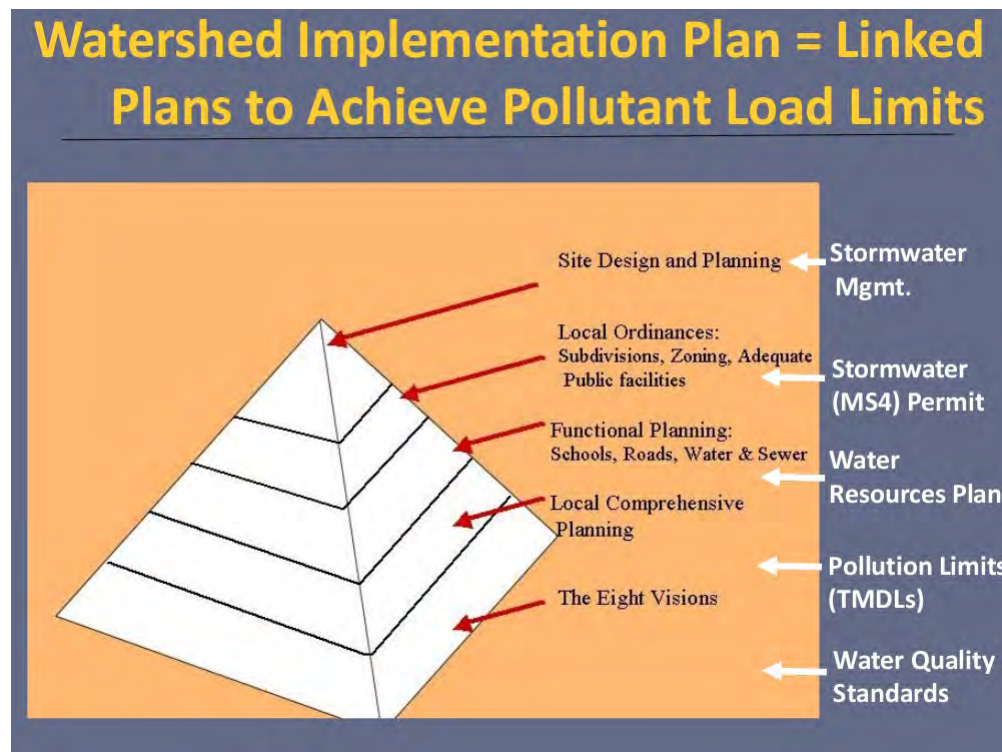
May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

The Honorable Valerie Ervin  
President, Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Ervin,

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee exists to advise the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (<http://www.anacostia.net>) and the multi-jurisdictional efforts to restore the Anacostia, including those by Montgomery County. AWCAC has reviewed the recently released draft Wheaton Sector Plan (<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/wheaton/>) and is disappointed that the critical role Wheaton’s redevelopment has in improving the water quality of the Anacostia is not explicitly highlighted in the plan.

Recently, a presentation given by Montgomery County planning staff made the point that a Watershed Implementation Plan isn’t one thing, but instead consists of several linked plans working together to meet water quality goals (see diagram from the presentation). These linked plans include sector plans. The Wheaton Sector Plan is therefore part of the Watershed Implementation Plan for the Anacostia. If the Wheaton Sector Plan doesn’t adequately address the restoration of the Anacostia, the Anacostia’s water quality improvement goals are not going to be met.



c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300  
Washington DC 20002-4329  
anacostia@mwcog.org



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In the Environment section of the draft Wheaton Sector Plan, minimizing and mitigating impervious surfaces through Environmental Site Design is mentioned, but the purpose of this is not mentioned: improving the water quality of Sligo Creek, which is a major subwatershed of the Anacostia. Unless this is emphasized, highlighted, and reinforced in the Wheaton Sector Plan, the crucial role of Wheaton in the Anacostia restoration may not be recognized and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity could be squandered. AWCAC is concerned that the Environmental Site Design projects mentioned will be merely demonstration projects used as a public awareness strategy, rather than universally applied to bring about significant improvements in the water quality of Sligo Creek. AWCAC asks that the Wheaton Sector Plan explicitly state that it has a major goal of improving the water quality of Sligo Creek and the Anacostia, and all its elements implemented to achieve this goal.

Being in the headwaters of the Anacostia, the way Wheaton is going to be redeveloped has impacts far beyond Wheaton. It directly impacts Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Hyattsville, Bladensburg, and Washington, DC. Montgomery County has the responsibility to see to it that Wheaton's redevelopment brings about the water quality improvement of Sligo Creek and the Anacostia. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Smith  
2010-2011 AWCAC Chair