



***A Commitment to Restore Our Home River:
A Six-Point Action Plan***

Whereas, during the past three centuries, the landscape of the Anacostia has been transformed by successive waves of cultivation and urbanization, causing extensive degradation of water quality and habitat; and,

Whereas, the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland responded in 1984 with a landmark agreement termed the "Anacostia Watershed Restoration Strategy" that identified the need for a coordinated watershed-wide effort to improve water quality and aquatic habitat in the basin; and,

Whereas, the need for strong local participation in the Anacostia restoration effort was soon recognized and the partnership was expanded to include Prince George's and Montgomery counties as stated in the "Anacostia Watershed Restoration Agreement of 1987"; and,

Whereas, the 1987 Agreement established a local/state management process for the restoration of the river, under the auspices of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee; and,

Whereas, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee has made significant progress in restoring water quality and habitat in the watershed during the past five years through the implementation of four annual workplans that have provided nearly 25 million dollars for restoration projects; and,

Whereas, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee in 1991 created a detailed blue-print for the future environmental restoration of the watershed, entitled "A Six-Point Action Plan to Restore the Anacostia River" (herein referred to as the Plan); and,

Whereas, the Plan sets forth specific watershed goals, and outlines implementation strategies to achieve these goals by the turn of the century through a unique cooperative local/state and federal partnership.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Signatories reaffirm their commitment to restore the Anacostia watershed by the turn of the century through the pursuit of the following goals and strategies contained in the Plan:

Goal 1: Reduce Pollutant Loads to Tidal Estuary

Dramatically reduce pollutant loads delivered to the tidal estuary to improve water quality conditions by the turn of the century through the pursuit of the following strategies:

- *Sewage Over-Flow Controls* -- Reduce the volume of combined sewage overflow and sewage leakage from the aging urban sewer system into the Anacostia and its tributaries.
- *Urban Stormwater Retrofits* -- Reduce stormwater pollutant loadings from existing development through the implementation of stormwater retrofit ponds, marshes and filter systems.
- *Urban Best Management Practices for New Development* -- Limit increases in urban stormwater pollutant loads generated from new development in the watershed through the use of appropriate stormwater quality and sediment control regulations at new development sites.
- *Control of Trash and Debris* -- Discourage trash and debris from entering the river system through public education and remove floatable debris found within the system.

Goal 2: Restore Ecological Integrity of Streams:

Protect and restore the ecological integrity of urban Anacostia streams to enhance aquatic diversity and provide for a quality urban fishery through the pursuit of the following strategies:

- *Urban stream restoration* -- Implement channel and streambank restoration techniques to improve aquatic habitat and channel stability of degraded urban streams.
- *Urban stream protection* -- Apply land-use controls and appropriate urban stormwater and sediment control practices for additional protection within sensitive watersheds.

Goal 3: Restore Habitat for Fish

Restore the spawning range of anadromous fish to historical limits through the pursuit of the following strategies:

- *Removal of Fish Barriers* -- Remove or modify fish barriers to expand the available spawning range of anadromous and native fish.
- *Habitat Improvement* -- Improve the quality of spawning habitat in the lower Anacostia through the installation of instream habitat improvement structures.

Goal 4: Restore and Enhance Wetlands

Increase the natural filtering capacity of the watershed by sharply increasing the acreage and quality of tidal and non-tidal wetlands through the pursuit of the following strategies:

- *Wetlands Protection* -- Achieve no net loss of wetlands in the watershed as a result of new development and other activities.
- *Urban Wetland Restoration* -- Restore the ecological function of existing degraded wetland areas.
- *Urban Wetland Creation* -- Create several hundred acres of new wetlands throughout the basin to partially replace the natural filtering capacity lost over time.

Goal 5: Restore and Expand Forest Cover

Expand the range of forest cover throughout the watershed and create a contiguous corridor of forest along the margins of its rivers and streams through the pursuit of the following strategies:

- *Forest Protection* -- Reduce the loss of forest cover associated with new development and other activities through implementation of local forest conservation ordinances and the Maryland 1991 Forest Conservation Act.
- *Watershed Reforestation* -- Take full advantage of existing local, state federal and private resources to extensively reforest suitable sites throughout the basin.
- *Riparian Reforestation* -- Reforest ten linear miles of riparian areas along the Anacostia during the next three years, as a first step in creating an unbroken forest corridor from the tidal river to the uppermost headwater streams.

Goal 6: Increase Public Involvement

Make the public aware of its key role in the cleanup of the river and increase volunteer participation in watershed restoration activities.

- *Watershed Outreach and Education* -- Raise the awareness of the public through environmental education regarding its role in the restoration of the Anacostia watershed.
- *Restoration Stewardship* -- Provide the public with opportunities to actively participate in the restoration of the Anacostia.

The Signatories further affirm their support for the unique, cooperative watershed management process set forth in the 1987 Agreement that will be needed to effectively implement the Six-Point Action Plan during the next decade.



Attest, this sixth day of November in the year 1991:

By Sharon Pratt Dixon
Honorable Sharon Pratt Dixon
Mayor,
The District of Columbia

By Bob Perciasepe
Robert Perciasepe
Secretary, Department of the Environment
for Honorable William Donald Schaefer,
Governor, the State of Maryland

By Neal Potter
Honorable Neal Potter
County Executive,
Montgomery County, Maryland

By Parris N. Glendening
Honorable Parris N. Glendening
County Executive,
Prince George's County, Maryland

Supporting Witnesses

By James E. Nathanson
Honorable James E. Nathanson,
Chair, Board of Directors,
Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

By Lee Zeni
Lee Zeni
Executive Director,
Interstate Commission on the
Potomac River Basin

By Steny Hoyer
Honorable Steny Hoyer
Maryland Representative,
United States House of Representatives

By Paul Sarbanes
Honorable Paul Sarbanes
Maryland Senator,
United States Senate

By Constance Morella
Honorable Constance Morella
Maryland Representative,
United States House of Representatives

By Eleanor Holmes Norton
Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
District of Columbia Representative,
United States House of Representatives