

Green Infrastructure Program

Community Partner Profiles

2011 Partners

REGION 3: Anacostia River Watershed

Community Background

The Anacostia River watershed is a largely urban watershed located within the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed. Over 800,000 people live in the 176 square mile Anacostia River watershed, which includes Washington, DC; Montgomery County, MD; and Prince George's County, MD. Despite its urban character, the watershed also includes around 6,500 acres of wetlands and is home to many species of birds and other wildlife.

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Ten towns, cities, and counties within the Anacostia River watershed have received small grants to address environmental justice and water quality concerns. These communities include:

1. Town of University Park
2. Anacostia Port Towns
3. City of College Park
4. City of Hyattsville
5. Town of Capitol Heights
6. City of Mount Rainier
7. Town of Bladensburg
8. Montgomery County, MD
9. Prince Georges County, MD
10. Washington, DC

Drivers for Green Infrastructure

As the Anacostia River flows through the 10 partner communities; trash, sewage, and other pollutants carried by stormwater accumulate in its waters, resulting in water quality that is unsafe for human contact and harmful to fish and wildlife. Restoring the Anacostia has long been a goal of area residents and local governments. Elected officials from Prince George's and Montgomery counties, the District of Columbia, and Maryland signed interstate agreements to improve watershed health in 1987, 1997, and 2000. In 2006, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments adopted a resolution

creating a new Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership. The partnership is responsible for maintaining a restoration plan that quantifies restoration goals and states the restoration timeline. In addition to these voluntary efforts, Total Maximum Daily Loads requiring reductions in trash, nutrients, and sediment were established in 2010, 2008, and 2007, respectively.

Green infrastructure offers a way for partner communities to address these water quality concerns while enhancing community livability. The Anacostia River watershed partner communities have a relatively high concentration of lower income residents and unemployment. By investing in green infrastructure, these communities can improve water quality in the Anacostia while increasing community cohesion and building a 'greener' economy.

Green Strategies and Programs

EPA Region 3 is providing customized tools and support to its 10 community partners through its 'Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns' program (G3). The goal of the G3 program is to assist small and mid-sized towns and cities in revitalizing local economies, creating green and sustainable jobs, and maintaining a safe and healthy environment. The G3 program is advancing these goals by facilitating information exchange among experienced and interested communities, and providing grants to selected partner communities.

Outreach and Education

By conducting outreach and education, the G3 program aims to increase the understanding and acceptance of GI among municipal officials, developers, and the public. One of the first products that the G3 program developed was the 'Green Streets, Green Jobs Academy'. The Academy is an online resource that provides community leaders with easy access to the expertise of a range of green infrastructure professionals. Future education and outreach efforts will address the financing of GI retrofits and the environmental performance of GI practices.

Grants

In the summer of 2010, EPA made over \$200,000 available to its Anacostia watershed partner communities for implementation of green infrastructure practices. The partner communities and the projects they are working on are listed on the following page.

Community	Monies Awarded	What's Going On?
Town of University Park (Prince Georges County)	\$30,000	Full green street design plans that will reduce water flow into the creek as well as reduce public safety hazards for the community.
Anacostia Port Towns (Prince George's County)	\$15,000	Green Surfaces-Green Jobs Initiative. Conducting a survey of pollutant load issues and prioritizing project locations.
City of College Park (Prince George's County)	\$35,000	Urban infrastructure best management practices to improve stormwater runoff. There are currently two new project locations.
City of Hyattsville (Prince George's County)	\$35,000	Green Street conceptual design. Future city investment of \$2 million to incorporate green infrastructure.
Town of Capitol Heights (Prince George's County)	\$30,000	Collaborating with the Low Impact Development Center to create designs to incorporate green streets into existing green infrastructure practices. The goal is to improve water quality and create green jobs.
City of Mount Rainier (Prince George's County)	\$35,000	Funding will go towards the Buchanan green street project with the full site design of bioretention for the project.
Town of Bladensburg (Prince George's County)	\$20,000	Collaborating with Forest Trends to analyze the benefits of green job creation and different incentives for green infrastructure.
Montgomery County, Maryland		The County is in the draft stages of writing a regulation to mandate green street techniques.
Prince Georges County, Maryland		Improvement of stormwater management techniques to reduce impervious cover of public roadways and reduce safety hazards. Focus on retrofitting drainage of roadways.
Washington, DC		Great Streets program to link transportation and economic development while improving the community and overall quality of life. Over \$150 million dollars will be invested to achieve these goals.