



## Anacostia Watershed Society

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY— NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE HEARINGS ON WETLAND RESTORATION & RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY (AWS) ENCOURAGES MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA IN THE WASHINGTON, DC, METRO AREA TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UPCOMING PRESS CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PLANS FOR RESTORING DC'S WETLANDS AND CONTROLLING LOCAL POPULATIONS OF INTRODUCED, NON-MIGRATORY CANADA GEESE.

- WHAT:** National Parks Service Hearings on Wetland Restoration and Canada Goose Management Strategies.
- WHEN:** **Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. & Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.** Note: Hearings are open on two days to accommodate public comment.
- WHERE:** U.S. Park Police Headquarters at Anacostia Park; 1901 Anacostia Drive, SE; Washington, D.C.
- WHO:** Representatives of the National Park Service's National Capital Parks-East Division
- RSVP:** None required.

Resident Giant Canada geese cause ecological damage on the tidal Anacostia River by overgrazing environmentally-sensitive wetland areas. These are the same months when young, vulnerable plant shoots emerge from the mud in tidal wetlands. The impact of overgrazing has been expensive in recent years. In 2000, geese ate an estimated \$400,000 worth of newly-installed plants created as part of \$5 million wetland restoration project funded by the District of Columbia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Originally designed to re-establish 40 acres of tidal wetland marsh, geese reduced the project's effective restoration area to less than 15 acres.

When they are not devouring wetland plants, the geese loiter on mowed lawns and golf courses near the water eating nutrient-rich turf grass and defecating in abundance. The tons of poop generated by these animals each year have caused severe water quality problems by introducing high levels of fecal coliform bacteria into the river, and fouled a number of parks and outdoor recreation facilities along the Anacostia, including the historic Langston Golf Course on Benning Road.

As a pro-wetland organization, AWS seeks to develop a united stance among members of the community inside the watershed that will help move the NPS into action on the issue of goose management. Please join us, the DC chapter of the Sierra Club, the DC Audubon Society, the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee, the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, the Capital Hill Restoration Society, Earth Conservation Corps, and Langston Golf Course, at these upcoming hearings and as we tell the National Park Service and other local officials that they need to do something about wetland damage, habitat loss, and water quality setbacks due to an overabundance of geese.