



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rain Doesn't Dampen Anacostia Watershed Society Clean Up

*More than 2600 volunteers braved a rainy day to clean up the
Anacostia River*

Bladensburg, MD, April 27, 2016 – More than 2600 local residents and dozens of corporate partners registered to participate in the Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day Clean Up and Celebration Saturday April 23rd.

Individuals, families and corporate teams fanned out to more than 30 sites on foot, in canoes and on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work boat to gather trash from the river banks and parkland up and down the river.

As usual, the most prevalent form of trash were Styrofoam food containers and cups, and plastic water bottles. These common items, discarded by the side of the road, are flushed into the Anacostia River and its tributaries with every heavy rainstorm. Among the larger items fished out of the river by the volunteers included the remains of a loveseat, a truck cab, a mattress, used tires and even a toilet seat!

The annual Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration also marked the launch of the Anacostia River Heroes Award, which seeks to shine a spotlight on remarkable individuals who are taking action to make the Anacostia River fishable and swimmable by 2025. Nominations are being accepted until June 3, 2016 for this year's Heroes, and a nomination form can be found at <http://www.anacostiaws.org/anacostia-river-hero-awards>. Each awardee will receive a \$1,000 honorarium from a fund established by a generous donor, and administered by the Anacostia Watershed Society.

The Anacostia Watershed Society Earth Day Clean Up and Celebration was presented by Title Sponsor CSX; Gold Sponsors Bloomberg, Norfolk Southern and PEPCO; Silver Sponsors the Alcoa Foundation, the JBG Companies, MRP Realty, Northrop Grumman

and REI: and more than 30 other corporate sponsors and government partners. (For a full list of sponsors and partners, go to <https://www.anacostiaws.org/earthday2016/>)

“The folks who came out Saturday in the rain were truly heroes,” said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “Those heroes and thousands of others will help us reach the goal of a swimmable and fishable Anacostia River that benefits all the communities that live in the watershed.”

About the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. The vision is to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by 2025, in keeping with the Clean Water Act, for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. Community involvement is critical to achieving this vision and AWS seeks strong partnerships and coalitions with all parts of the community, government, and other stakeholders. Anacostia Watershed Society’s programs include environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. www.anacostiaws.org

Photo credits: - Earth Day Volunteers – AWS/Dwayne Grimes

Clean Up By Canoe – AWS/ Bruce McNeil

Army Corps Boat – AWS/Bruce McNeil