



# ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

## Anacostia Watershed Society Position on Development Projects

The Anacostia watershed, encompassing a 176-square mile area of land in the eastern half of the District of Columbia and large portions of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, is characterized by dense urban development, suburban communities, recreational and open space, as well as industrial, agricultural, and retail land uses. This urban watershed is home to almost 1 million residents.

The restoration and rebirth of the Anacostia River, along with the strong economy of the Greater Washington metropolitan area, has accelerated growth and economic development in the Anacostia Watershed. Many development projects have already converted industrial sites that once generated sediment and polluted runoff into highly sustainable sites that are contributing to the restoration of the Anacostia River.

Large or small, development projects in the watershed all need to consider the Anacostia River in design and in the long-term stewardship of the site. AWS supports projects that have the least overall adverse environmental impact and the greatest improvement to the Anacostia River watershed, while ensuring sustainable economic development for all residents of the watershed.

AWS believes all proposed projects in the Anacostia Watershed must:

- Apply current best practices in low impact development (LID) to ensure the project will have the least adverse environmental impact, will manage stormwater, and will prevent water quality decline. We support zero discharge of stormwater from redevelopment projects.
- Retain and where possible expand open green spaces and restore degraded streams and floodplains to reduce adverse impacts to the Anacostia River and all of its tributaries. Redeveloping existing sites should be pursued rather than developing current open space.
- Fully comply with the most rigorous state and local environmental standards, and where possible, the even stronger federal requirements of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.
- Employ third party standards and certifications, including, but not limited to, U.S. Green Building Council (LEED standards at least at the Gold level), and for roads, the NACTO and Greenroads standards be utilized for the design and construction of all proposed developments.

We are committed to a clean and Healthy Anacostia River that is a destination for our communities and our children and their children.

## **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. Our 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, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. [www.anacostiaws.org](http://www.anacostiaws.org)