



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anacostia Watershed Society Expands Watershed Education Program in Prince George's County

(Bladensburg, MD, March 28, 2017) -- The Anacostia Watershed Society recently convened more than 50 Prince George's County educators and a host of environmental partners for the latest phase of *Treating and Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship*, an innovative program integrating environmental education with stormwater retrofit projects being carried out on school campuses across Prince George's County.

Supported by a \$500,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Prince George's County, this program builds on the Clean Water Partnership which is designing and installing stormwater best management practices (BMPs) at between 20 and 40 Prince George's County Public Schools each year. Through *Treating and Teaching*, AWS and its partners leverage the stormwater retrofits through environmental education in the classroom, and meaningful watershed experiences including field trips across the Anacostia watershed.

The most recent group of 50 County educators completed a series of workshops on how to use the BMPs at teaching tools at their schools. Among the sessions that educators participated in were:

- The Prince George's County Department of the Environment presented their program for storm drain stenciling;
- The Neighborhood Design Center and the Low Impact Development Center outlined the next phase of projects on school campuses;
- Bradley Site Design and Corvias briefed participants on BMPs and how they work;
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education led a session for Building Supervisors to provide them with context and knowledge about how to maintain the BMPs;
- The Alice Ferguson Foundation presented curriculum materials tailored to area educators; and

- Prince George's County Public Schools explained how environmental education is incorporated across the curriculum.

"The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to support this unique partnership that advances environmental literacy in Prince George's County by engaging teachers, building supervisors and students in the design, installation and maintenance of stormwater management practices on school grounds," said Tara Baker, Senior Program Officer, Chesapeake Bay Trust

"The stormwater retrofits create a unique learning opportunity on school campuses across the County, and we want to be sure that educators have the tools and support to take full advantage of this opportunity," said Ariel Trahan, Director of River Restoration Programs for the Anacostia Watershed Society.

Teaching and Treating: Stormwater Stewardship, is a partnership between Anacostia Watershed Society and the Chesapeake Bay Trust; the Prince George's County Public Schools; the Prince George's County Department of the Environment; Bradley Site Design; Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; Low Impact Development Center; Maryland Association for Environment and Outdoor Education; the Neighborhood Design Center; Real School Gardens; and the William Schmidt Outdoor Education Center.

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

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