



# ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Anacostia Watershed Society Celebrates Ribbon Cutting of Anacostia River Trail**

*Final Segment Connecting 17 Miles of Trails on the Anacostia River*

(Bladensburg, MD – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016) – The Anacostia Watershed Society joined with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Maryland Milestones/Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, the Capital Trails Coalition, and many others from the local area to officially cut the ribbon on the final segment of the Anacostia River Trail. Halloween costumed riders started from Bladensburg Waterfront Park and from Benning Road DC, meeting in the middle at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens for the festive ribbon cutting.

“The Anacostia River is becoming a first class recreational asset for the community, and the completion of the trail will only accelerate this growth,” said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “Recreation has been one of our key strategies to restore and protect the Anacostia. People only protect what they love, and thousands of bikers, hikers, walkers, bird watchers and paddlers have become passionate advocates for the Anacostia River.”

The Anacostia Watershed Society played a leadership role in creating and finding funding for the Trail. While the Anacostia trail system was already in existence from the Capitol Beltway south to Bladensburg, and the DC Government was planning to build the Riverwalk Trail up to the DC/Maryland line, there was no plan to bridge the mile and a half gap and unite the two trails.

In our role as the watershed wide advocate, AWS under the leadership of Jim Connolly, Robert Boone and others, brought together government authorities from DC, Maryland and the National Park Service, and then successfully advocated for funding from the State of Maryland.

Even as the weather gets cool the trail is already proving very popular with bikers and walkers eager to enjoy the unexpected natural beauty of the Anacostia River.

**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](http://www.anacostiaws.org)

Photo Captions: Robert Boone on bicycle, Jim Connolly pointing at gap in trail map.

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