



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anacostia Watershed Society Applauds Mayor Bowser's Investment in Kingman Island

*Preservation of Kingman Island one of
Anacostia Watershed Society's earliest victories*

(Kingman Island, DC – January 12, 2018) – More than 25 years after Anacostia Watershed Society fought to prevent commercial development of Kingman Island, Mayor Muriel Bowser today announced a major \$5 million investment in educational and recreational amenities, effectively funding Phase 1 of the recently developed Kingman Island Strategic plan. In addition, Mayor Bowser officially designated Kingman and Heritage Islands as a "State Conservation Area," and designated the southern portion of Kingman Island as a "Critical Wildlife Area."

"We applaud Mayor Bowser for launching 2018 as the Year of the Anacostia with this significant investment in Kingman and Heritage Islands," said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. "As we come closer to a swimmable and fishable Anacostia River public green spaces like Kingman and Heritage Island will become even more important to our community."

In 1992, Anacostia Watershed Society led the opposition to a proposal from a private developer to build a theme park on Kingman Island. While back then the Anacostia River was seen as a polluted eyesore, AWS believed that it could be restored and become an important recreational and educational amenity. Today as development brings new residents to the banks of the Anacostia, public access is even more important. Over the past decades, AWS has restored the Kingman marsh with native plants, removed invasive plants from the islands, and installed a floating dock to provide access to paddlers.

For more information about the plans for Kingman and Heritage Island, go to:
<https://doee.dc.gov/publication/kingman-island-heritage-island-planning-feasibility-study>

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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