



# ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Anacostia Watershed Society Launches “The Future Is Now” Campaign

*Campaign for the final phase of the Anacostia River restoration  
to become swimmable and fishable by 2025*

Bladensburg, MD -- October 1, 2015 – On Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Anacostia Watershed Society launched *The Future Is Now Campaign* before an audience of 200 community leaders, stakeholders and AWS supporters gathered at Osteria Morini, on the banks of the Anacostia River.

“Tonight we mark the beginning of the final phase of the restoration of the Anacostia River,” said Elissa Feldman, Chair of the Anacostia Watershed Society Board of Directors. “Ten years from tonight we plan to be celebrating a fishable and swimmable Anacostia River.”

AWS released ***A Waterway to 2025: A Vision for the Anacostia River***, outlining the vision for the Anacostia River, the reasons to believe the 2025 goal is achievable, and how to get there. The report is available online at <https://www.anacostiaws.org/explore/waterway-2025>

Attendees at the event were greeted by a video- taped message from Ted Leonsis, CEO of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, which owns the Washington Capitals (NHL), Washington Wizards (NBA), Washington Mystics (WNBA) and Verizon Center in downtown Washington, D.C. Leonsis is a passionate advocate for the Anacostia River and the communities around it.

Following the video, four speakers highlighted the event, sharing their perspective on The Future Is Now campaign:

- Bob Vogel, Regional Director, National Park Service, with responsibility for 700 National Park sites in the Washington DC region, including all of the National Park Service sites along the Anacostia River;
- Amy Guise, Chief, Planning Division, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which oversees water resources issues and policies in the Anacostia, Potomac and Susquehanna River Basins, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Coast of Maryland ,
- Valerie Camillo, Chief Revenue and Marketing Officer for the Washington Nationals, whose stadium sits at the mouth of the Anacostia. The Washington Nationals and Nationals Stadium have led a surge in sustainable development that has revitalized the lower Anacostia River; and
- Scott Kratz, the Executive Director of the 11th Street Bridge Park, which will be a capstone of the restored Anacostia River.

All four speakers conveyed their enthusiasm for a swimmable and fishable Anacostia River, and their organizations' commitment to helping to make that happen.

The Future Is Now event was sponsored by Norfolk Southern, Bloomberg, CH2M, The Yards, MRP Realty, Osteria Morini, and dozens of other corporations, foundations and individual supporters of the Anacostia Watershed Society.

### **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 caption: (left to right) Scott Kratz, Valerie Camillo, Amy Guise, Bob Vogel, Elissa Feldman**