



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Docks Installed on Anacostia River

Paddlers and canoers can now access Kingman Island as recreational use of the Anacostia River continues to grow.

Washington DC -- October 15, 2015 – The Anacostia Watershed Society, the National Park Service, the DC Department of Energy and the Environment and other partners today “christened” the newest set of docks installed to accommodate the increasing recreational use of the recovering Anacostia River. These docks create water access to Kingman Island, a popular site on the river, visited by tens of thousands each year.

“These new docks are one of the first projects undertaken as part of a comprehensive plan to increase public access to the Anacostia River,” said Gopaul Noojibail, National Park Service Superintendent of Anacostia Park. “Together with our partners, we are committed to restoring the watershed and ensuring that people can have incredible nature experiences right outside their front door.”

“This dock and the efforts to increase public access to the river represent the successful ongoing transition of the Anacostia River from a polluted waterway to a recreation destination—a crucial step in reaching our goal to ensure a clean, healthy, and vibrant city for future generations,” said Tommy Wells, Director of the District of Columbia’s Department of Energy and Environment. “As a lifelong paddler, I’m particularly excited about introducing new generations of paddlers and boaters to the Anacostia River.”

“As we work hard to reach the goal of a swimmable and fishable Anacostia River by 2025, recreation plays an important role,” said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “Through regular paddle nights, our Safari Series, and special trips for groups we’re introducing more people to the Anacostia River, and engaging them in restoring and protecting the river.”

The new docks at Kingman Island were made possible through a unique partnership among several organizations. The docks themselves were donated to the Anacostia Watershed Society by the construction company Skanska, after their use on the 11th

Street Bridge project. Funding to install the docks was provided by REI, through a grant to Living Classrooms, who manage Kingman Island. Anacostia Watershed Society, the National Park Service and the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment coordinated the permits and actual installation of the new docks.

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