



You have arrived at:

Swimmable, Fishable, & Navigable: Goals of the Anacostia River

Welcome!
We will get started soon.



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION
2023 SUMMIT

Engaging and Investing for a
Healthy and Sustainable Future

Friendly Reminders Before We Get Started

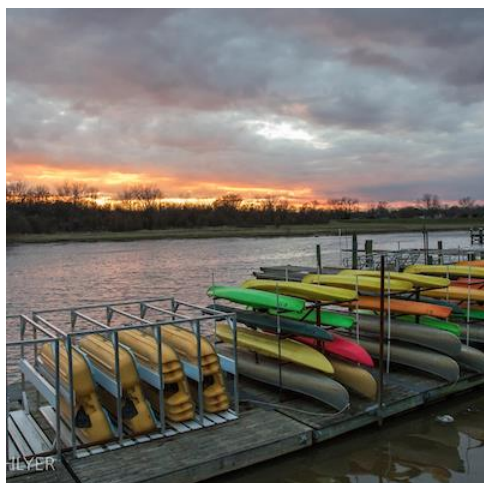
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DEVELOPING A RIVER-WIDE CLEANUP IN A COMPLICATED JURISDICTIONAL SETTING

EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 SUMMIT

Gretchen Mikeska, P.E.

May 17, 2023

Overview

- Background: DC and the Anacostia River
- Regulatory Framework and Jurisdiction
- Active Potential Environmental Cleanup Sites
- Project Partners and Stakeholders
- Anacostia River Restoration: Progress to Date
- Other Projects in the Anacostia River Corridor
- Ongoing Challenges

DC and the Anacostia River

District Basics: 68 square miles, 700,000 residents, 80 District agencies, DOEE has 500 employees

Anacostia River Sediment Project (ARSP) Study Area

- Anacostia Watershed: 176 square miles with 80% of watershed in Maryland
- Tidal Anacostia River (9 miles)
- Kingman Lake (1.8 miles)
- Washington Channel (2 miles)

Potential Sources

- 128 Storm Sewers (MS4) outfalls
- 16 Combined Sewer System Outfalls
- 14 Tributary streams
- 15 Potential Environmental Cleanup Sites (PECS)
- Contaminated groundwater
- Agricultural and urban runoff
- Illegal dumping, landfills



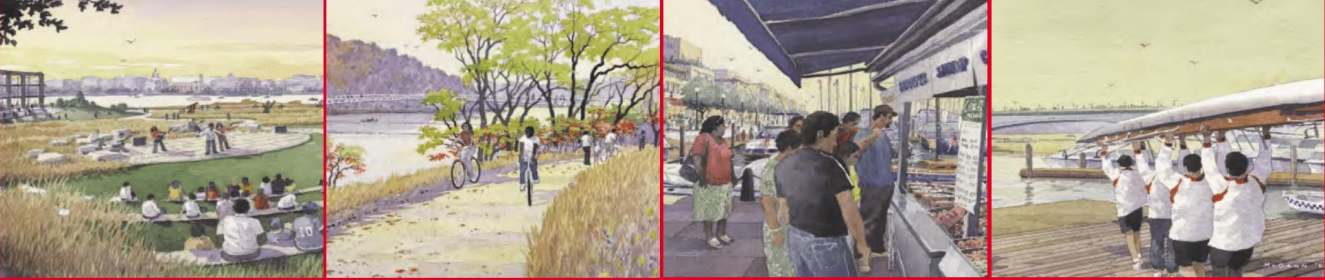
Why should we cleanup the Anacostia River?



DC Fish Consumption Advisories: 1989

2016: Do not eat: eel, strippers, carp

- Sunfish: 4 servings/month
- Blue catfish, snakehead, perch: 3 servings/month
- Largemouth bass: 2 servings/month
- Brown bullhead, channel catfish: 1 serving/month




The Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan

District of Columbia, Office of Planning November 2003

Completed in Coordination with the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Partner Agencies

Government of the District of Columbia General Services Administration, United States Department of the Interior, Naval District Washington, District of Columbia Housing Authority, District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment Commission, District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, Marine Barracks of Washington, National Capital Planning Commission, National Capital Revitalization Corporation, United States Army Military District of Washington, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Labor, United States Department of Transportation, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Office of Management and Budget, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Small Business Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority





Regulatory Framework and Jurisdiction

- In 2013, DC committed \$45 million to cleaning up the Anacostia River and launched the Anacostia River Sediment Project (ARSP).
- ARSP cleanup conducted according to DC Brownfields Law, amended 2011 giving DC cleanup authority; follows CERCLA.
- DC Council established a 5-year legislative deadline for the ARSP Record of Decision (ROD); original deadline December 2018. Extended twice through special amendment: Interim ROD issued September 30, 2020.
- DC has jurisdiction over Anacostia River water.
- National Park Service (NPS) has jurisdiction Anacostia River bottom.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has jurisdiction over the Anacostia River's federal navigation channel (FNC).
- Four Potential Environmental Cleanup Sites (PECS) have active cleanups underway under separate consent decrees.

ACTIVE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP SITES ALONG THE ANACOSTIA RIVER

SUBJECT TO LEGAL DECREES

- Kenilworth Park Landfill
 - Lead Agency: National Park Service
 - Primary Contaminants of Concern (COCs): PAHs, PCBs, lead
 - Record of Decision (ROD): December 2022
- Pepco Benning Road: 1906-2012, dismantled 2015
 - Primary COCs: PCBs
 - Feasibility Study: 2023
- Washington Gas Light: 1888 - 1948 MG production, natural gas distribution to 1983
 - Primary COCs: related to historical manufactured gas production (PAHs)
 - Feasibility Study: 2023
- Washington Navy Yard: established 1799, NPL 1998
 - Oldest continuously operated federal facility
 - Primary COCs: PCBs
 - ROD: 2025





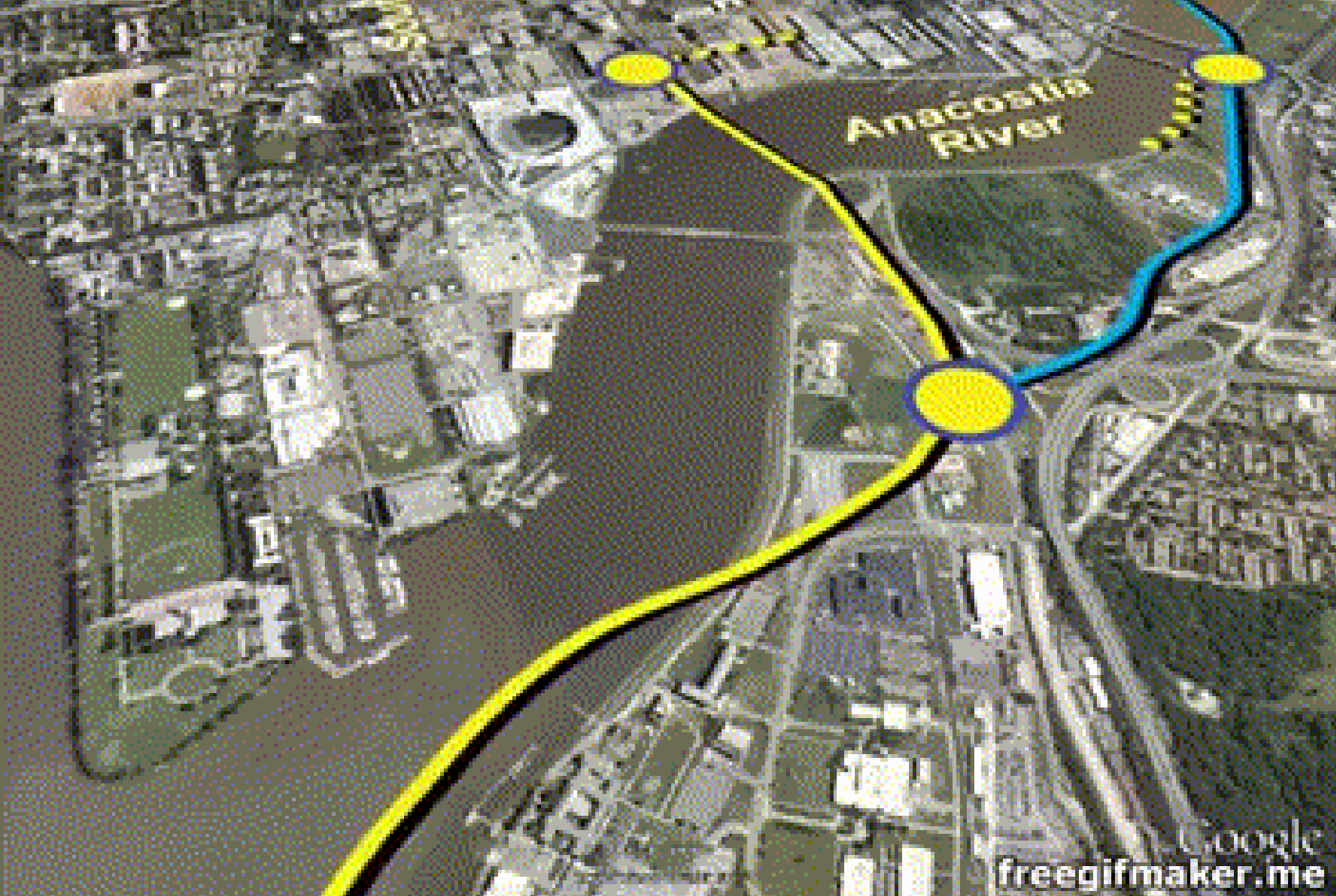
Project Partners and Stakeholders

- Partners: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Maryland Baltimore County, U.S. Geologic Survey
- Leadership Council for a Cleaner Anacostia River
 - Established 2014, with 22 high-level local, state, and federal government officials and environmental leaders who support the Mayor's vision for a fishable and swimmable Anacostia River. Meets quarterly
- Key Stakeholder Activities
 - Anacostia Riverkeeper's Citizen Science Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (2019)
 - Anacostia Watershed Society's Annual Anacostia River Report Card: tracks fecal bacteria, SAV, DO, chlorophyll a, turbidity (since 2011)
 - DC Appleseed: ARSP technical oversight grant
- Annual Events
 - Anacostia River Festival: NPS
 - Kingman Island Family Day: DOEE
 - Festival del Rio: Metro. Washington Council of Governments






Anacostia River Restoration: Progress to Date

- Swimmable
 - DC Water's Clean River Project (\$2 billion): Anacostia River Tunnel (March 2018). Capture to date: 15 billion gallons, 92% efficiency. NE Boundary Tunnel (2023), 99% efficiency
 - Anacostia River Pool (2018): www.anacostiariverpool.com
 - Splash Day (July 2023)
- Fishable: Anacostia River Sediment Project
 - Interim Record of Decision (IROD), September 2020: Specifies cleanup plans for 3 operable units in the Anacostia River
 - Post IROD works plans, field work, and 30% design underway
- Boatable
 - DOEE Anacostia River Surveys: 2018, 2019, 2022 River Use Surveys (>7000 respondents)
 - Federal Navigation Channel (FNC): modified via Water Resources Development Act of 2020 to reflect current and future river uses



Legend

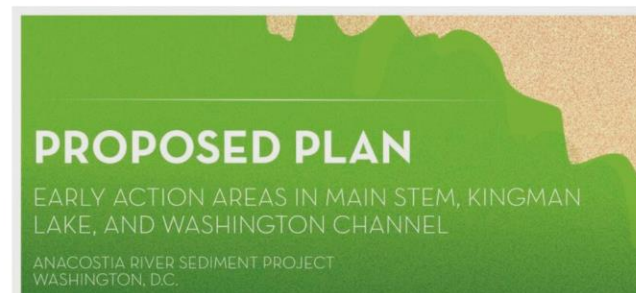
-  Anacostia River Tunnel
-  Blue Plains Tunnel
-  Northeast Boundary Tunnel



Working toward a fishable and swimmable Anacostia River

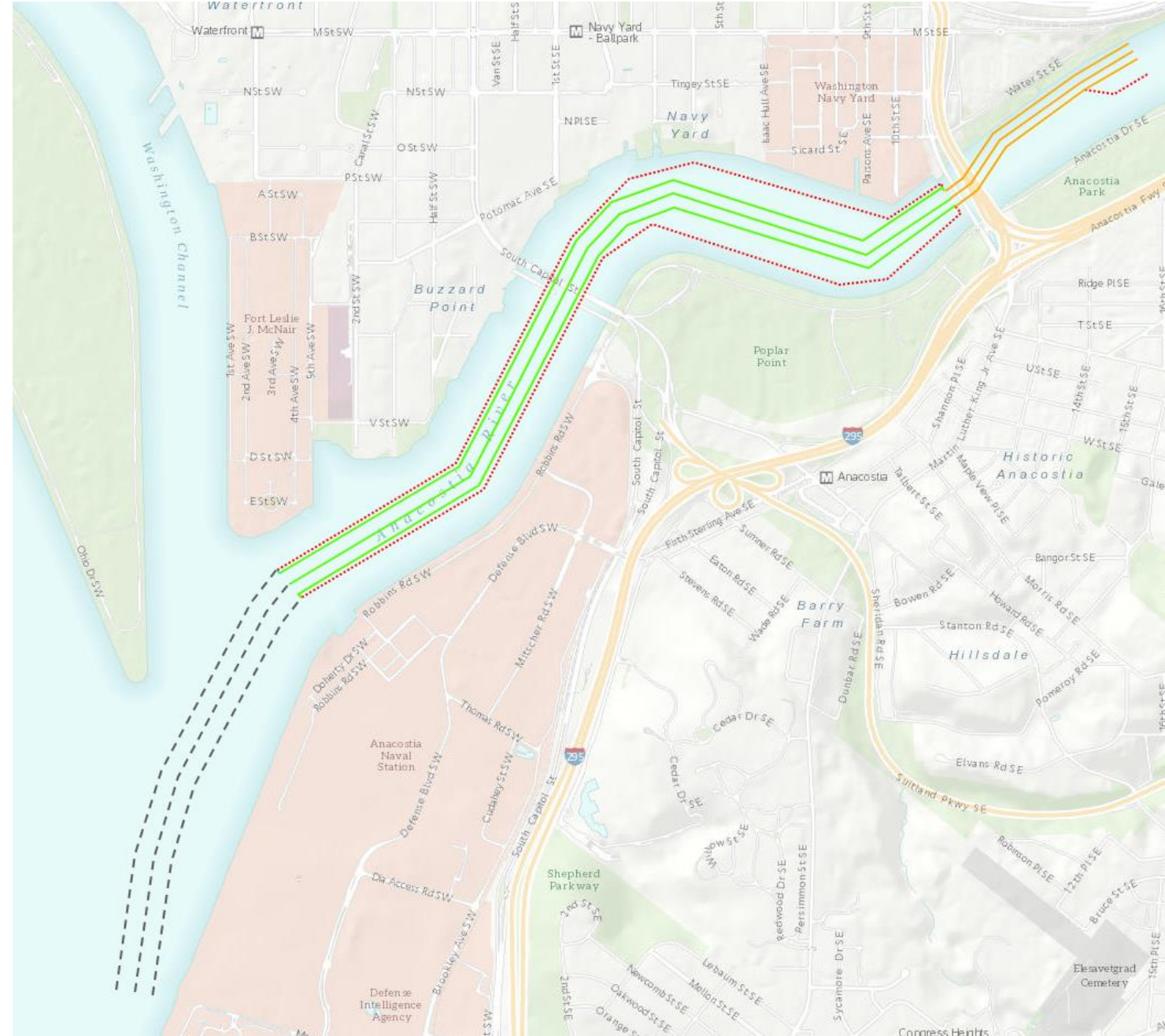
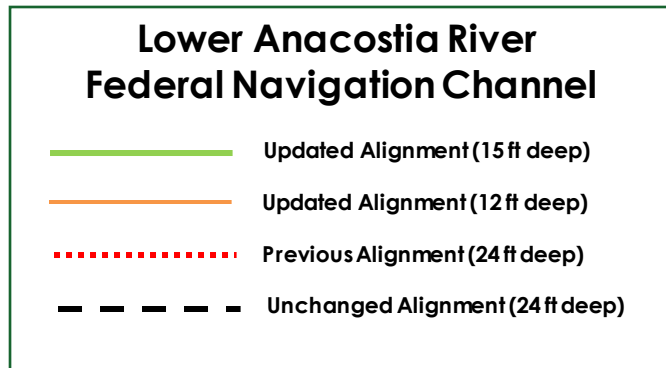


Proposed Plan released for public comment



Modified Federal Navigation Channel in the Anacostia River

- Project Partners
 - USACE
 - Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
- Modified via WRDA 2020



Other Projects in the Anacostia River Corridor

- Kingman and Heritage Island Restoration Project
www.kingmanisland.com: DC seed funding \$4.7 million in 2018
- Proposed Kingman Island Environmental Education and Training Center (\$20 million)
- Benning Road Bridges and Transportation Improvements Project (\$300 million)
- Anacostia River Corridor Restoration Plan (\$500,000)
- Anacostia River maintenance dredging (>\$50 million)
- **M**aking the **A**nacostia and **P**otomac **S**wimmable (MAPS)



Ongoing Challenges

- Beneficial Use of Dredged Material will require:
 - Regulatory consensus (EPA, USACE, NPS, Stakeholders) on DOEE's draft BU guidance manual for aquatic placement of dredged sediment
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)
 - NRDA Trustees meet twice per month since March 2020
 - Quantifying river-wide, District (environmental justice, groundwater), and PECS damages
 - NRDA Trustees: USFWS, NPS, NOAA, District of Columbia
- Out of jurisdiction ongoing sources
 - Maryland upland sources and tributaries: Lower Beaverdam Creek
- Permitting for cleanup remedies: NPS and USACE



Getting to Restoration with a
Natural Resources Damage Assessment



Questions?

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We are on a brief break.

The next session
will start at 12pm.

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