



dcwater.com/cleanrivers

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT



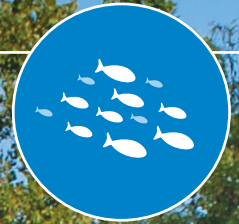
**GREEN
DC**



**CREATE
JOBS**



**BETTER
VALUE**



**CLEAN
RIVERS**

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

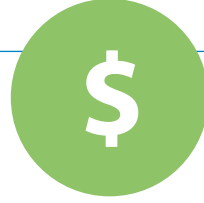
an opportunity, a responsibility and critical approach



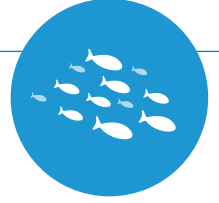
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The start of something green.

DC Water is proposing a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of green infrastructure on a massive scale. The program would cover 50 acres of the Potomac and Rock Creek sewersheds at a cost of \$10-30 million.

Green infrastructure technologies treat stormwater as a resource, not something to eliminate. Also known as low-impact development or adaptive management, these techniques capture, infiltrate, treat and reuse polluted runoff before it enters the sewer system. These practices include rain gardens, porous pavements, green roofs, infiltration planters, trees and tree boxes, and rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses such as toilet flushing and landscape irrigation.

Why?

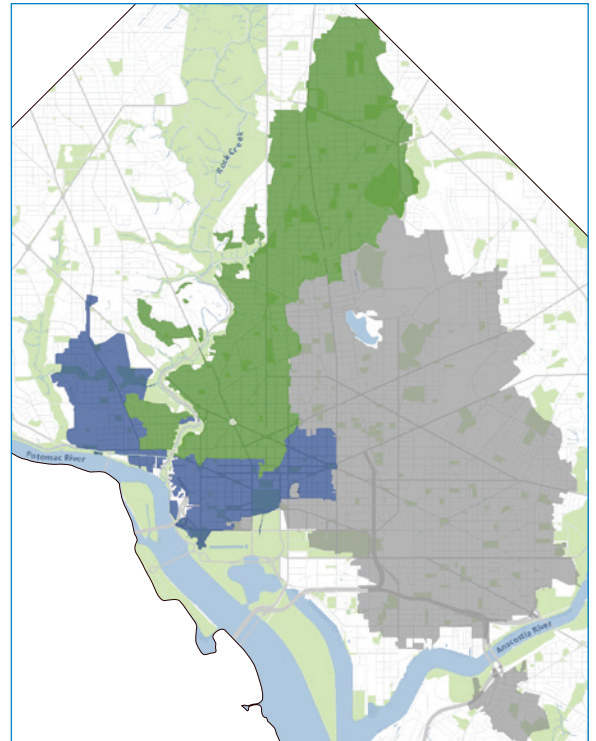
Our pilot program will provide green entry-level jobs for District residents, greener and more attractive neighborhoods throughout the District, increased property values, an enhanced ecosystem and more ways to mitigate climate change. DC Water anticipates that it could also keep water and sewer bills from rising past \$120 a month by the end of this decade.

Why now?

DC Water is under a 2005 court-ordered consent decree to build a massive tunnel system to control combined-sewer overflows to all three District water bodies. The program, called the Clean Rivers Project, is in the implementation phase of a tunnel system under the Anacostia River. When complete, it will reduce overflows by 98 percent (Anacostia only) – or more than 2 billion gallons of diluted sewage a year.

The consent decree requires similar tunnels for the Potomac River and Rock Creek. DC Water is proposing a green infrastructure pilot program to explore whether a large-scale green solution can reduce overflows enough to make the next tunnels smaller or eliminate them altogether. Doing so could save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Regulators and courts have approved plans for other cities around the country, notably Cleveland, Kansas City and St. Louis, to experiment with green infrastructure as a way to reduce runoff. This next generation of consent decrees and programs is the result of a new understanding – that it's possible to balance environmental protection, job growth and financial impact to the community footing the bill.



Rock Creek Potomac Anacostia

Map showing potential areas for green infrastructure in the Potomac River and Rock Creek sewersheds. Tunnel system is underway in the Anacostia River sewershed

rendering before green infrastructure



rendering after green infrastructure



What's next?

Achieving success with green infrastructure will require the cooperation of many agencies, environmental groups and the public. It will require converting impervious surfaces on a range of properties with a range of owners. And the parties to the consent decree must agree on a new schedule.

Please help DC Water succeed in making the District a greener place. To find out how, turn this page.





DC Water needs your help.

This approach requires time. We need to study whether large-scale green development can bring major results.

The EPA and other parties to our consent decree must agree to new deadlines soon. So they need to hear from you.



Add your voice to this discussion.

(case sensitive)

www.chn.ge/DCWaterGreenCity