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Prince George's County Partners Install First-of-its-Kind Litter Trap to Clean the Anacostia

Mt. Rainier, MD – Today, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, Anacostia Riverkeeper, Town of Mt. Rainier, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust celebrated the installation of the first major litter trap in Arundel Canal, a tributary of the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River in Mount Rainier. The innovative litter trap, a type widely used throughout Australia and Asia, is designed to capture litter and debris that has been discarded onto roadways and transported by rain and wind into storm drains. The trap's unique design requires no mechanical assistance, relying only on the water's natural current, offering an economical way to capture floating litter before it reaches the Anacostia River, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean where it becomes marine debris. The trap is safe for fish, waterfowl, and other aquatic life.

"Prince George's County is responsible for removing 170,628 pounds of litter each year from the Anacostia River Watershed," said Adam Ortiz, Director of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. "We are proud to invest in the health of the Anacostia and in innovative solutions that allow us to both improve our communities and meet our regulatory obligations."

The installation of the litter trap was funded by the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program, which aims to improve water quality in the County's waterways, improve communities, and engage County residents in the issues associated with stormwater runoff pollution.



Anacostia Riverkeeper, which has installed several of this type of litter trap in the Anacostia in Washington, D.C., including the first ever of its kind in the Northern Hemisphere, initiated and led the Prince George's litter trap project. In addition to overseeing the installation, Anacostia Riverkeeper will partner with the County to develop a maintenance plan and program, offer green jobs training to local youth to support the maintenance program and host educational events to educate the community on the impact that litter and trash have on the health of our waterways.

"In our experience, the litter trap is the most effective tool for capturing trash that has made its way into our streams," said Suzanne Kelly of Anacostia Riverkeeper. "The four that are

installed in Washington, D.C., have been a resounding success, both in their ability to prevent trash from making its way to the main stem of the Anacostia and then the Bay and in their use as a tool for educating the public.”

“We are excited that Mount Rainier is now home to this innovative solution,” said Mayor Malinda Miles, who joined other community leaders at today’s celebration. “We look forward to this project serving as an example for other municipalities who are working to keep our streams, rivers, and ultimately the Bay litter free.”

A second litter trap of this type will be installed in another tributary of the Anacostia River in Prince George’s County later this year.

About Prince George’s County Department of the Environment

The Prince George’s County Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, litter prevention, animal services and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.

About Anacostia Riverkeeper

Anacostia Riverkeeper (www.anacostiariverkeeper.org) protects and restores the Anacostia River for all who live, work, and play in the watershed and advocates for a clean, swimmable, fishable river for all its communities. Anacostia Riverkeeper targets a range of water-related threats including raw sewage discharges, legacy toxins in the sediment, stormwater and reducing the volume of trash that clogs our waterways. Anacostia Riverkeeper is a member of Waterkeeper Alliance, an international grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to preserving and protecting water bodies from pollution.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the natural resources of the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust engages hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of Maryland’s Treasure the Chesapeake license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal and state agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Baltimore City’s Office of Sustainability. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for fourteen years: 92 percent of the Trust’s expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

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