



# Northwest Branch Anacostia, MD

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2015**

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**AUTHORIZATION:** Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

**CONTRIBUTION TO CHESAPEAKE BAY:** Directly contributes to achieving protection and restoration goals established by the 2009 Executive Order 13508 and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Program Agreement to restore clean water, recover habitat, and sustain fish and wildlife. This project restores/enhances/protects 5 acres of riparian forest buffer, 4 miles (23 acres) of stream, and 3 acres of vernal pools.

**PROJECT PHASE:** Design and Implementation

**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators **Mikulski** and **Cardin (MD)**; Representatives **Holmes-Norton (DC)**, **Sarbanes (MD-03)**, **Hoyer (MD-05)**, and **Van Hollen (MD-08)**.

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Montgomery County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

**BACKGROUND:** The Northwest Branch watershed has its headwaters in southeastern Montgomery County, Maryland, and then flows through western Prince George's County where it meets the Northeast Branch near Bladensburg, Maryland. The project area is in the upper watershed in Montgomery County.

A December 1990 reconnaissance report determined that federal actions related to navigation and flood damage reduction directly degraded more than 2,600 acres of wetland, 500 acres of aquatic habitat, and 800 acres of bottomland hardwoods in the Anacostia River watershed. Beginning in September 1996, a subsequent feasibility study addressed fish and wildlife restoration in the Northwest Branch sub-basin of the Anacostia watershed. In 2000, implementation of this project was transferred to the Section 206 program, due to the program's capacity to accelerate the schedule and its flexibility for non-federal credit for in-kind services. The final ecosystem restoration report was approved in December 2000.

The project plan consists of a \$7.5M stream restoration project, involving 7 restoration areas (the original project had 11 areas, but during design 4 areas were eliminated). The project contains three types of actions: stream restoration, riparian buffer enhancement, and vernal pool restoration. The proposed actions are designed to improve community habitat conditions not just at the specific site of construction, but also for the surrounding natural resources. Restoration activities include: (1) enhancing vernal pools, (2) enhancing the stream buffer by restricting livestock access, (3) planting



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Page 1 of 3

riparian buffers, (4) stabilizing eroding streambanks, (5) adding instream habitat structures, (6) enhancing instream and edge habitat, and (7) improving fish passage.

In December 2002, the Baltimore District and two Montgomery County resource agencies signed a project cooperation agreement for implementation of the Section 206 project. Plans and specifications for the project were initiated in January 2001, and were scheduled for completion in spring 2005; however, due to budgetary concerns in the Section 206 program, this project was halted in early February 2005. After a 3-year delay, the design of the project was restarted in spring 2008.

**STATUS:** Construction of the first set of sites was completed in December 2011. Construction of the second set of sites was completed in December 2013. Project monitoring is ongoing.

**BUDGET (\$):**

	<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>	
	<u>DESIGN</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>	\$ 1,200,000	\$5,600,000
Federal Cost Estimate	780,000	3,635,730
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	420,000	1,964,270
<u>Federal Funds Data</u>		
Allocation thru FY 2013	780,000	3,904,600
Allocation for FY 2014	0	-268,870
President Budget FY 2015 <sup>1</sup>	0	0
Allocation for FY 2015 <sup>2</sup>	0	0 <sup>3</sup>
Balance to Complete	0	0

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> The President typically sends the budget to Congress in February each year. Upon release, budget amounts for the USACE Civil Works programs and specified projects are posted online at the HQUSACE website in a program budget press book at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.apsx>.

<sup>2</sup> The final FY 2015 allocation amounts will be made available upon final approval pursuant to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act's continuing funding requirements .

<sup>3</sup> All FY 2015 activities are being conducted using carryover funds from previous fiscal years and non-federal funds. No additional funds are required for this project.

**SCHEDULE:**

FY 2014 Completed Work: With carry-in funds, completed the vegetation plantings associated with the second set of sites and continued project monitoring.

FY 2015 Scheduled Work: With carry-in funds, construction contracts will be closed out and project monitoring activities will continue.

**COMPLETION:** With available funding, project monitoring will be completed in 2018.

**For more information** regarding the Northwest Branch Anacostia project, please contact Kimberly Gross, CENAB-PP-C, (410) 962-3457, or e-mail, [kimberly.u.gross@usace.army.mil](mailto:kimberly.u.gross@usace.army.mil).

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