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District of Columbia Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Working with partners, the District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division identified species of greatest conservation need, their habitats and threats, and actions needed to conserve those species. Major challenges to wildlife in the District of Columbia are those that accompany rapid urbanization within a small area, such as air, water, and noise pollution, soil erosion, recreation, and habitat fragmentation. The District's primary challenge is the invasion of non-native species that change the character of the natural landscape.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Restoring Native Fish to the District's Waters

Restoring healthy populations of priority wildlife to their natural habitats is an important goal in the District's wildlife action plan. The American shad is a freshwater fish species of greatest conservation need, its populations having severely declined due to overfishing and pollution of its habitat. In spring 2007, the Fisheries and Wildlife Division hatched approximately one million American shad and placed them in the Anacostia River, a priority habitat in the wildlife action plan. Approximately 70,000 hickory shad and 300,000 blue back herring, both priority species, were also stocked in Rock Creek. Maintaining robust populations of natural wildlife in the District's rivers means cleaner and healthier waters overall, ultimately benefiting people as well.

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Managing Non-native Canada Geese in Anacostia Park

The District's wildlife action plan identifies non-native species as a high threat to rivers and tidal wetlands. The Anacostia River tidal basin currently supports a population of non-native, non-migratory Canada geese that have damaged existing wetlands through intense feeding and have seriously hampered efforts to restore the wetlands necessary to clean the Anacostia for both wildlife and people. The Fisheries & Wildlife and Watershed Protection Divisions have been major partners in the National Park Service's efforts to manage Canada geese within the Anacostia River. Toward that effort, District staff have restored native tidal marshes and monitored goose populations. Such efforts help conserve the natural places that the District's residents seek for peace and relaxation in their busy lives.



Gill netting American shad in the Potomac River/
Joe Swann, District of Columbia Division of
Fisheries and Wildlife

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Places **Anacostia River Restoration Day**

Invasive species are identified as the greatest threat to wildlife in the District's wildlife action plan and the Anacostia River is one of the highest priority habitats. Hundreds of helping hands from local conservation partners and National Wildlife Federation affiliates from across the country gathered in March 2007 to participate in the largest restoration project ever on the shores of the Anacostia River. Around 300 volunteers from the public removed trash and invasive plants from the shore of the river, helping to improve the habitat for species of greatest conservation need, such as the sora and black-crowned night heron. Restoring the riverbank will make the river healthier overall, benefiting

people and wildlife, and ensure that future generations can enjoy this piece of nature in the urban city.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Volunteers help green the banks of the Anacostia River/
Julie Sibbing, National Wildlife Federation

Hundreds of helping hands from across the country gathered in March 2007 to participate in the largest restoration project ever on the shores of the Anacostia River.



Canada geese in the urban environment/Jon Siemien, District of Columbia Division of Fisheries and Wildlife