



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries

October 26, 2009

U.S. Army Engineer District, Baltimore
City Crescent Building
10 South Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Sir or Madam,

Some citizens who regularly use the Anacostia River for rowing have brought it to the attention of the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC) that hazardous debris can frequently be found in the River upstream of the CSX railroad tracks. The River is frequently used for rowing by area high schools and colleges and the debris is a danger to these rowers. It is AWCAC's understanding that the Corps regularly sweeps and removes debris from the River downstream of the CSX tracks. We would like to request that the Corps consider extending the area in the River where it removes debris to areas above the CSX tracks so as to reduce the risk of a harmful collision. Accessing these upstream areas will require raising the CSX bridge and may be more difficult than accessing the downstream areas. Therefore, AWCAC suggests that while it may not be practical to sweep upstream as frequently as downstream, it would be very helpful if it could be done on a periodic, predictable basis such as at the beginning of the spring and fall school rowing seasons. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact AWCAC if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Smith
Chairperson, Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
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Washington, DC 20002-4329