

ANACOSTIA RIVER

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Project Name: Watts Branch Stream Restoration

Project Type:

- Education (Job Training)
- Recreation (Open Space and Trails)
- Restoration (Stream and Riparian)
- Urban

Project Description: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program and the D.C. Department of the Environment implemented a 1.8-mile stream restoration project on Watts Branch, a tributary to the Anacostia River. The Coastal Program used a watershed-based approach to assess watershed conditions affecting the stream, and a natural channel design method to restore habitat and long-term channel stability. The restoration design included structures that create instream habitat and reduce flood stresses on channel banks, while riparian vegetation provides bank stability and wildlife habitat.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Watts Branch restoration also created a healthier and stronger community by creating green jobs, engaging citizens in stewardship activities, and connecting neighborhood residents to their local waterway. The restoration of Watts Branch alone has infused nearly \$3 million into the local economy, creating jobs in manufacturing, surveying, construction, restoration, planting, and maintenance of the habitat. Washington Parks and People, a nonprofit organization and project partner, also created the "D.C. Green Corps," a specialized environmental job training program for local residents. Watts Branch was the outdoor classroom for the program.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Environmental Protection Agency

Non-Federal Partners:

- D.C. Department of the Environment
- Washington Parks and People
- Washington Sanitary Sewer Commission
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- D.C. Department of Transportation

Outcomes for 2012:

- Complete planting of the riparian buffer