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From: "Partnerships, Volunteer & Youth Programs Division" <nace_superintendent@nps.gov>
To: "bspencerdunn@yahoo.com" <bspencerdunn@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 3:46 PM
Subject: People, Purpose, Partners Vol. 1 Ed. 2

National Capital Parks - East

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



August 2021 Vol. 1 Edition 2

People, Purpose, Partners

*A newsletter from the Partnerships, Volunteer & Youth
Programs Division of
National Capital Parks - East*

Superintendent's Square



Superintendent Tara D. Morrison

Dear Friends of National Capital Parks - East,

We kicked off the summer season with action! NACE benefitted greatly from the power of volunteers and partners resulting in significant impacts across the parks and historic sites. Together, through a series of collaborations, we delivered quality programming, cleaner parks and preserved history. You will learn about these stories and more throughout this edition.

Action is a powerful tool to accomplish what needs to be done. We greatly appreciate all the action the parks are seeing from visitors, volunteers, partners and your contributions to these public spaces for recreation, learning, and gathering.

One thing is for certain: action will continue throughout the remainder of the summer and beyond. We hope our partners and volunteers will continue to work with our dedicated employees to bring action where it is most needed. One action item that is of utmost importance, is obtaining feedback for *Reimagine Anacostia Park*. Please help us uplift and share this opportunity with our communities, our most valuable partner (MVP), about this planning process and how they can become engaged.

Please enjoy highlights of the work we have accomplished together. Without our partner and volunteer community, the progress we are making would not be possible.

With Gratitude,



In This Issue

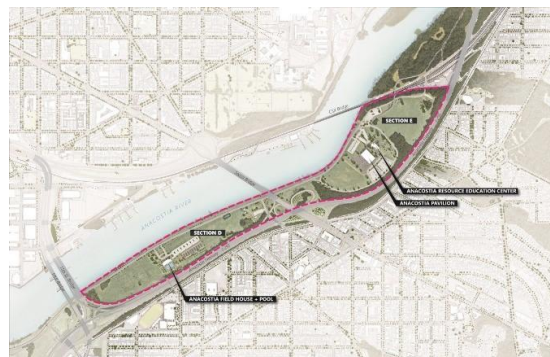


Buttercups in bloom at Fort Washington Park.

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Reimagine Anacostia Park

The National Park Service is developing a plan to study current conditions at Anacostia Park and will create recommendations for park improvements and ways to enhance the visitor experience. Public input is vital to this



The specific area of focus is the east side

process and NPS is accepting comments from the public until August 15th. Refer to this [website](#) for further information about the process and how to provide feedback about Anacostia Park.

of the Anacostia River between the 11th Street Bridge and the CSX bridge, north of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE bridge.

ASALH'S Woodson Home Committee recipient of Hartzog Group Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service



Dr. Bettye Gardner, Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, and Barbara Dunn of ASALH.

National Capital Parks - East is pleased to announce that the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History's](#) (ASALH) Woodson Home Committee was awarded the National Capital Area's Hartzog Group Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for their remarkable contributions to the [Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site](#)! Over the last 16 years, the Woodson Committee has been involved with the interpretation, rehabilitation, and preservation of the Woodson site. Their contributions were particularly significant from the fall of 2019 thru 2020 when the committee restructured the final exhibit gallery dedicated to Dr. Woodson's legacy by engaging a youth group to solidify themes and include further perspective. The committee also secured the donation of around 200 historical photographs and 140 original artifacts, many of which will be featured in the permanent exhibits. The National Park Service is extremely grateful to the Woodson Home Committee for their contributions and immense dedication to the Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site!

Volunteer Spotlight



Sophie Schell with her "trail fairies" (top left), volunteers working on the trail (bottom left), and Sophie and Nathan Harrington of Ward 8 Woods (right).

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

August 7th: Ward 8 Woods Trash Removal Event at Fort Stanton. Find further information and register [here](#).

August 7th: Student Conservation Association Clean-up Event at Anacostia

On May 22nd and 23rd eighth-grader Sophie Schell of [Scouts BSA Troop 248 for Girls](#) carried out her Eagle Scout project at the George Washington Carver Trail with the help of over 100 volunteers. Last December, Sophie read an article in *The Washington Post* about the work of Ward 8 Woods Conservancy and learned that Ward 8 contains only 1.5 miles of official hiking trails. She reached out to Nathan Harrington, founder and director of Ward 8 Woods, who recommended the 0.6-mile-long Carver Trail for her project.

In preparation for the two-day project, Sophie coordinated the event, raised over \$700, received training in trail maintenance, and secured donated lunches for full-day participants. She also recruited volunteers through the Ward 8 Woods newsletter, community listservs, and by spreading awareness to scout troops. Throughout the two days, Sophie and her designated "trail fairies" guided volunteers through the various projects which included blazing the trails, painting signposts, and creating rolling grade dips (see infographic below). Overall, the valuable contributions of Sophie and her volunteers improved the state of the trail and made it safer to hike on.

Sophie reflected on her project saying: "The most rewarding aspect of my

Park. _____

August 14th: Ward 8 Woods Trash Removal Event at Shepherd Parkway. Find further information and register [here](#).

August 28th: Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Volunteer Event. Find further information and register [here](#).

September 4th: Ward 8 Woods Trash Removal Event at Fort Stanton. Find further information and register [here](#).

September 11th: Ward 8 Woods Trash Removal Event at Shepherd Parkway. Find further information and register [here](#).

September 25th: National Public Lands Day (NPLD). Find several event opportunities and

project was seeing the huge support coming from people who live all over D.C. Whether it was a volunteer digging with a posthole digger or the 8-year-olds painting the blazes, everyone was truly happy making a positive impact. My hope is this project will have a long-lasting impact on the community and will allow for trail users to have a more enjoyable experience as well as preserve the trail.”

further information [here](#).

Please fill out this [form](#) if interested in registering a volunteer event within NACE for NPLD.



NPS Update



Photo courtesy of NPS.

Fee Free Days Are Coming!

The National Park Service is offering free admission to all national parks on three different days in August and September. Get outside and enjoy on August 4th (the one-year anniversary of the Great Outdoors Act), August 25th (the National Park Service's Birthday), and September 25th (National Public Lands Day) for free!

[Find more information here](#)

NACE Partnerships Updates

NACE Announces New L.O.V.E. Program

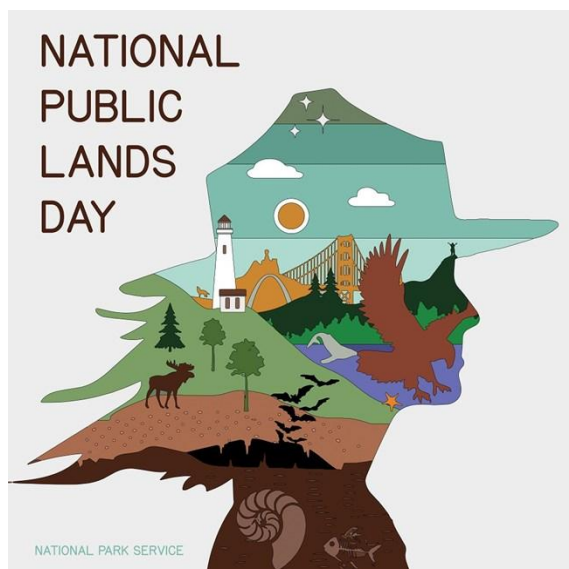
NACE is pleased to announce our new Leveraging Our Volunteer Efforts (L.O.V.E.) program which allows volunteer organizations and community groups to enter into long-term, site-specific agreements to maintain public lands by showering L.O.V.E. on the park site. This year we are proud to welcome our first five L.O.V.E. program participants.



1. Capitol Riverfront BID
2. Friends of Anacostia Park
3. Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
4. Friends of Lincoln Park
5. Ward 8 Woods Conservancy

If you are interested in showing some L.O.V.E to a site near you, we are now accepting applications for three to five additional sites in Fiscal Year '22.

[Apply to the L.O.V.E. Program](#)



Graphic courtesy of NPS.

National Public Lands Day Virtual Summit

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is coming up on September 25th. National Capital Parks – East invites your community or organization to consider conducting a volunteer event.

Please consider joining us for our inaugural **National Public Lands Day Virtual Summit** on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm. To attend, please access the summit registration [form](#). Have

an event idea please access our [NPLD form](#) to register your event.



Michael Commisso (left), Vince Vaise, Richard Trent, and Madeline Balkonis of the National Park Foundation walk through Anacostia Park.

New Partner: Friends of Anacostia Park

Please join NACE in welcoming the Friends of Anacostia Park (FoAP) to our growing partner community. The National Park Foundation (NPF) played a vital role in the creation of FoAP and the organization will be dedicated to creating a greater culture of stewardship, improving access to natural areas, and enhancing the environmental friendliness of Anacostia Park. Recently, the organization named Richard Trent, Georgetown alum as their executive director. Trent formerly served in leadership positions with Higher Achievement, Reach Out and Read, and

Winter4Kids and is ready to work hard to make a difference. Members of NACE's senior management team and NPF representative welcomed Richard and took him on a walking-tour of key sites in Anacostia Park.



Accokeek Foundation and National Park Service Staff at Piscataway Park.

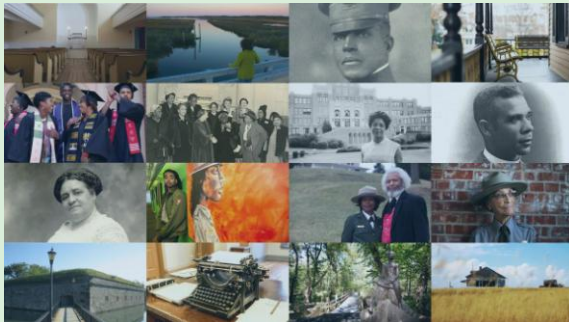
NACE Visit the Accokeek Foundation

Recently members of NACE Management and Piscataway Park managers visited on-site with its partner Accokeek Foundation to learn more about their operations, various projects and programming.

The **Accokeek Foundation** founded in 1957, is committed to sustainable stewardship. The foundation partners with the National Park Service to render services and programs that enhance the visitor

experience at [Piscataway Park](#). The foundation operates the National Colonial Farm and teaches visitors about the importance of the agricultural, natural, indigenous, and cultural histories of the area. [Volunteer opportunities](#) include helping on the farm, gardening, bluebird monitoring, and wool processing.

In the News



Philadelphia radio station, WURD, recently hosted Angel Thompson of the [National Park Foundation](#) on their Reality Check program. Angel is a cultural resources manager and discusses the importance of preserving African American History. Angel's work has led to support for NACE's [Carter G. Woodson](#) and [Frederick](#)

Douglass National
Historic Sites!

[Tune in!](#)



Access the article by clicking on the above photo.

The Washington Post recently highlighted the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Garden's (FoKAG) annual Lotus and Lily Festival. Read about what FoKAG has to offer throughout the year and their contributions to the park as well. To learn more about the Lotus and Lily Festival and view recordings of the virtual events click [here](#).



Vince Vaise, Chief of Visitor Services talks

NBC 4 Washington visited the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in July. They spoke with Vince Vaise, Chief of Visitor Services, who discussed the lotus and lily blossoms. The segment also features beautiful

about the Lotus flower to NBC 4 Watch the story by clicking on the above image.

views of the park and insight from park visitors.

Partners Galvanize Volunteers



Volunteers process wool at Piscataway Park.

The Accokeek Foundation hosted their annual **Lattes with Lambs: Lambapalooza** event in May. During this time, volunteers involved with the foundation's **Stitch n' Time program** spent time shearing, processing, spinning, and dyeing the wool from the sheep at the National Colonial Farm. They also created yarn to be used for crafts and sold at



Volunteers clear a fallen tree at Fort Washington Park.

The **Potomac Heritage Trail Association** and the NPS staff organized and carried out several trail maintenance projects in Fort Washington Park on May 22nd. Fifteen volunteers cleared a fallen tree, installed a boardwalk, weatherproofed bridges, and cleared the trail. The **work accomplished** by volunteers led to to a safer

the visitor center.

and more inviting trail for hikers to enjoy!

National Trails Day



Volunteers working on the Still's Creek perimeter trail.

National Trails Day is hosted by the [American Hiking Association](#) annually and celebrates all trails on public lands. Greenbelt Park commemorated the day with a volunteer event on June 5th. Ten volunteers helped stabilize Still Creek's perimeter trail by transferring 500 pounds of stone to the creek's embankment. Additionally, trees at 45 campsites were trimmed in preparation for the upcoming reopening of the campground. Find more volunteer opportunities at Greenbelt Park [here](#).

NACE Events

Every year the NPS staff at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS honor Bethune by celebrating her birthday with special events. This year, the commemoration was virtual and featured a series of videos



throughout July. Visit the [website](#) for more information and view the videos [here](#).

The Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial in Lincoln Park was dedicated on Bethune's birthday, July 10th, in 1974.

Inside Look: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens



The Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens are located in northeast Washington, D.C. and are known for being the only National Park Service site dedicated to cultivated water plants. The land Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens sits on was originally inhabited by the Nacotchtank Indians beginning over 4,000 years ago. The Nacotchtank fished, farmed, hunted, and traded in the area. The English took over and settled the area in the early 17th century. They cleared out protective forests for farming while not realizing the value of the wetlands.

In the 1880s, Walter Shaw bought 30 acres of land along the Anacostia River next to a wetland. He used the wetland to plant the water lilies he had brought from Maine which thrived in the environment. Walter brought in more plants and eventually, with the help of his daughter

Helen Shaw Fowler, turned the gardens into a popular attraction in 1912 called W.B. Shaw Lily Ponds. Helen took over the successful business in 1921 after Walter died. Later on Helen saved the ponds from being dredged for navigational purposes by lobbying for Congress to buy the property in 1938. The land then became part of Anacostia Park and Helen lived on the land until she died.

Today the park offers access to more than 45 ponds, picnic areas, walking paths, and a boardwalk path elevated over the tidal marsh. The summer months feature the blooming of lotuses and water lilies which are further highlighted by the annual Lotus and Water Lily Festival held every July. The gardens are further supported by the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens who host monthly volunteer events, art workshops, activities for children, and a summer camp for local children.

Resources

[Director's Order 7: Volunteers - In - Parks](#)

[Director's Order 21: Partnerships](#)

[National Park Service](#)

[Volunteer.gov](#)

[Volunteer Interest Form](#)

[Volunteer Project Request Form](#)



National Park Service | 1900 Anacostia Drive SE, Washington, DC 20020

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