

Update on the Anacostia Park Wetlands Management Plan with Goose Management Strategies

January 8, 2008

Background of the Plan

Last winter the National Park Service (NPS) initiated a planning process for an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and address wetland and goose management at Anacostia Park. This process is guided by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that requires federal agencies, including the NPS, to evaluate a range of management options, or alternatives. The agency must consider the impacts of those alternatives in an EA or, if impacts are thought to be potentially significant, in an environmental impact statement (EIS).



Resident Canada goose at Kenilworth

The focus of the wetland management plan is nearly 100 acres of restored tidal wetlands in Anacostia Park, including Kingman Marsh, Heritage Marsh, Fringe Marsh, and Kenilworth Marsh. These areas were restored with hopes of improving water quality, improving native plant and animal habitat diversity, and providing a more natural recreation experience for park visitors. The restoration efforts were expensive and time consuming. Unfortunately, a number of obstacles to the success of the restored wetlands persist. Resident Canada geese have consistently denuded areas that were not protected by fencing. Questions about proper wetland elevations, erosion, and sedimentation continue to arise. Invasive plant species are present in many restored wetland areas. The outcome of the planning process will be a focused, detailed plan addressing these wetland issues at Anacostia Park.

Change of Approach to the Planning Process

After considering comments received during public scoping, initially evaluating potential alternatives, and continuing to examine data, the National Park Service decided to complete an EIS rather than an EA for this plan. Due to the potential for significant impacts associated with some of the alternatives considered in the EA, additional detailed scientific analysis and data collection is needed. The EIS will likely take an additional year to complete. A schedule will be posted on the Park's planning website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/anac>) later this year after additional data collection is complete.

Scope of the Wetlands Management Plan/ EIS

The scope of the EIS will remain the same as the EA. The Park has identified the need to address management tools for resident Canada geese, hydrologic regimes, invasive species, and wetland vegetation planting methods. Additionally, issues such as the effect of urbanization and toxicity will be addressed. Stabilization methods used to address erosion and sedimentation, such as the sheet piling used at Fringe Marsh, will also be examined. The EIS may identify potential future wetland restoration sites, but will not analyze them in detail.



Fringe Marsh at River Terrace

Next Steps

Anacostia Park has released a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS. The Park requests comments on the purpose, need, and objectives for the next 30 days. Anyone who did not comment on the EA this summer is encouraged to provide comments during this time. All comments received during the summer comment period for the EA will be considered and do not need to be resubmitted. Directions on how to comment on the plan/EIS are on the back of this sheet. The comment period will close on **February 8, 2008**. A summary of the comments received will be posted on <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/anac>. A summary of comments received during the comment period this summer is available on this website as well.

To comment on the Anacostia Park Wetlands Management Plan/EIS with Resident Canada Goose Management Strategies or to view the Notice of Intent (NOI), please visit:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/anac>

Written Comments may be submitted to:

**Superintendent– National Capital Parks-East
RE: Wetlands Management Plan/ EIS
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020**

Please be sure to include your full name and address with the comments so we may add you to our mailing list for information on future items in this process.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Updates on the planning process will be provided at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/anac>



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U.S. Department of the Interior

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