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Anacostia Watershed Society

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2005

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Hundreds of Area Citizens to Mobilize Around the Anacostia River and Area Communities for Regional Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration

Anacostia River- As the plans for redevelopment of the Anacostia River shoreline in Washington, DC move forward, hundreds of concerned citizens throughout the metro region are planning a massive assault upon the trash and debris which litters the river surface and shoreline from Maryland's Prince George's & Montgomery Counties and down into the District of Columbia, sending a strong signal that the water quality issues must be addressed now.

"Not only does this floating trash and debris pose a serious danger to the health of the plants and animals living in the river, and to the water quality of the Anacostia River, but it serves as a psychological toxin to all of the citizens who come into contact with it," said event organizer Robert Boone, president of the Anacostia Watershed Society (www.anacostiaws.org). "The visual blight upon the Anacostia River severely impacts community self esteem for all of those living near its shores by sending negative messages of neglect and disinvestment."

The theme of this year's Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration, "Unity for a Livable Community," embodies the ethic shared by hundreds of volunteers from Maryland and DC to take action in their local watershed to restore the environment. The Anacostia River covers a 176 square mile area. This event will feature nine different locations from Silver Spring, MD to Southeast, DC where citizens can "Team Up to Clean Up." The Anacostia River Community River Cleanup and Celebration is also part of the larger month-long Capital River Relief (www.capitalriverrelief.org) cleanup effort along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

Teaming up with the Anacostia Watershed Society is long-time partner Seafarer's Yacht Club, as well as Koch Industries, Washington Gas, Pepco, Prince George's County Livable Communities Initiative, DC Government, Maryland National Park and Planning Commission, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and others.

For more information regarding the cleanup, you can visit www.anacostiaws.org.

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