

Anacostia River Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration: Overview

WHAT IS NRDAR?

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) is a regulatory process to determine the amount and type of restoration needed to compensate the public for injuries to natural resources and their services resulting from the release of hazardous substances into the environment.

Natural resources include the land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, groundwater, drinking water, and other resources that belong to, or are managed by, the United States, states, or tribes.



In NRDAR, an injury has occurred when contamination has directly or indirectly caused a measurable adverse change to a natural resource and the services the natural resource provides (either to the ecosystem or to humans). For example, contamination may negatively impact fish reproduction, prevent riparian habitat from supporting vegetation, result in fish consumption advisories, or diminish human use of natural resources.

GOAL = Restoration of natural resources and their services to the condition they would be in if the release of hazardous substances had not occurred, and compensation on behalf of the public for any losses of those services pending successful restoration.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM SITE CLEANUP?

NRDAR: The purpose of NRDAR is to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the injured resources and resource services. The amount and type of restoration needed is based on lost resource services over time (past, present, future) resulting from contamination, accounting for planned or implemented remedial actions. NRDAR is not a second cleanup; it occurs in addition to the cleanup.

Cleanup (also called Remedy): The purpose of the remedial process is to eliminate, reduce, or control risks to human health and the environment. Remedial actions do not address losses of natural resources or their services, and they may leave some residual contamination in the environment that can be addressed through NRDAR.

WHO ARE THE NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEES?

Natural Resource Trustees are federal and state agencies and federally-recognized tribes who act on behalf of the public in the NRDAR process.

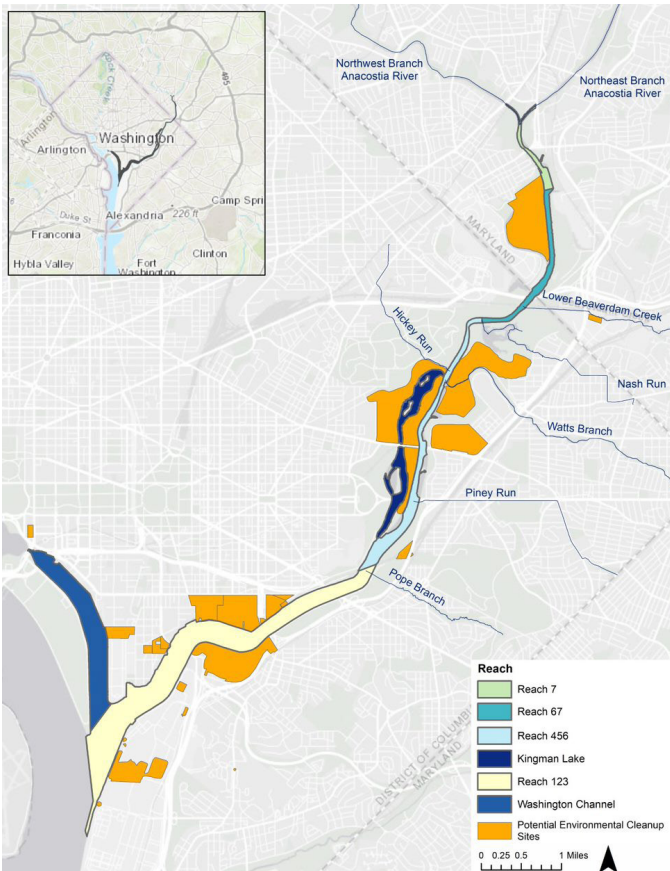
Working together as a Council, the Anacostia River Trustees are:

- Department of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Department of the Interior, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- District of Columbia, Department of Energy and Environment



Anacostia River Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration: Damage Assessment Plan

AREA OVERVIEW



The Assessment Area is all areas within the tidal Anacostia River, Kingman Lake, and the Washington Channel, as well as adjacent tributary, tidal, terrestrial, and upland areas, including groundwater, where natural resources have been directly or indirectly affected by releases of hazardous substances.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RELEASES

Activities at multiple locations over time have resulted in the release of hazardous substances into the assessment area, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs).

WHAT IS A DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PLAN?

The Damage Assessment Plan describes how the Anacostia River Trustees are assessing natural resources injuries and service losses resulting

from releases of hazardous substances within the Assessment Area, and how the Trustees plan to determine damages and restoration of injured resources.

Assessment activities may include:

- Analyses of existing contaminant data
- Studies that may fill data gaps, if needed
- Identification of contaminant environmental pathways
- Determination of injury to natural resources
- Assessment of ecological, recreational, and other human use losses, including their environmental justice implications to local communities
- Evaluation of remedial impacts

HOW CAN THE PUBLIC BE INVOLVED?

Public participation is a key component in the NRDAR process. The Anacostia River NRDAR Trustees encourage you to review and provide comments on the Draft Damage Assessment Plan.

Public comment period: July 17, 2023 to September 16, 2023

Available online: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/AnacostiaDAP>

Hard copies can be viewed at the following locations:

- Francis A. Gregory Neighborhood Library, 3660 Alabama Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20020
- Rosedale Neighborhood Library, 1701 Gales Street NE, Washington, DC 20002
- Anacostia Park Headquarters, 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE, Washington, DC 20020

Public comments can be submitted online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/AnacostiaDAP> (preferred) or can be emailed to: WASO_Anacostia_River_NRDAR_Case@nps.gov

After the public comment period, the Trustees will address public comments and finalize the Damage Assessment Plan.