

DC's new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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Presentation Overview

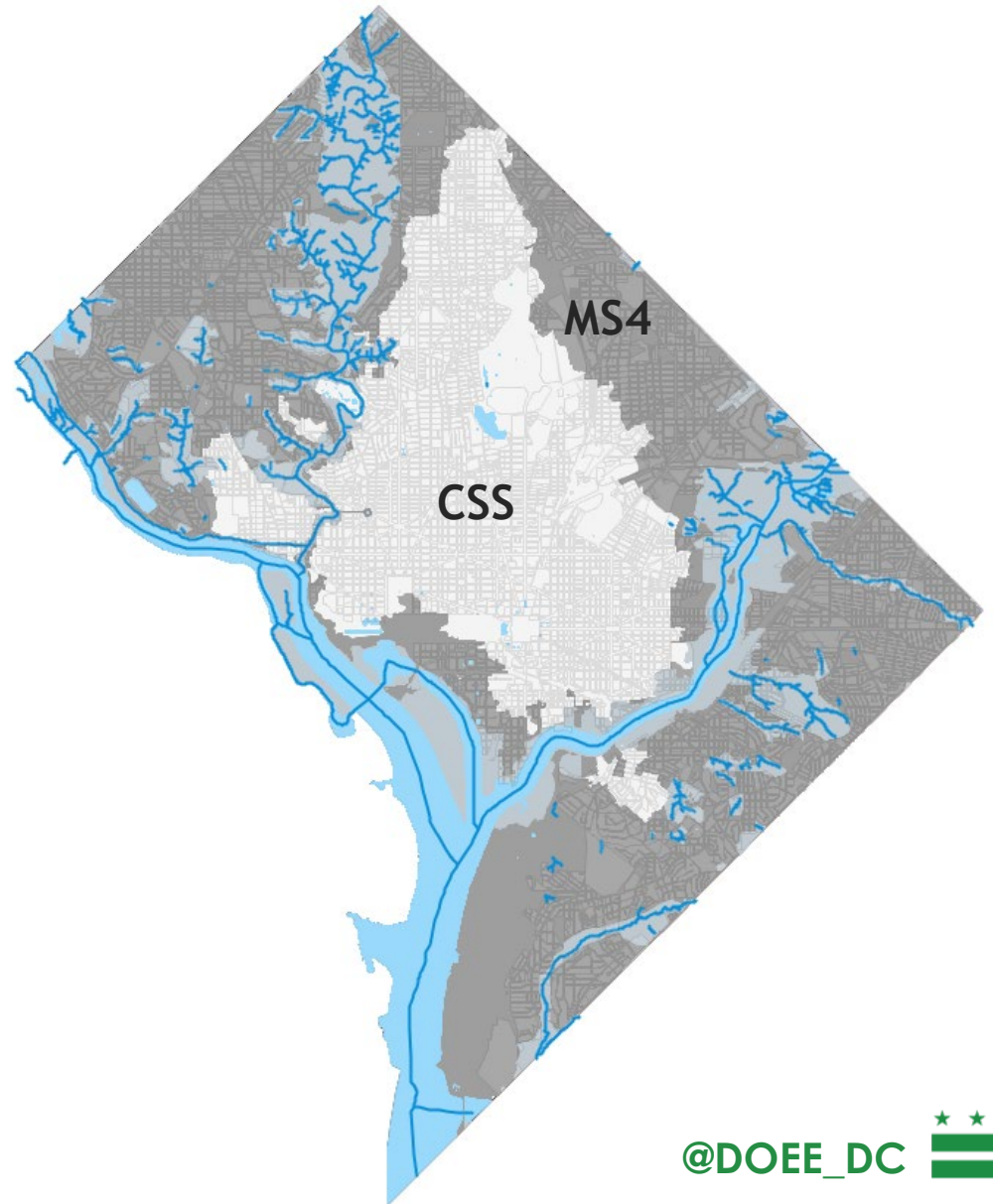


- 1 DC Stormwater Background
- 2 Performance during last permit
- 3 Significant changes and new requirements
- 4 Concern for the future

DC Stormwater Background

45%
impervious
city-wide

32%
impervious
in MS4



DC MS4 Permit Background

- DC's first Phase I MS4 Permit was issued in 2000; currently operating under the 5th iteration of the Permit
- The MS4 permit authorizes stormwater discharges so long as the District completes a variety of specific activities aimed at reducing stormwater pollution.
- EPA Region 3 issues the District's permit

Broad MS4 Permit Activities:

- Pollution Prevention (education/ outreach, good housekeeping)
- Pollution treatment/removal (stormwater BMPs, source reduction)
- Pollution monitoring



Implementation Approach

- District Stormwater Management Regulations
 - Retain 1.2” runoff volume



- Direct investment in public green infrastructure

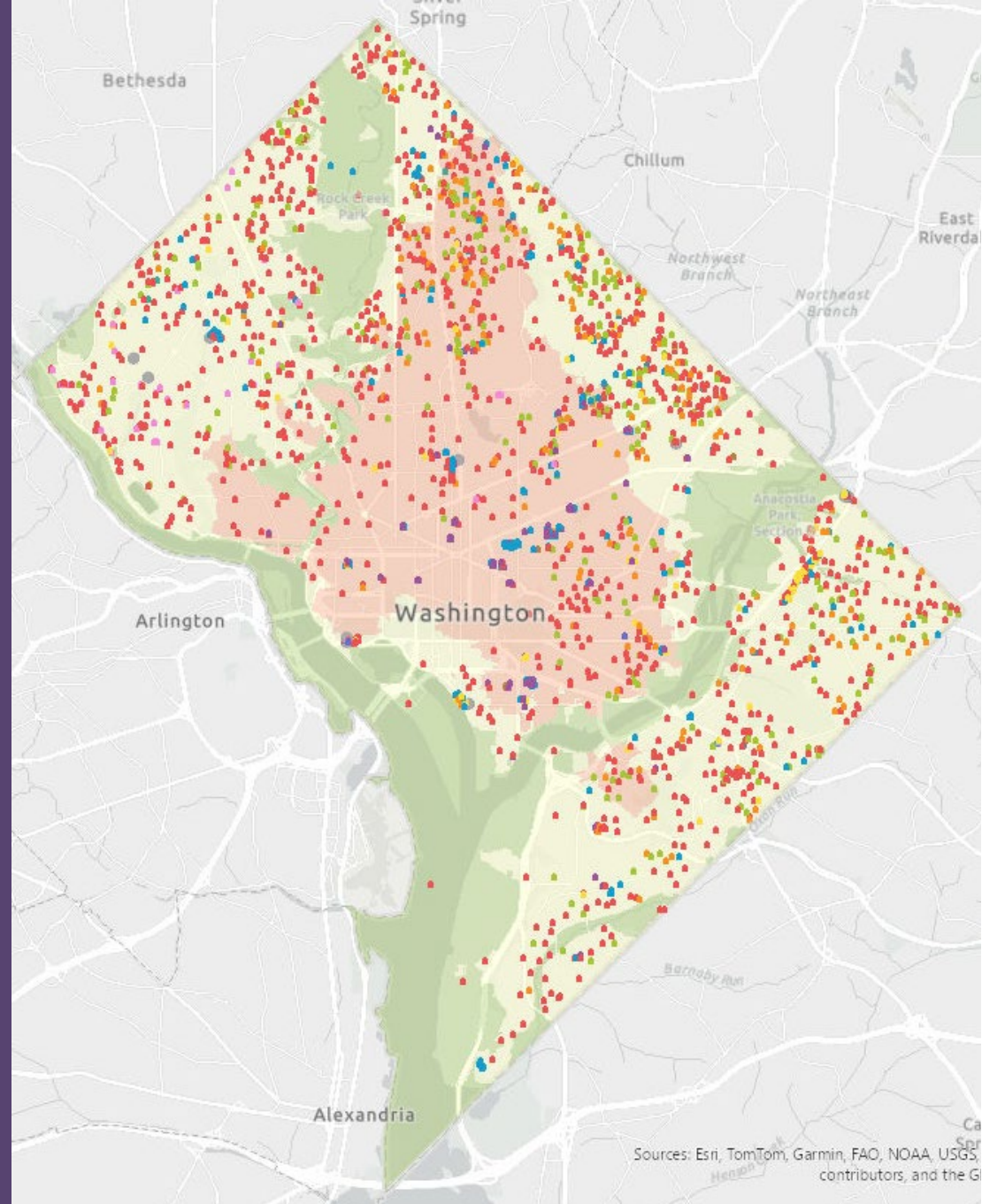


- Incentives
 - RiverSmart Programs
 - Stormwater Retention Credits



Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

1. Bioretention
2. Green roof
3. Permeable pavement
4. Rainwater harvesting
5. Bayscaping
6. Tree planting



Stormwater BMP inventory for 2023 reporting year

Performance during last MS4 permit*

Requirement	Achieved
1,038 “acres managed”	1,243 “acres managed”
350,000 ft. ² of green roofs	1,208,818 ft. ² of green roofs
33,525 trees planted	37,758 trees planted
108,347 lbs trash removed/prevented each year	Annual requirement met each year
Complete bacteria source tracking study	Completed Anacostia and Rock Creek studies
Repair/restore 50 outfalls	Completed-ish using equivalency
Stormwater regulation analysis	Completed, 2 potential changes
Alternatives to road salt study	Ongoing
Establish and implement Rapid Stream Assessment	99% of wadeable streams assessed, BUBBA winner
Centralized water quality database	Public dashboard available

*Actual term exceeded 5 years

New MS4 permit: significant changes and new requirements

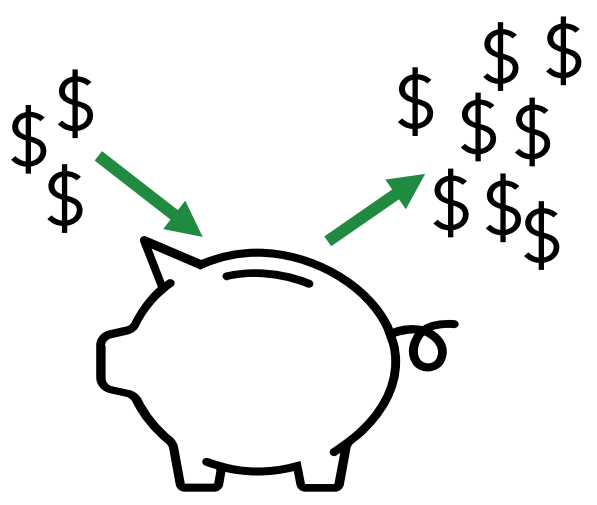
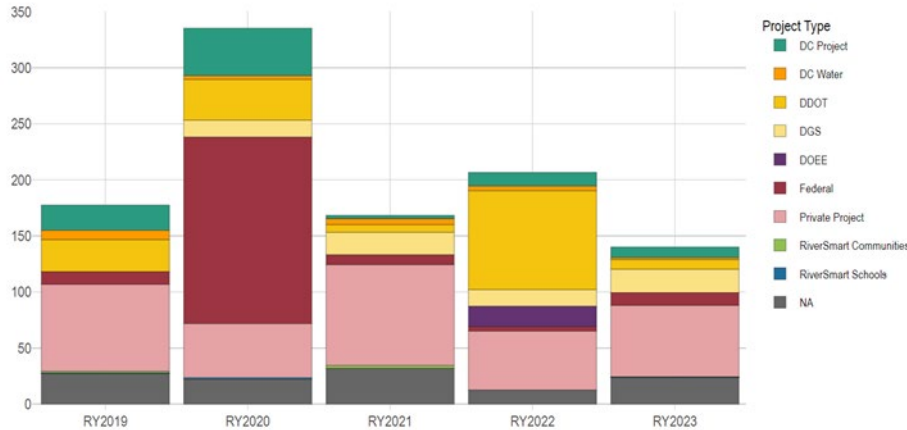
Section	Requirement
1.5.3.1	1,175 “acres managed”
1.5.3.2	38,850 trees planted
2.2.3	Stormwater fee status update (2025)
2.2.4	Propose 2 stormwater regulations (2027), analysis of 2.0” standard impacts on water quality (2026)
2.6	Road salt alternatives pilot (2025) - continued from previous term
2.7	Flood management activities (2028), FloodSmart Homes (2025)
3.2.11	Implement 2 projects/year in <i>priority watersheds</i>
3.3.5	Repair 20 outfalls, no stream restoration equivalency

New MS4 permit: significant changes and new requirements

Section	Requirement
3.3.6	Develop inspection/cleaning program for MS4 piping infrastructure (2027)
3.3.7	Sweep 10,932 road miles annually
3.8.1	Maintain green infrastructure owned/managed by DC
3.9	DEIJ training (inventory 2026, develop and incorporate content 2027)
4.5.2	IDDE investigations (Broad Branch 2025, Ft. Chaplin and Ft. Dupont 2028, targeted pet waste outreach in Ft. Chaplin 2025)
7.3	Use BMP distribution analysis in project ranking, develop DEIJ strategy (2027).

Major Concerns for the District's MS4 Program

MS4 Annual Acres Managed



- Significant increase in Acres Managed requirement
 - Slowdown in development/redevelopment
 - Not enough \$\$ to make up the difference with voluntary GI
- New/increasing requirements competing for already limited funds
- Climate change impacts (GI capture, outfall monitoring, road salt pilot)
- New Permit requirements to address DEIJ and Climate Resiliency

Future outlook for Clean Water funding

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law supplemented funding for state Clean Water SRF programs
- Base SRF funding has been severely impacted by Congressionally Directed Spending (ie, earmarks)
- Once BIL expires in 2026, it's uncertain how much routine SRF funding will be allotted to states each year



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