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## **Washington, DC Succeeds in Removing Floating Pollution from Waterways**

*- Anacostia's Bandalong Litter Trap Quietly Captures Trash -*

Washington, DC (Oct. 28) – A pile of trash is a symbol of Washington, DC's commitment to the environment and clean water. The city, along with the Anacostia Riverkeeper, successfully installed the nation's first Bandalong Litter Trap in the spring of 2009 to collect and stop the downstream movement of the discarded waste of Washingtonians. Within six months the device quietly removed approximately 5,000 pounds of floating litter from the Anacostia River, one of the nation's most polluted waterways.

Storm Water Systems, the exclusive North American licensee of the Bandalong Litter Trap, has joined other concerned organizations in the District today to talk about trash and how to remove it at the Potomac Watershed Trash Summit. Across the globe communities like Washington, DC have installed the Bandalong Litter Trap to aid in keeping waterways clean 24 hours a day. The trash removed in six months from the Anacostia River was collected by DC's Earth Conservation Corp and consisted of plastic bottles, balls, and bags as well as several tires and a shopping cart.

The annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit is a gathering of concerned citizens, advocates, and government leaders in the DC area to move closer to their goal of a Trash Free Potomac Watershed by 2013. Recent studies focusing on the toxicity and longevity of trash in waterways, as well as the documented harm it causes to wildlife, is turning the tide against acceptance and toward action.

"Taking responsibility for nonpoint source pollution such as litter is a new concept for many cities to grapple with" said Gary Hopkins, President of Storm Water Systems. "Here in DC, they are setting a great example for the country by forming a collaboration of organizations to combat the pollution situation before national mandates are enacted. Just as we see the Bandalong Litter Trap as an invaluable tool to clean waterways, we see these collaborations as crucial for the removal of floating litter from our rivers and creating a healthy environment."

Earlier this year, Storm Water Systems worked firsthand with a like alliance of a smaller scale to permanently install the Bandalong Litter Trap in a tributary to the Anacostia River, often called Washington DC's "forgotten river." Anacostia Riverkeeper Dottie Yunger brought together the Earth Conservation Corps and the District Department of the Environment under Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's Green DC program to find the funding and the appropriate site for the nation's first such collection device.

"Advancements in technology such as the Bandalong Litter Trap allow for floating litter to be stopped in its tracks at all hours of the day, every day, free of human or energy assistance," says Yunger. "With this investment, the District is leading the nation and making a concrete statement and commitment to clean water for decades to come."

An environmentally friendly device, the Bandalong Litter Trap is safe for fish and other wildlife while it collects floatables and other litter that relentlessly enters our rivers from sources such as storm drains, roadways, canals, and sewer overflows. To date, 190 Bandalong Litter Traps are in use in eight countries worldwide, including Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines. Storm Water Systems, based in Cleveland, GA, is licensed to build and install the litter traps in the US, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

**About Storm Water Systems**

Storm Water Systems builds and installs performance products to protect and preserve our water resources to ensure an abundant supply of clean water for everyone. To learn more about Storm Water Systems, visit [www.stormwatersystems.com](http://www.stormwatersystems.com) .