

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WETLAND PROGRAM



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

OUTLINE

- Program Updates
 - Regulation Amendments – ILF updates
 - Tools
 - Aquatic Resources Registry + SGS online application system
 - SGS monitoring reporting
 - Monitoring Program
 - Restoration toolkit (Michelle)
 - Inspection and Enforcement
 - Preservation/Conservation Easements
 - Education/Outreach
- Challenges



WETLAND PROGRAM UPDATES

Regulation Amendments

- Lessons learned since 2020
- Amount of alternatives for maintenance projects
- In-lieu fee updates
 - Increase fees to address real costs
 - Seeking USACE-approval



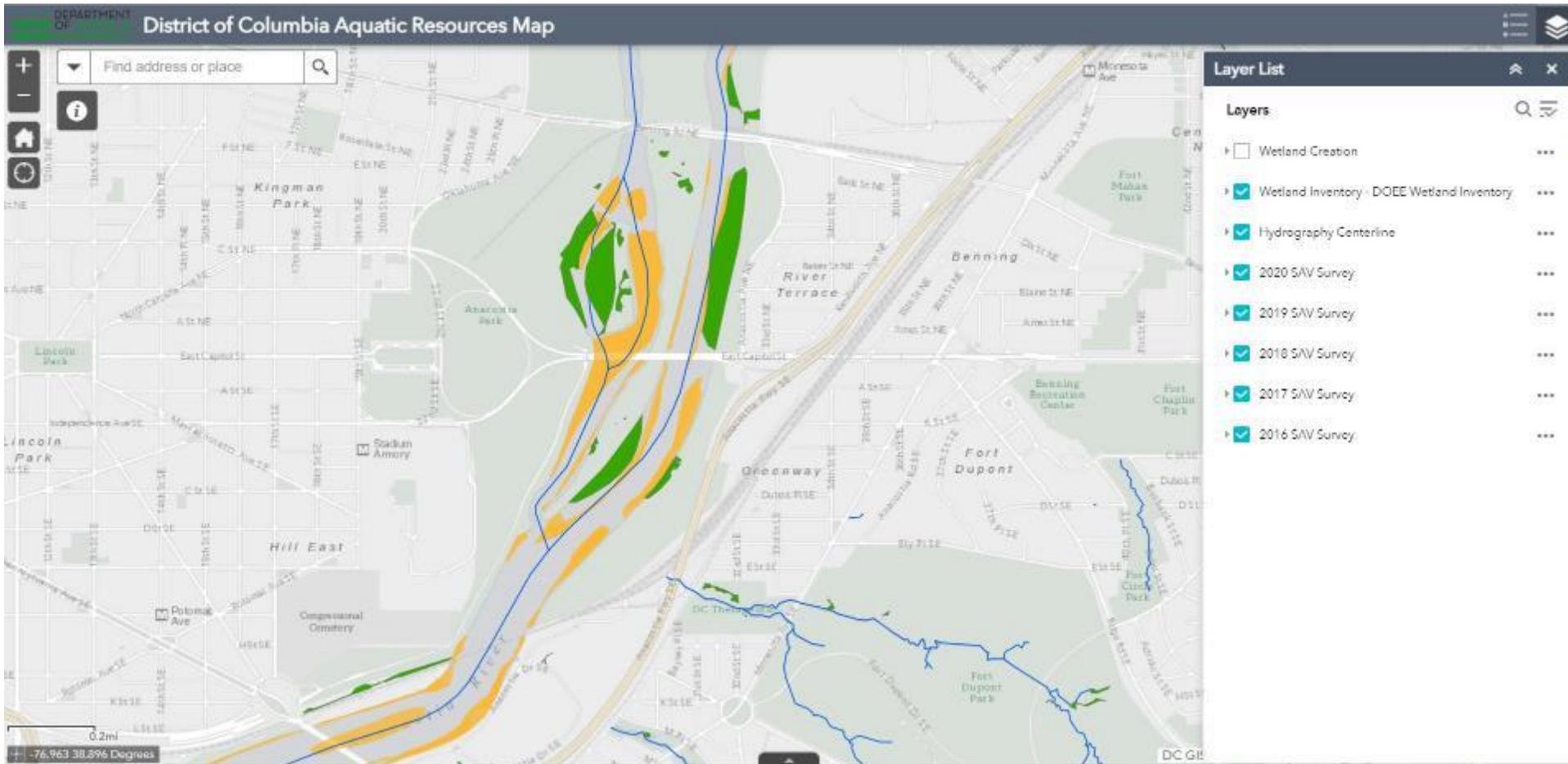
WETLAND PROGRAM UPDATES: Tools

Online Application System

- Surface and Groundwater System (SGS)
 1. Turbidity monitoring reporting
 2. Developed flagging system
 - Adjacency to wetlands and streams
 - Notifications to applicants and reviewers
 - Avoidance/minimization



SGS – Flagging System



SGS – Flagging System

Projects near wetlands and streams

Project/application type	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Well permit</u>	Totals
Status	Number of Projects	Number of Projects	Number of Projects
<u>1. Decide if Wetland & Stream Program review is required</u>	1	-	1
<u>3. DONE -- Plan connected to WSP/WQC application</u>	2	1	3
<u>4. DONE -- WSP/WQC not applicable</u>	16	3	19
Totals (5 groups)	19	4	23

WETLAND MONITORING & ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

- Launched our monitoring & assessment program in 2022. Goal of monitoring all ~300 wetlands on a rotating 5-year basis
- Modified RIRAM plus functional assessment (Highway Methodology)
- Second year of assessments completed (~20% of wetlands assessed)

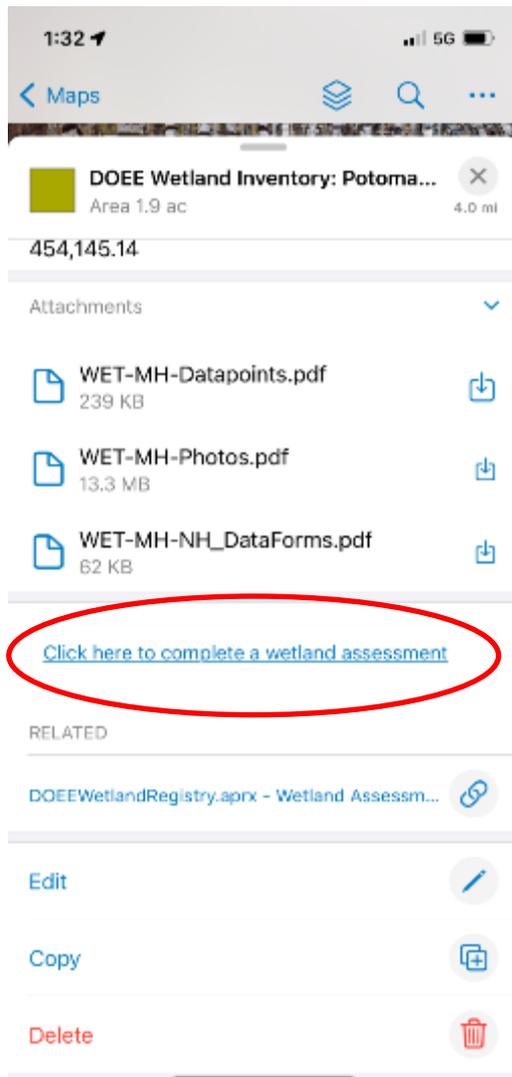


Field Maps & Survey123

- Built a version of our wetland assessment form in Survey123
- All wetlands have polygons in our Registry.
- Created related database in ArcGIS to hold assessment data
- Linked Survey123 assessment form to the ArcGIS wetland polygons (Registry)



Field Maps & Survey123



Link in record for
wetland polygon in
Field Maps opens
Survey123
assessment form

1:33 5G

Field Maps

Wetland Assessments

Assessment date *

Tuesday, November... 12:00 PM

Investigator(s)

Select all investigators present.

- Michelle Campbell
- Lorenzo Cinalli
- Tess Danielson
- Jennifer Dietzen
- Other

Is this wetland in a floodplain?

Yes No Unknown

Is this a past restoration site?

Yes No Unknown

Does this wetland still exist?

Yes No

A. Wetland Characteristics

Attach representative photographs of wetland area.

Camera icon Folder icon

✓

Restoration Toolkit

- Created to track potential restoration projects (small-scale volunteer projects or opportunities for larger grant-funded projects)
- To be completed with field assessments or independently
- Next steps: Creating dashboard to allow access to data for other divisions in DOEE



District Wetland Restoration Evaluation Tool

This tool is intended to help DOEE staff determine appropriate habitat for a wetland project.

Date*

Investigator(s)

Mike LeDoppel

Tom Quirk

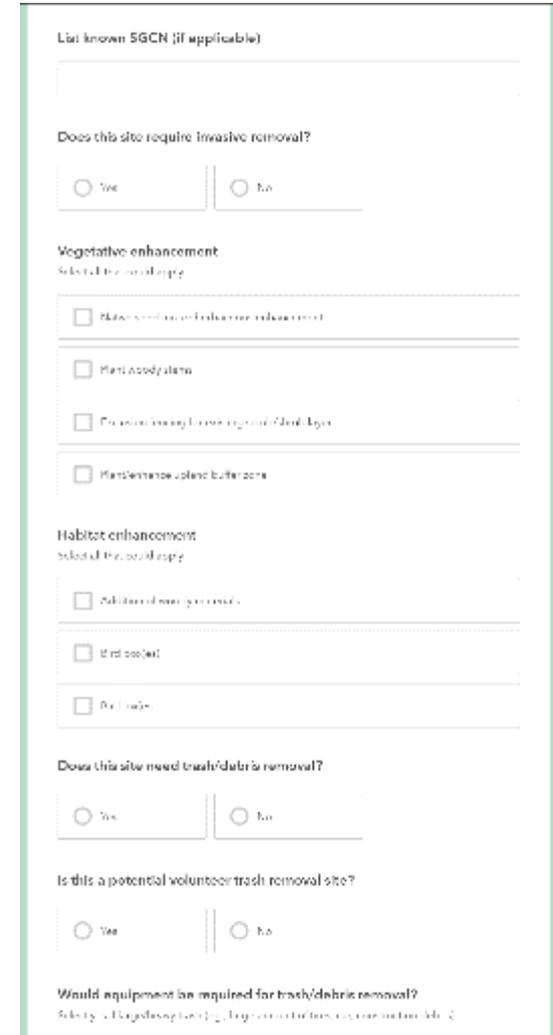
David Eberle

Dave

Other investigator(s)

Site ID (if applicable)
Enter site ID or location or both, if available

Site location description



List known SGCN (if applicable)

Does this site require Invasive removal?

Yes No

Vegetative enhancement
Select all that apply

Plant non-invasive native vegetation

Plant woody plants

Plant native grasses or sedges or other dry-tolerant species

Plant native upland buffer zone

Habitat enhancement
Select all that apply

Add native grasses or sedges

Bird pool(s)

Pile logs

Does this site need trash/detritus removal?

Yes No

Is this a potential volunteer trash removal site?

Yes No

Would equipment be required for trash/detritus removal?
Select all that apply (use Ctrl, Shift, or other keys to select multiple)

Inspection and Enforcement

- Need for increased inspection and enforcement
- Cross-training between inspection and enforcement division and regulatory review division



Conservation Easements

- Casey Trees – first DC land trust
- Preservation option for permittee responsible mitigation
- Investigating incentives
- No net loss



Outreach and Education

- Tess Danielson – expanding DC's wetland education and outreach program
- Urban wetland functions
- Events: Kingman Island Junior rangers, GZEP, Kingman Island family day, Oxon run trash clean up, city nature challenge bioblitz, Fort Lincon trash clean up



Restoration

- CBP \$\$ to restore River Terrace 11-acre tidal wetlands in Anacostia River
- RFA to be released soon
- Herbivory encouraged
- Outreach and education opportunity



Challenges

- Achieving no net loss
 - Regulating sister agencies
 - Mitigation – limited land, urban wetland functions
 - Resource classification – open water conversion vs. tidal wetland restoration
- Non-water dependent uses – structures/buildings/restaurants over water
- Sackett case/WOTUS – loss of federal third party strong-arm

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS?

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