

REGIONAL BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING PROJECT

Flood Ready Communities: Workshop 1

The workshop will begin momentarily



REGIONAL BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING PROJECT

Flood Ready Communities: Workshop 1

MWCOG, ICF, CHPlanning, Straughan Environmental Inc.

November 14, 2024
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Key Partners



MWCOG (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments)



DC HSEMA (District of Columbia's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency)



Prince George's County Department of Environment (DoE)



DC DOEE (Department of Energy & Environment)



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Consultants



ICF



Straughan Environmental Inc.



CHPlanning



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Why You're Here

Communities are connected! Your organizations are deeply embedded in the communities of these three subwatersheds.

Your Voices and Experiences Matter

- By sharing lived experiences and voices of the people you serve, you help us ground our approach, ensuring that it reflects the true needs and values of the community.

We are Here to Listen & Learn

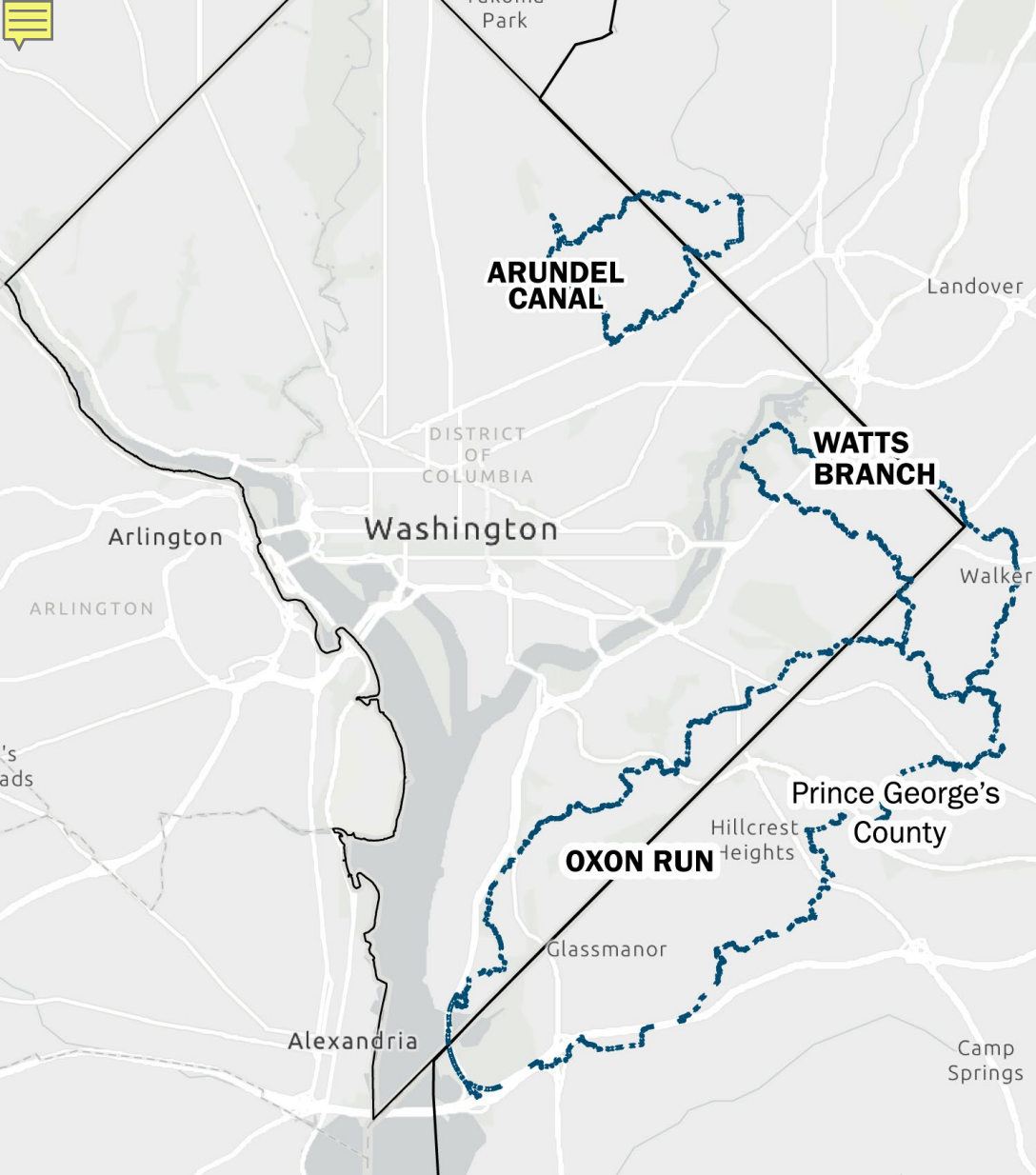
- We're here to listen to your community experiences and learn about your priorities.

Collaboration is Key to Success

- This project is about building a partnership, not just gathering input. We aim to work alongside you every step of the way, from concept to implementation.

Our Commitment: Partnership Over Assumptions

- Before we begin developing any solutions, we are committed to building genuine partnerships that respect and elevate the priorities you bring forward.



Community Agreements

- ☒ Please Mute Yourself
- ☒ Closed Captions
- ☒ Be Present
- ☒ Be Open
- ☒ Use Chat for Questions





Icebreaker

Introductions:

- Please type your **name, role, and organization** in the chat.

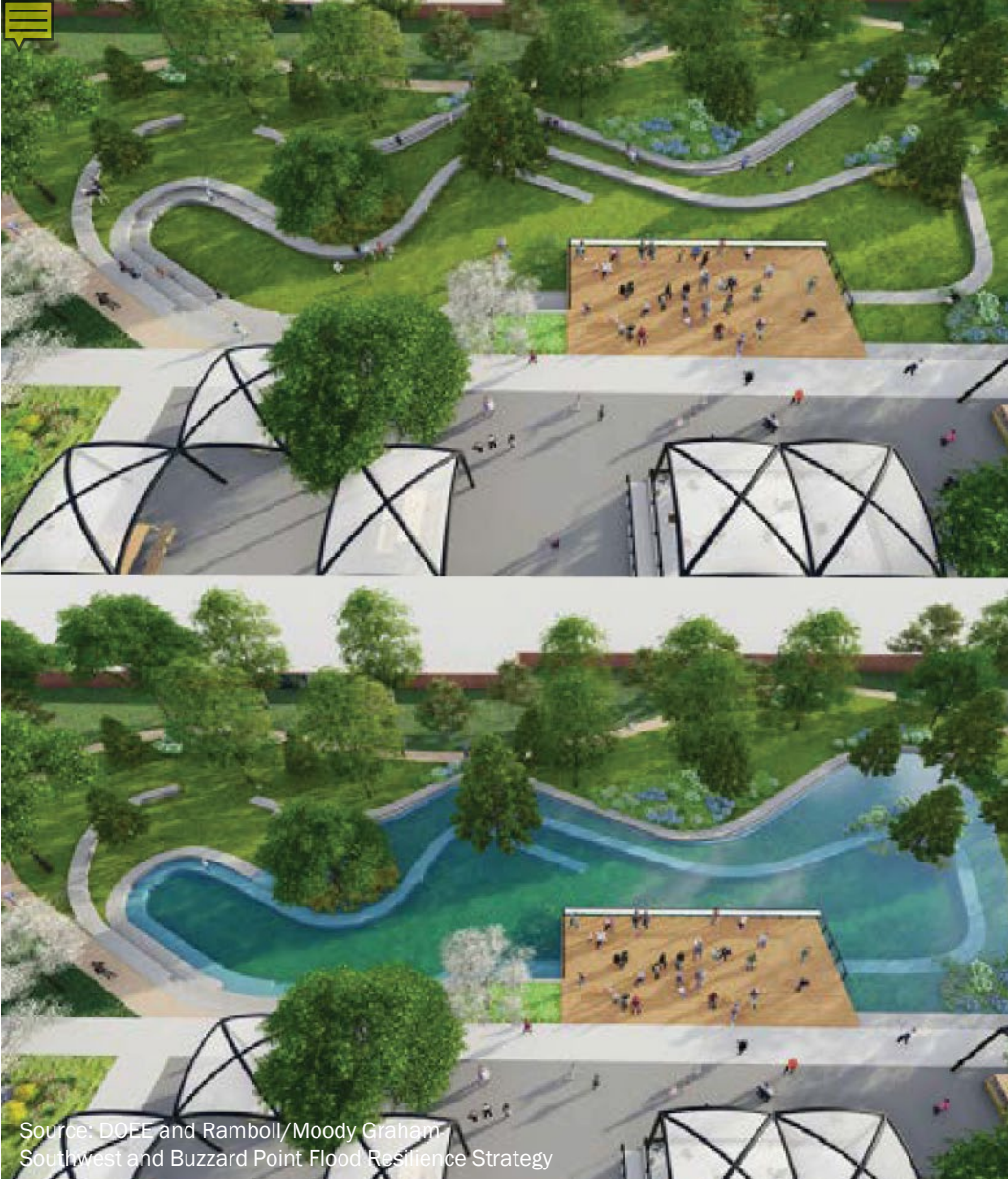
Quick Zoom Poll: We'd love to learn about where you're working! Answer the Zoom poll on the screen:

- **Which subwatershed(s) do you work in?**
 - Options: *Arundel Canal, Watts Branch, Oxon Run, All, Outside of the 3 subwatersheds*
- **Which jurisdiction do you work in?**
 - Options: Washington D.C., Prince George's County, or Both



Agenda

- Workshop Overview
- Project Overview
- What Is Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI)?
- Breakout Rooms: Watershed-based Discussion
- Next Steps & Closing Remarks



Project Overview

Source: DOE and Ramboll/Moody Graham
Southwest and Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy

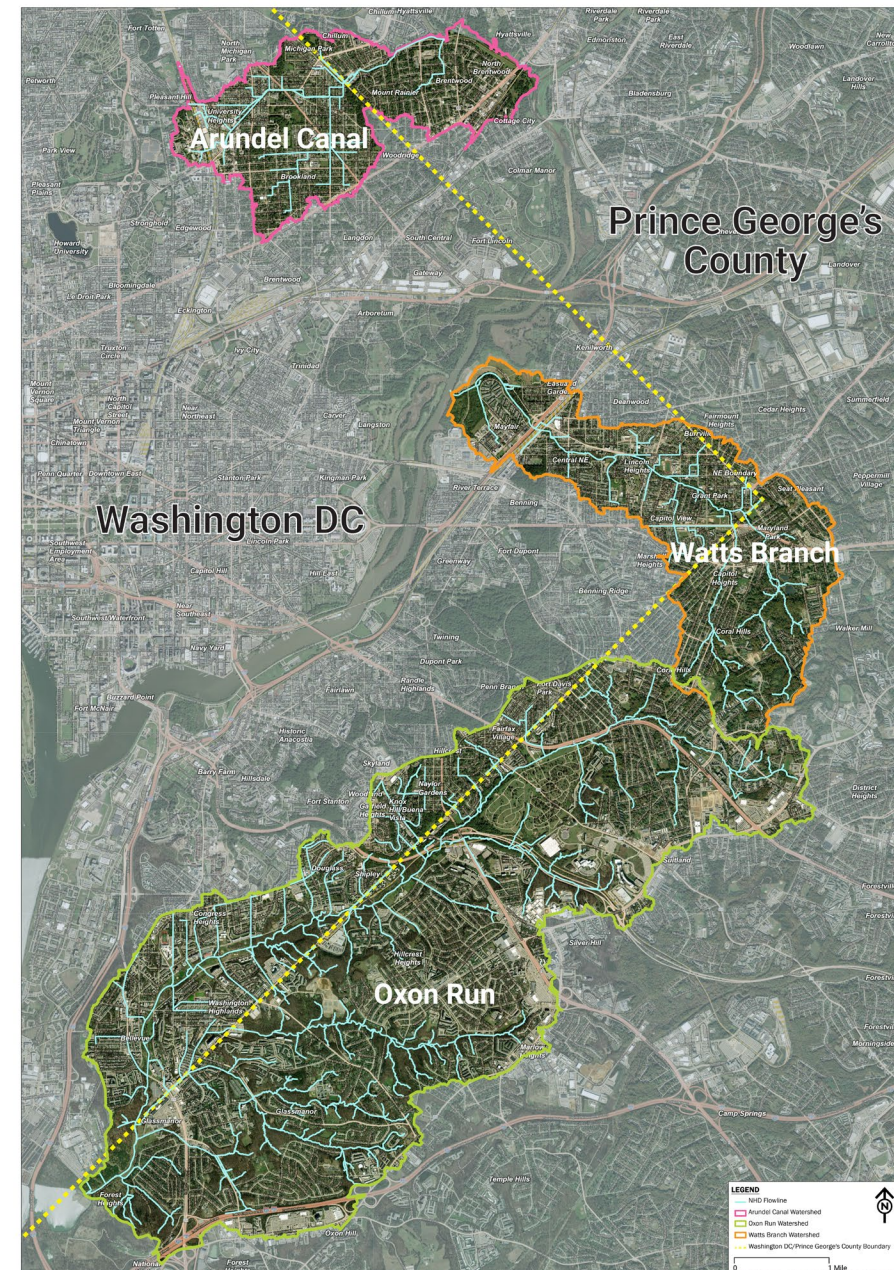


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What and Where

The **Regional Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Community Engagement and Planning Project** is a collaborative planning effort to increase resilience in three areas, or **subwatersheds**, spanning the District of Columbia and Prince George's County to flooding.

These subwatersheds are **Arundel Canal**, **Watts Branch**, and **Oxon Run**.



Why

Flooding is a common climate hazard ***across both*** Washington, DC., and Prince George's County with devastating impacts to residents and critical infrastructure.



Flash flooding at Rhode Island Avenue NE on Sept. 10, 2020.

Why

The Project seeks to complement and enhance existing efforts to foster flood resilience in Oxon Run, Watts Branch, and Arundel Canal, particularly where *projects in one location have benefits for the rest of the watershed.*



Mayfair neighborhood, in the northwestern end of the branch.

Why

Flood resilience projects that incorporate nature (generally referred to as Blue-Green Infrastructure) have *multiple benefits*.



Air Quality



Water Quality



Biodiversity



Recreational Space



Urban Heat Island Mitigation

Why a Regional Approach?

Collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions to develop flood management plans, share resources and expertise, and create integrated solutions that address other climate hazards and community needs.

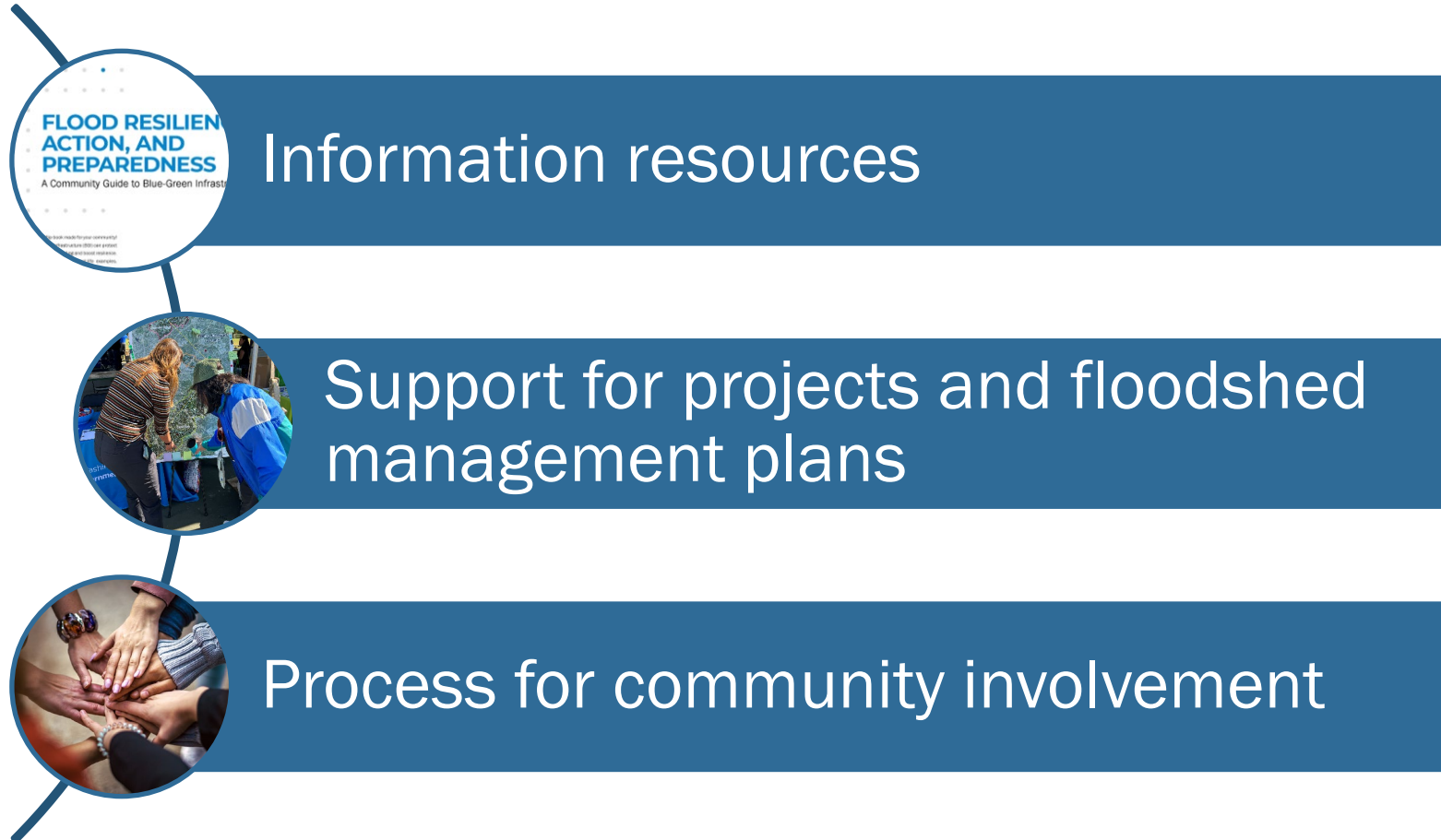
A ***regional approach*** considers the entire watershed or floodplain, addressing upstream and downstream impacts.



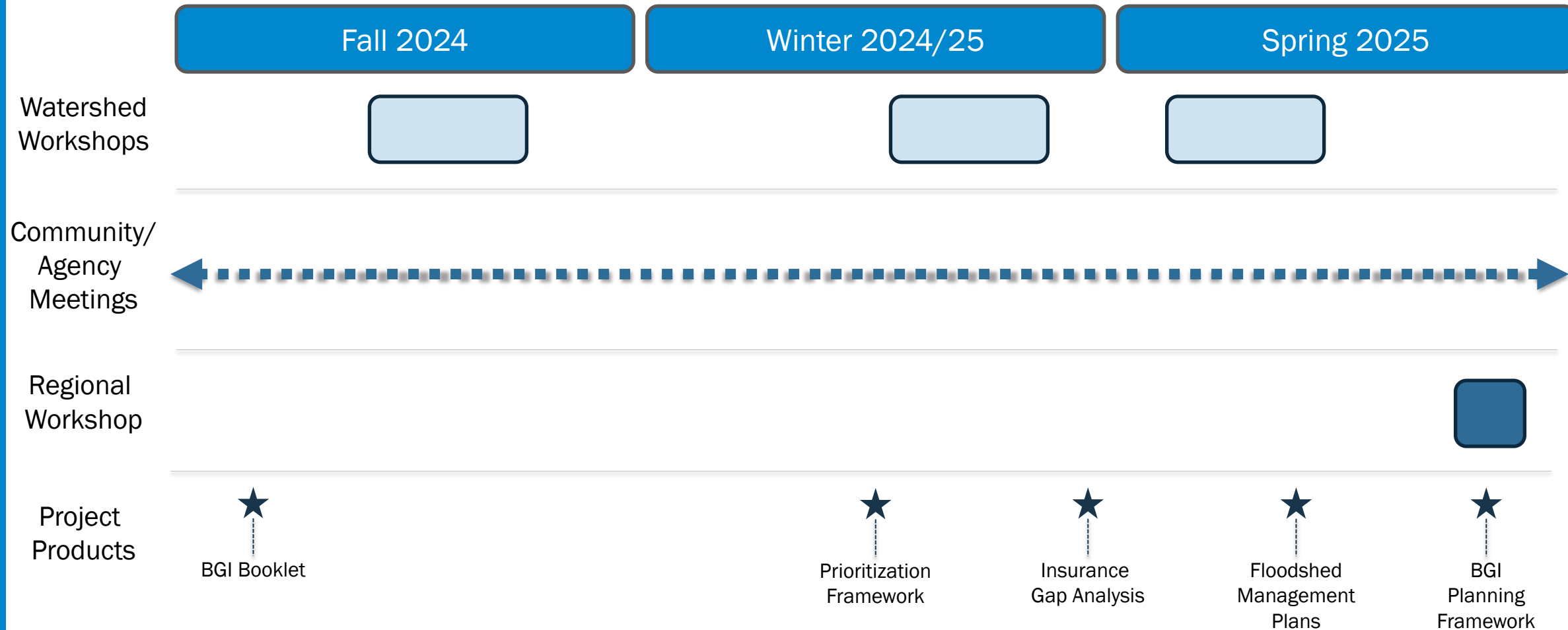
Project Goals and Outcomes

- **Reduce Flooding** and identify strategies and projects for nature-based solutions that improve flood resilience.
- **Foster Collaboration** by engaging residents, community-based organizations (CBOs), and local municipalities to gather input, shape strategies, and encourage participation in environmental solutions.
- **Enhance Community Co-Benefits** Develop project concepts with social, environmental, and economic benefits such as green space, air and water quality improvement, and recreational opportunities.
- **Future Partnership:** Through community engagement and flood analyses, the project will identify potential BGI projects and establish partnerships to seek funding for future implementation.

Project Resources for the Community



Project Process and Timeline





Source: DOEE and Ramboll/Moody Graham
Southwest and Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy



Flood Resilience in 2024



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Climate Change, Flooding, and Watershed Context



Asheville, NC after Hurricane Helene (science.org)



Climate Change, Flooding, and Watershed Context



Climate Change, Flooding, and Watershed Context



Street Scene- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Murray of 3910 Allison street, North Brentwood, MD., wade to work after the night's heavy downpour flooded streets and homes in the area.

Image from the Washington Star, 1955.



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Climate Change, Flooding, and Watershed Context



A Prince George's County Department of Public Works car drives through a flooded area of Allison Street in North Brentwood after torrential downpours brought floods to the region Sept. 10, 2020.



Climate Change, Flooding, and Watershed Context

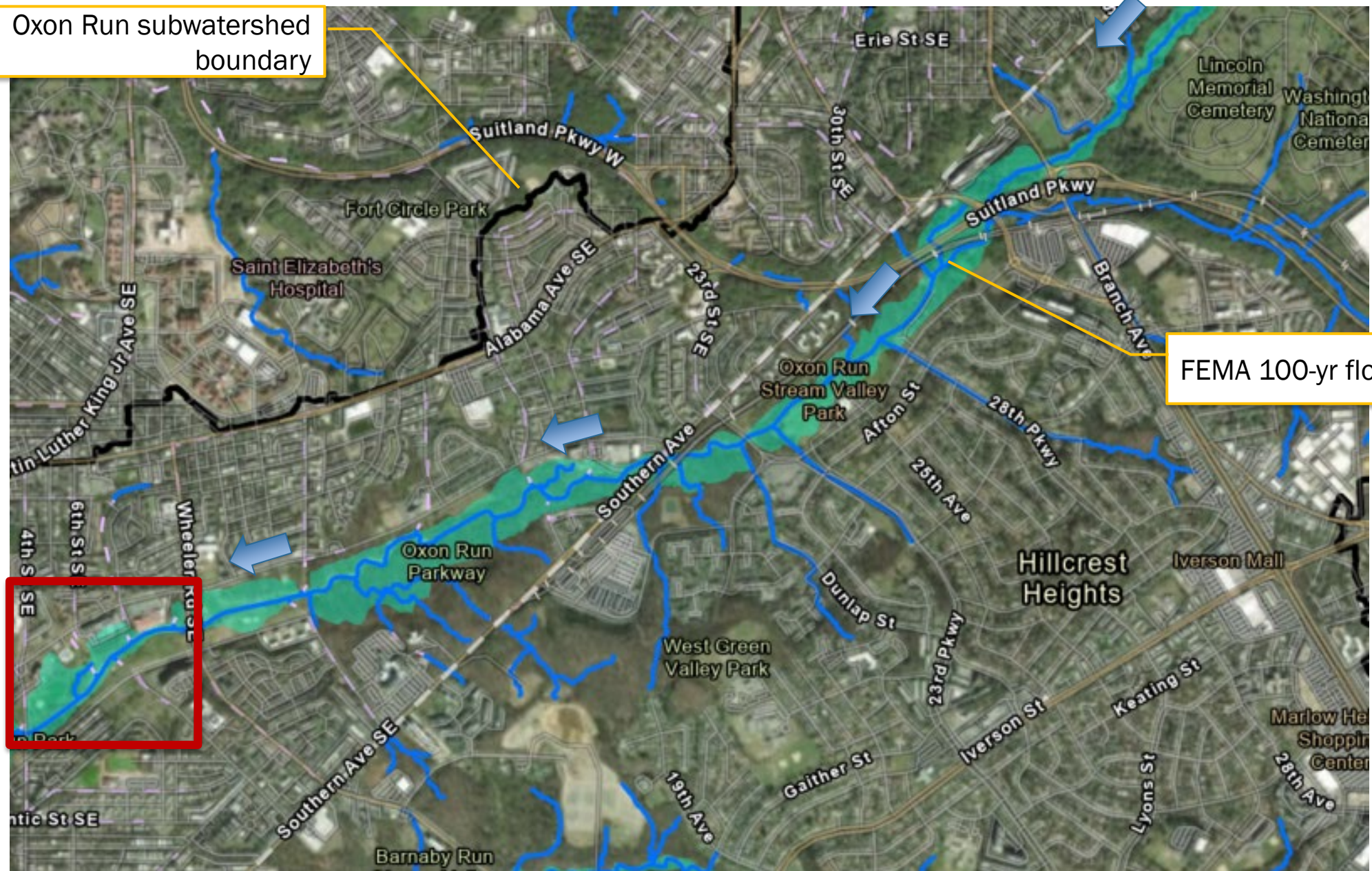


Clay St. NE Watts Branch during 2020 flood (via Washington Post)



Barnaby Terrace SE Oxon Run during 2019 Flooding

Oxon Run subwatershed boundary



FEMA 100-yr floodplain



Oxon Run subwatershed boundary

FEMA 100-yr floodplain

Hart Middle School

Simon Elementary School



What is Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI)?



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What is Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI)?



Examples

DDOT Green Stormwater Infrastructure (multiple sites)



Examples

Oxon Run Pond Retrofit Glassmanor, MD



Examples

Nash Run Stream Restoration Kenilworth, Washington, DC



Community Benefits – BGI

- *Reduce flood risks*
- *Improve air & water quality*
- *Enhance urban biodiversity*
- *Increase community assets*
- *Mitigate urban heat island effects*



Enhancing BGI with a Watershed Approach

- Deploying a *network* of BGI across the watershed can deliver improved flood reduction benefits.
- What sets this study apart is the ability to plan projects that work better together.
 - Projects that improve one neighborhood can benefit another neighborhood!
 - Projects in one jurisdiction can support another.
- This grant's deliverable is a plan. A successful plan will inform future projects, partnerships, and funding opportunities.
 - We are asking for your support to make this effort successful!

Case Study – Regional Watershed Approach

Multiple BGI techniques

- ✓ Floodable Recreational Field
- ✓ Stream Restoration
- ✓ Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- ✓ Tree Planting
- ✓ Pond Retrofits

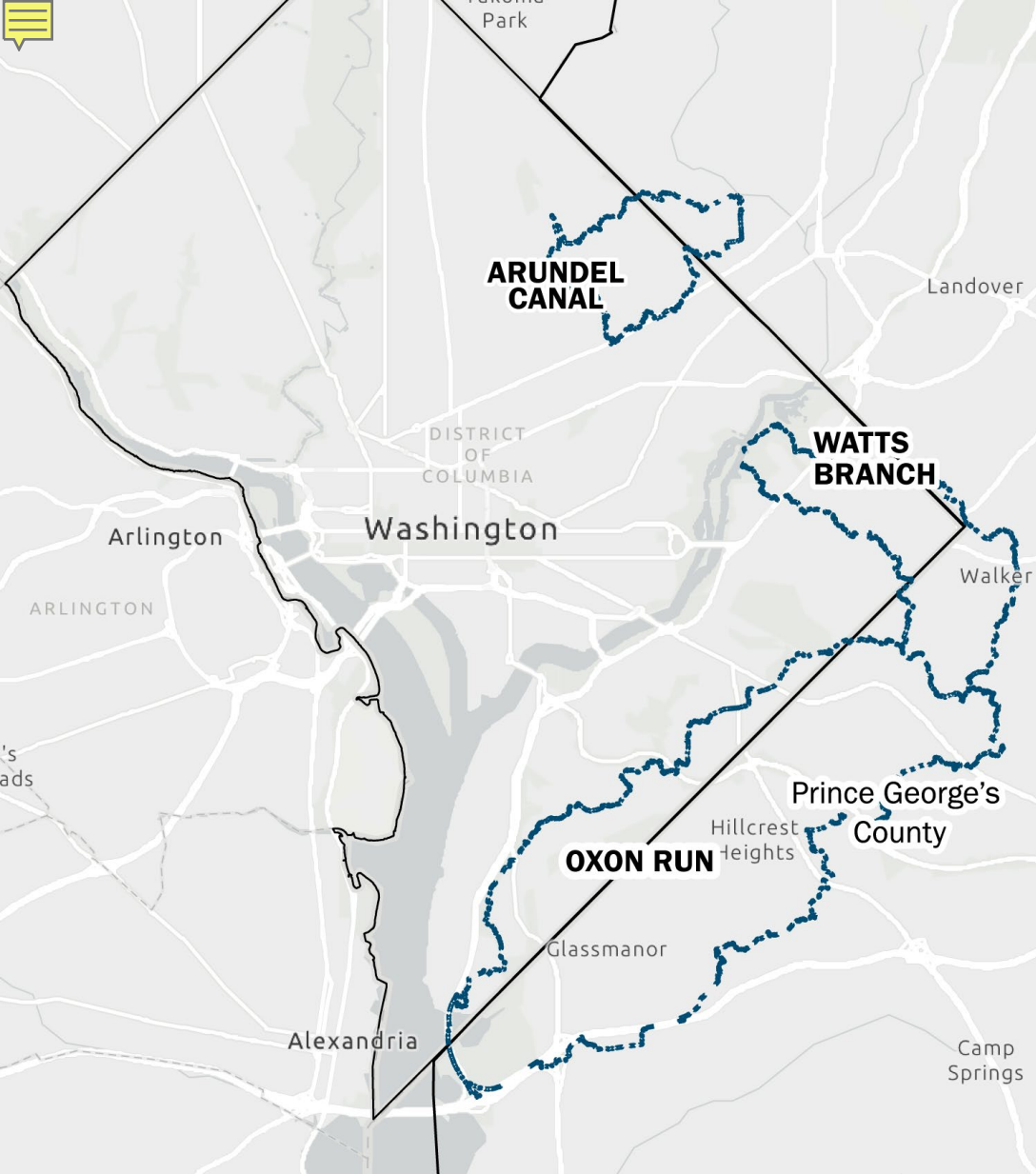
Results: 50% reduction in 100-year discharge

Benefits:

- New community park! With trails and recreational amenities.
- Returned unusable land to the community



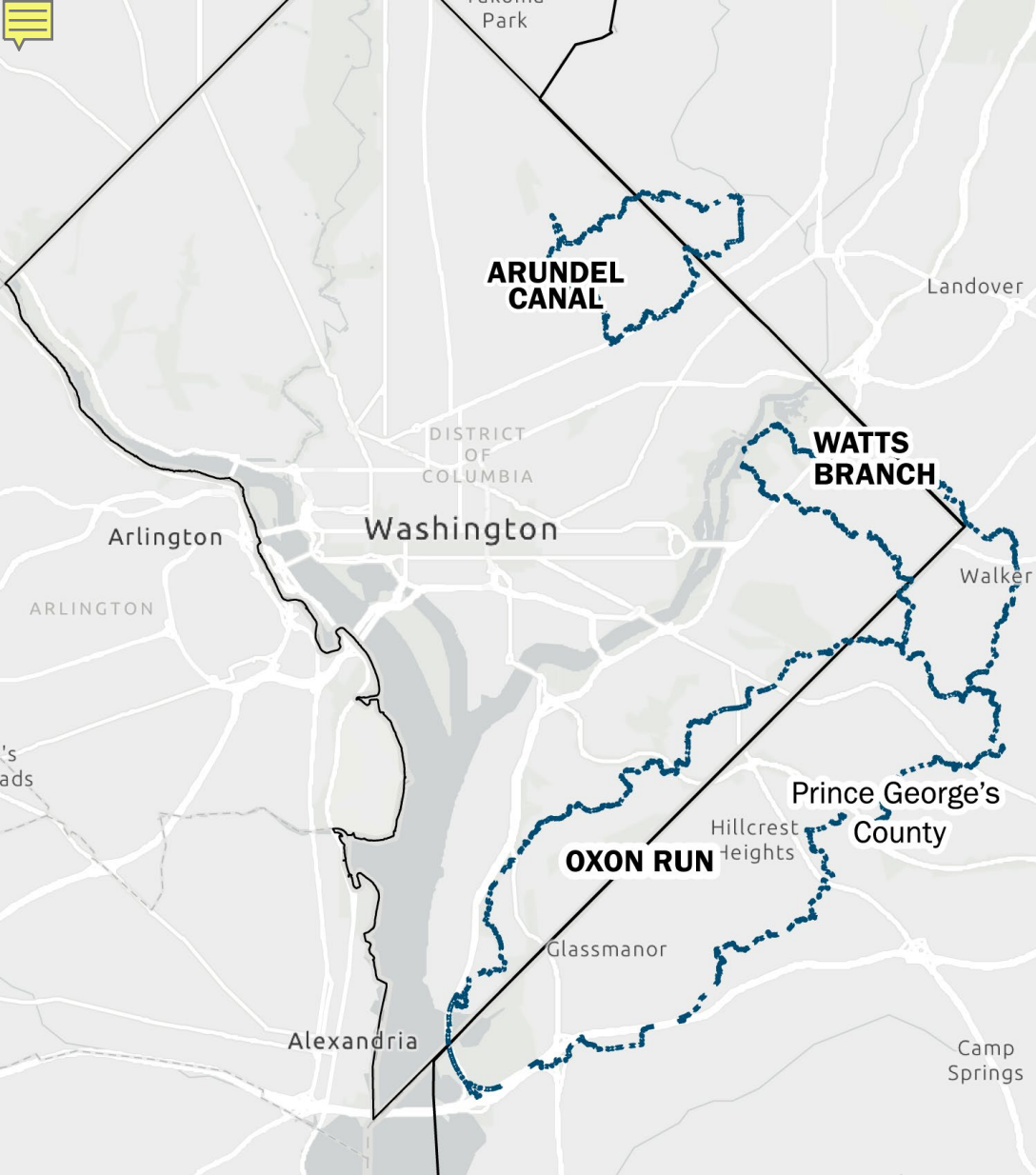
Tweed's Park, Hockessin, DE



Question & Answers



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BREAKOUT ROOMS

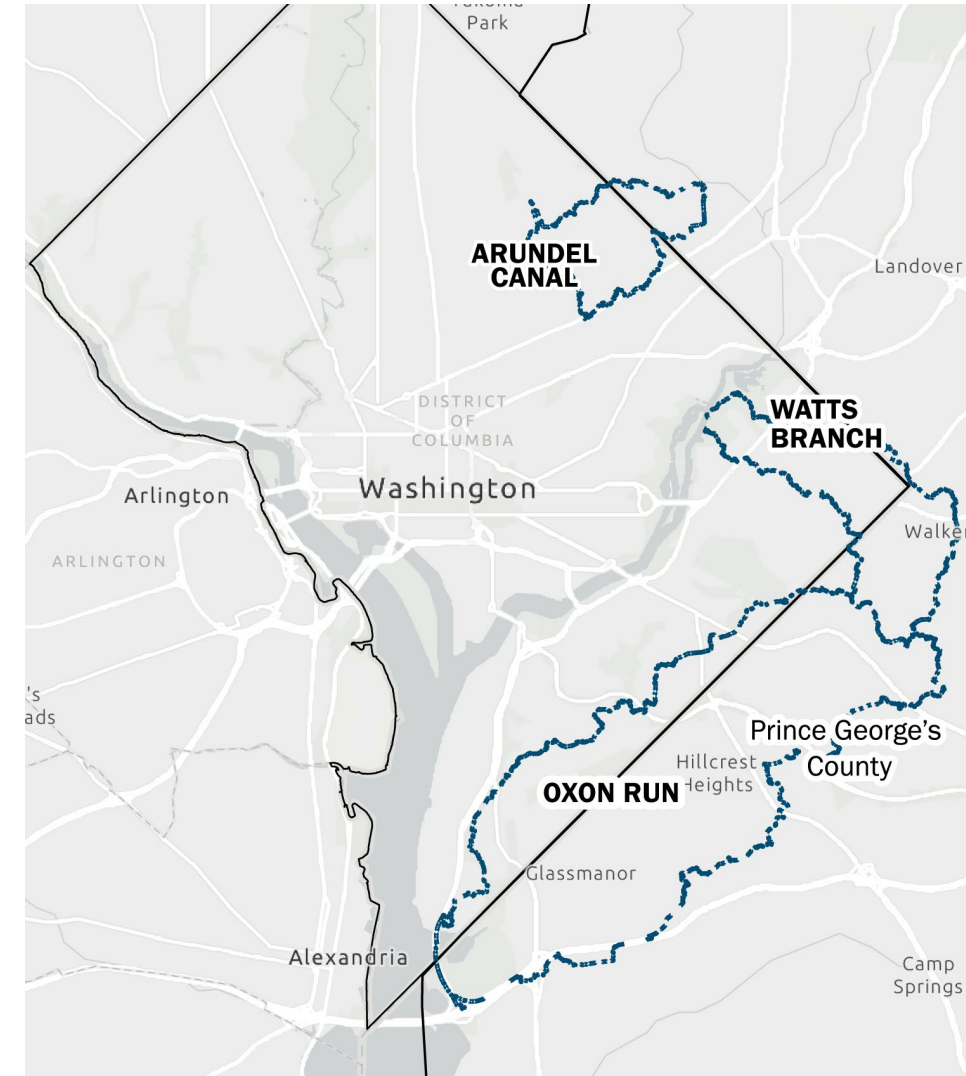


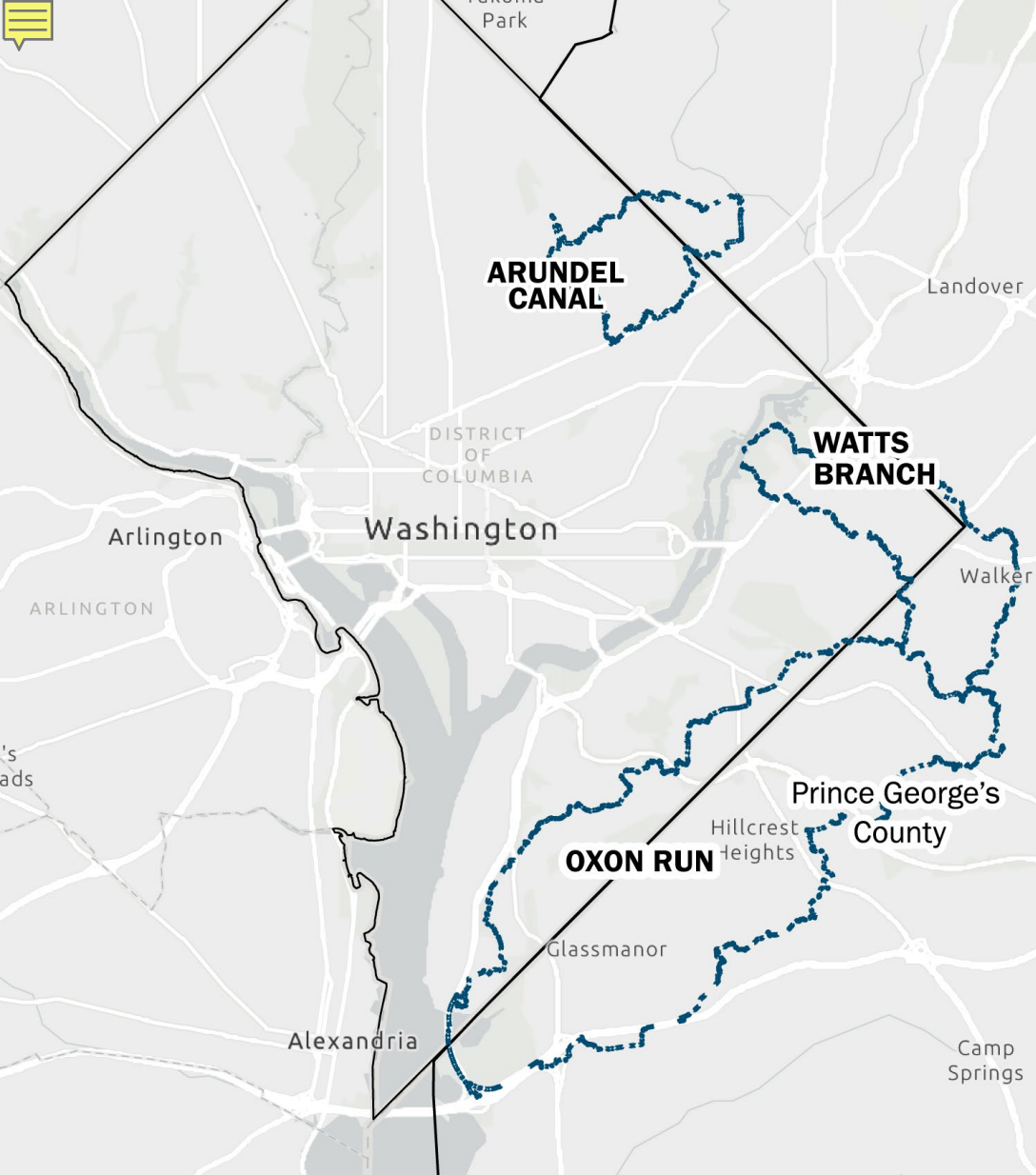
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Breakout Rooms: Exploring our Watersheds

- We'll now split into breakout rooms based on the three key watersheds—**Arundel Canal**, **Watts Branch**, and **Oxon Run**.
- This is your chance to share your insights, experiences, and priorities related to flooding and **Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI)** in the community you work in.

Reminder: Your voice is key in shaping how we approach flood resilience in these watersheds.





Community Agreements

- ☒ Unmute Yourself/Come on Camera
- ☒ Step Up/Step Back
- ☒ Share the Stories of the Community you serve
- ☒ Be Present

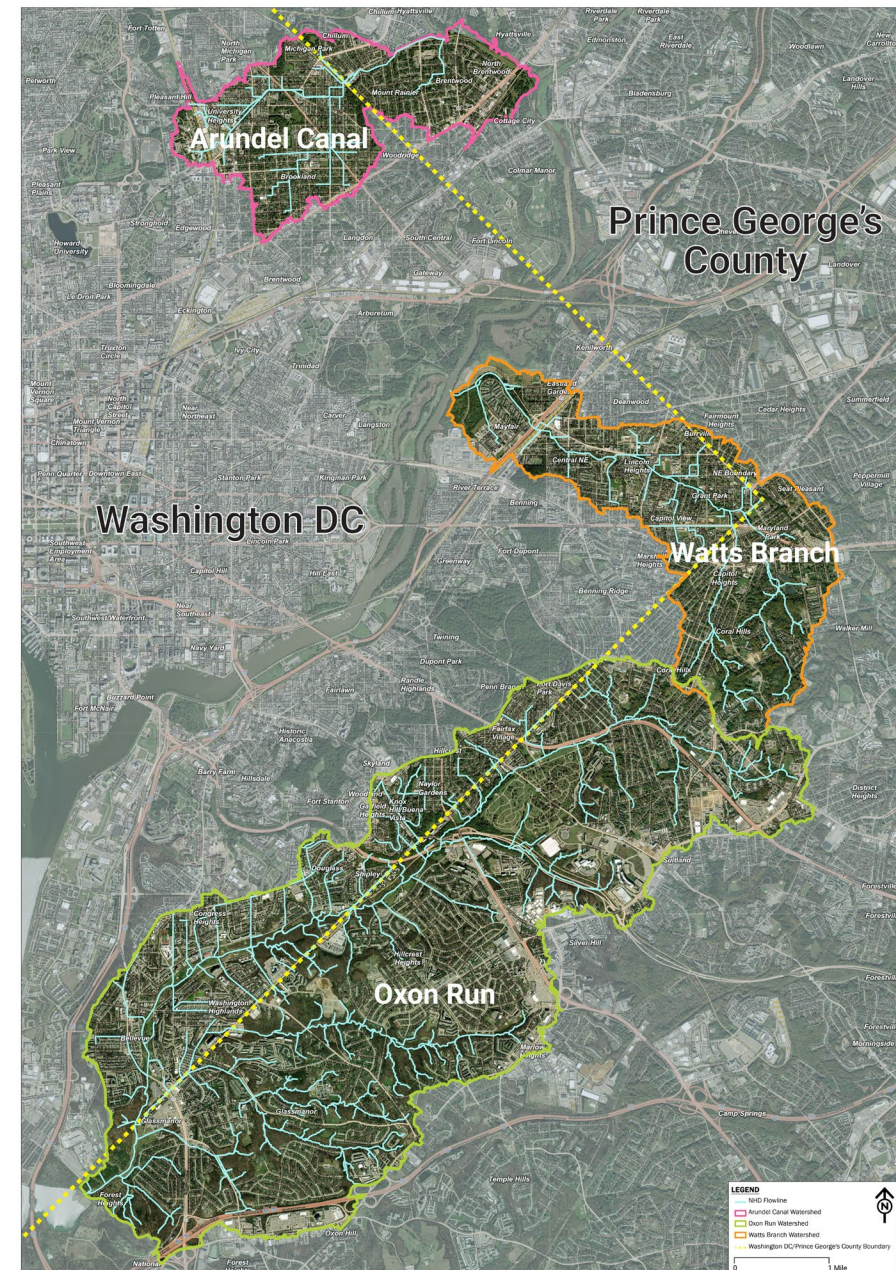


Discussion Questions

Tell us more about your organization. How do our efforts under this project align with your organization goals?

Local Needs & Priorities

Are there ongoing or upcoming projects you're tracking that may interact with, benefit from, or potentially conflict with our project and are there specific community assets or needs we should consider?



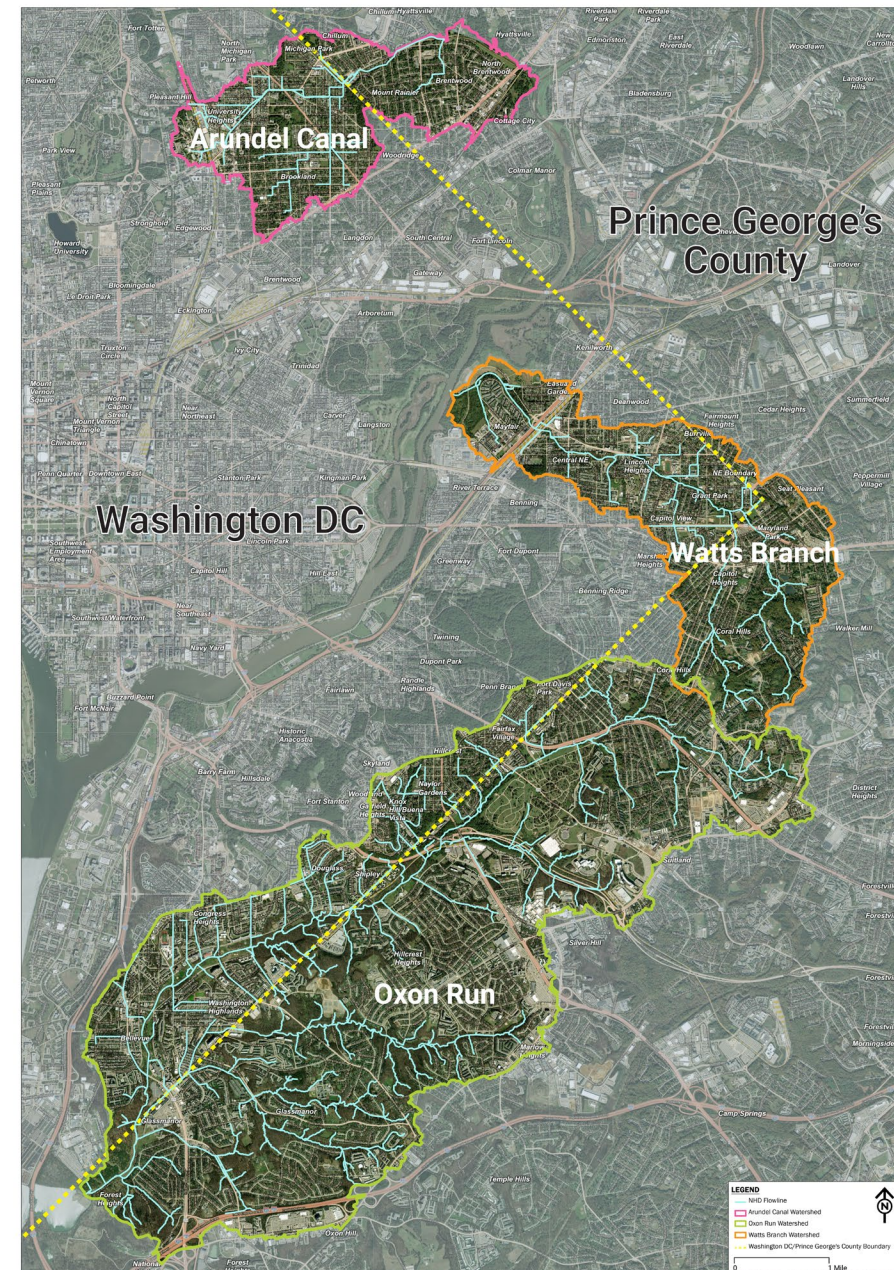
Discussion Questions

Community Engagement & Knowledge Exchange on BGI

Has your organization encountered interest in increasing green infrastructure, tree canopy coverage, stormwater runoff solutions, etc.?

Collaboration Opportunities

How can we make this BGI process meaningful and beneficial to your work, and are there ways your organization would like to contribute?





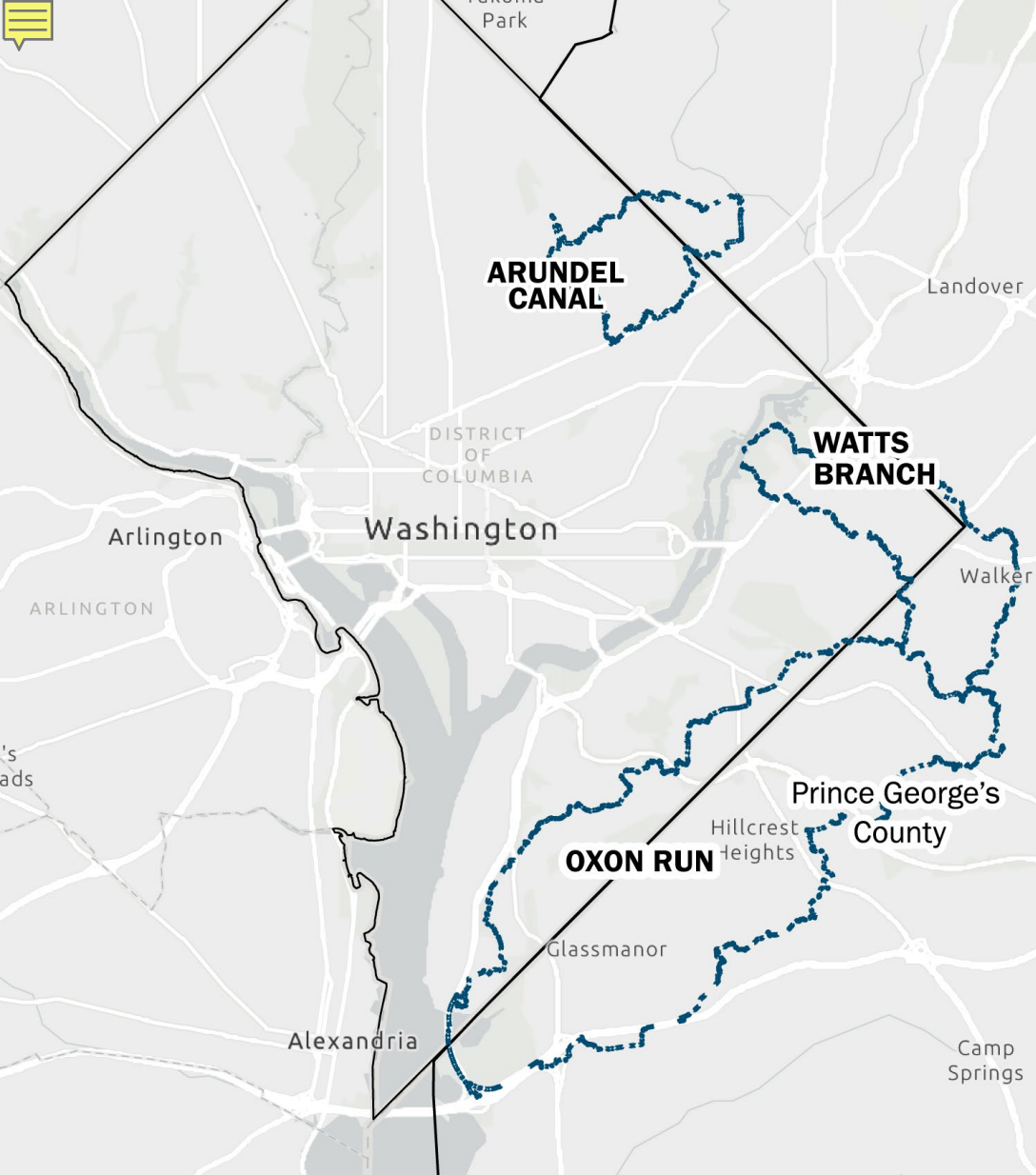
Breakout Room Recap: Key Takeaways

What were the *key takeaways* in your breakout room?

- Local Needs & Priorities
- Community Engagement & Knowledge Exchange on BGI
- Collaboration Opportunities

Have more to share?

If you wanted to share insights related to a different watershed, please email us at BGI@MWCORG.ORG.



Next Steps



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Next Steps

- **Upcoming Workshops**
Join us for **in-person watershed-based workshops in February**. Stay tuned for dates and details!
- **Post-Workshop Evaluation**
Please take a moment to fill out our **Post-Workshop Evaluation Survey** to share your thoughts.
- **Stay Connected**
Have questions or want to stay involved? Email us at **BGI@MWCORG.ORG**.
- **Project Updates**
Visit our website for the latest updates: **www.mwcog.org/BGI**





THANK YOU!

Stay connected! Be Engaged! Learn More
by visiting our project website!



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