



Photo by OP

The Wharf

# High Water Mark Project

Recognizes Historic Flooding Events in Washington, DC



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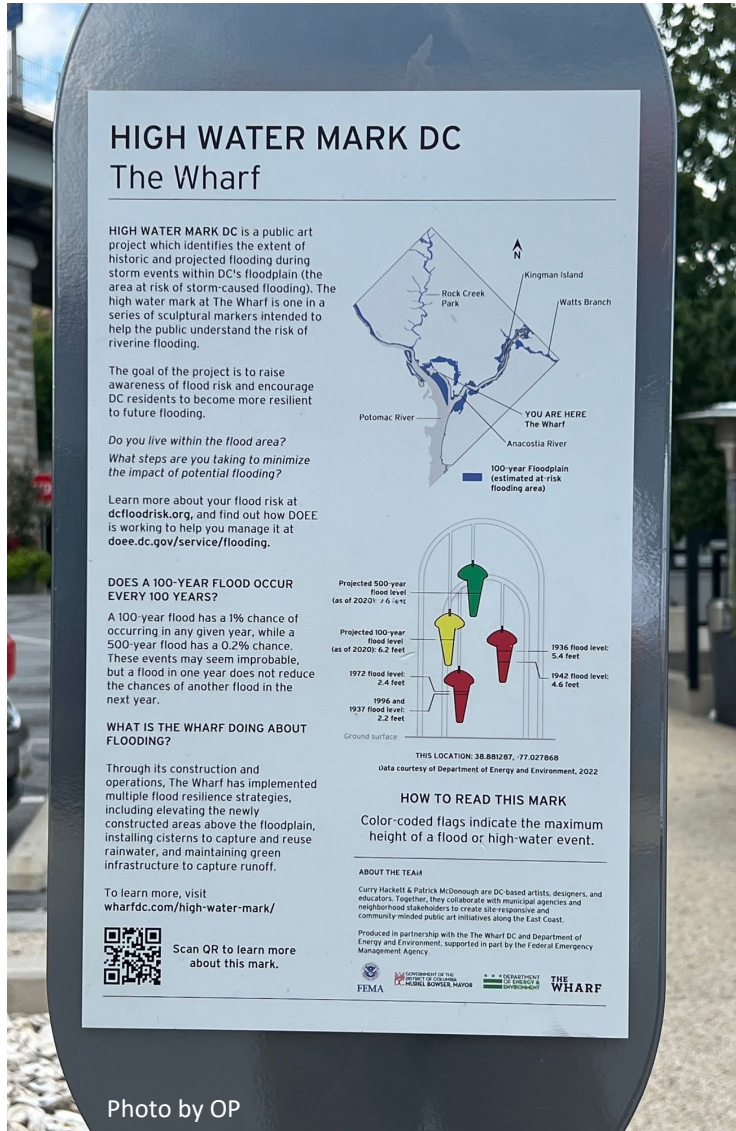


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The High Water Mark Project near the Municipal Fish Market at The Wharf identifies the extent of historic flooding in DC. The art installation is designed to look like floating buoys showing water levels from floods in 1936, 1937, 1942 1972, 1985 and 1996, and higher markings for potential 100 and 500-year flood events.

It is a reminder of historic events that impacted individuals and Washingtonians, like the Great Flood of 1936 that burst dams, wiped out roads, ruined businesses, and washed away homes. Throughout the Northeast as many as 200 people died and 14,000 were left homeless. In DC, flooding crested over all bridges crossing the Potomac River except for Key Bridge, large portions of the National Mall flooded, and more than 3,000 men and multiple steam shovels protected the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial by building barriers of stone and sandbags. There were no fatalities in D.C.

The installation is a partnership between the DC Department of Energy and Environment and The Wharf to help raise District residents' awareness of flooding. The artists are Curry Hackett and Patrick McDonough, DC-based designers and educators who collaborate with municipal agencies and neighborhood stakeholders to create site-responsive and community-minded public art.