



St. Elizabeths - Congress Heights EcoDistrict



WHAT IS THE SAINT ELIZABETHS-CONGRESS HEIGHTS ECODISTRICT?

The St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict is a major implementation effort in Ward 8 that aims to build upon the success of the Sustainable DC Plan (<http://www.sustainabledc.org/about/sustainable-dc-plan/>). The St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict represents a collaborative effort of District government agencies to implement innovative projects that will foster an economically vibrant, socially equitable, and environmentally responsible Congress Heights community. The Congress Heights neighborhood is undergoing many changes including the redevelopment of St. Elizabeths. To ensure that existing residents benefit from these changes, the District government has formed the St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict to implement existing plans and public projects in a way that advances neighborhood scale sustainability – that is, achieving better environmental, economic and social outcomes.

Sustainable DC is the District of Columbia's plan to make DC the greenest, healthiest and most livable city in the country. Sustainable DC is working to create green jobs, healthier people, and more equitable neighborhoods in every part of the city. To help get out the word about sustainability across the District, Sustainable DC has launched a volunteer program called Sustainable DC Ambassadors where neighborhood resident representatives from each Ward talk to their neighbors, community groups, and businesses. Through the St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict, the goal is move beyond individual projects and building-level efforts to create a healthy, active, vibrant and sustainable community in Congress Heights that will serve as a model for other Washington, D.C. neighborhoods. The EcoDistrict will identify priority project to achieve goals in eight categories: 1) Equitable Development; 2) Health & Well-Being; 3) Habitat & Ecosystem Function; 4) Materials Management; 5) Community Identity; 6) Access & Mobility; 7) Energy; and 8) Water.

Starting in Fall 2015 and continuing through 2016, the initiative will host community activities and events around Congress Heights to take action on sustainability issues. Neighborhood activities may include tree plantings, community health days, fitness activities or trail cleanups along Oxon Run. Community engagement and active public participation are fundamental to the ongoing success of the EcoDistrict and to ensure the creation and implementation of a shared community vision that reflects neighborhood priorities. Find out more details and how to get involved at www.planning.dc.gov/st-elizabeths-and-congress-heights-ecodistricts. Involvement from individuals and organizations is desired. We are interested in partnerships - let us know about other activities that will be taking place in the community and how we can tie those to the St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict initiative. Please contact Laine Cidlowski, Lead Urban Sustainability Planner and Project Manager, at (202) 442-8809 or laine.cidlowski@dc.gov to get involved, share ideas or ask questions.

The St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict is part of the District's involvement with the national Target Cities Initiative, a 2-year effort to develop models for sustainable community revitalization in the form of EcoDistricts. There are two other EcoDistricts in Washington, D.C. – the Southwest EcoDistrict led by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Downtown EcoDistrict led by the Downtown Business Improvement District.

WHAT IS AN ECODISTRICT?

An EcoDistrict is equitable, environmental, and economic sustainability applied at the neighborhood scale. EcoDistricts provide a framework for realizing a healthier and greener neighborhood– increasing efficiencies, reducing pollution, restoring ecosystems, and improving communities – through behavior change, building design, and infrastructure investments. EcoDistricts commit to achieving ambitious sustainability performance goals, guiding public investments and community action, and tracking the results over time. Fundamentally, EcoDistricts are an effort to deploy high-impact, or larger -scale sustainable projects that drive experimentation and innovation.



St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights Project boundary

POTENTIAL PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES



Restore Oxon Creek habitat and make trail improvements at Oxon Run Park



Pilot innovative energy projects and modernize Ballou High School



Implement a storm water management Pilot Program at St. Elizabeths East

GET INVOLVED

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