

# Ariel Trahan

*Individual Award*



As the Director of River Restoration Programs at the Anacostia Watershed Society, Ariel Trahan is working to educate students about sustainability and the environment. Ms. Trahan started as an environmental educator working with District teachers and students, and since 2009, has been conducting field trips on the Anacostia River.



Ms. Trahan has engaged students in hands-on restoration projects such as raising wild rice in their classrooms and planting it in the Anacostia River, raising shad fry (the District’s state fish) in their classrooms and releasing them into the Anacostia River, tree planting, and meadow restoration.

During this time, she has worked towards making the District’s waterways swimmable and fishable and increased high-quality habitat through wetland and mussel restoration projects.

Ms. Trahan advocates for environmental education through her work on such initiatives as the drafting of the original DC Environmental Literacy Plan. Ms. Trahan serves as a mentor in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre. Ms. Trahan was also involved in the drafting of the original *Sustainable DC Plan*, and the update of *Sustainable DC 2.0*.

A core part of her motivation for the work that she does is ensuring that all District (and watershed) residents have opportunities to engage with the local natural resources in ways that are meaningful to them.

