

# Trash Reduction Strategies in the Sligo Creek Watershed

Ed Murtagh, Friends of Sligo Creek

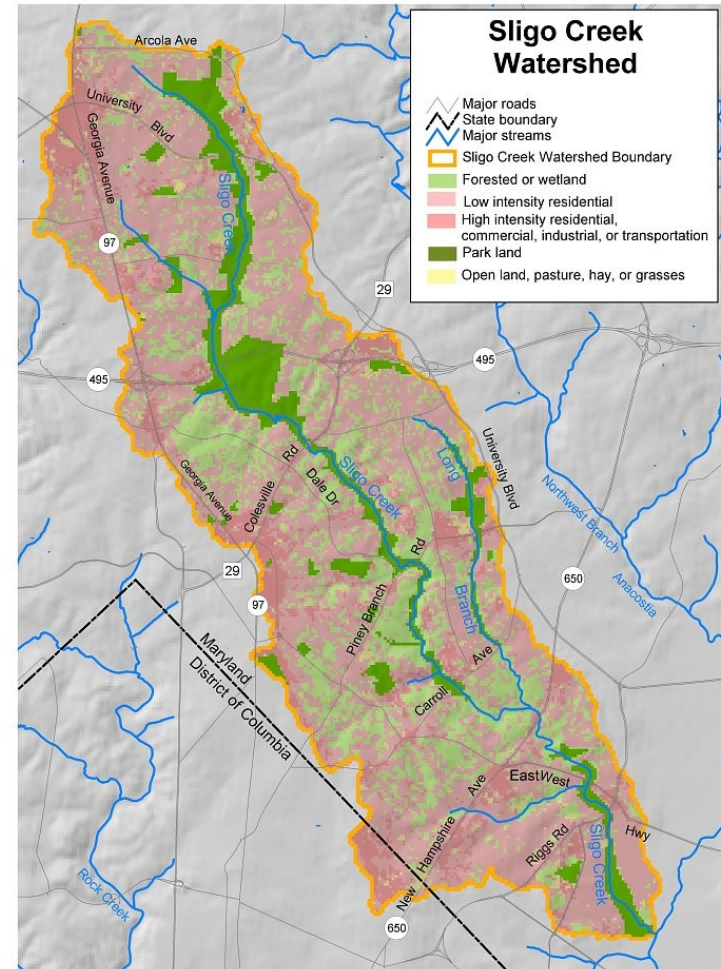
&

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of America

# About the Sligo Creek Watershed

13.3 square mile of watershed, much of it paved and urbanized (impervious surfaces cover approximately 35% of the watershed)

According to COG, Sligo Creek carries approximately 50 to 100 tons of trash and debris into the tidal Anacostia River each year.





# Friends of Sligo Creek

**Friends of Sligo Creek is a volunteer group that has grown in numbers and local influence since it was founded in 2000. We are an incorporated 501c3 charitable organization whose mission is to restore the ecological well-being of the Sligo Creek watershed by bringing neighbors and groups together to build awareness and to take action.**

**Our five main areas to achieve our goals:**

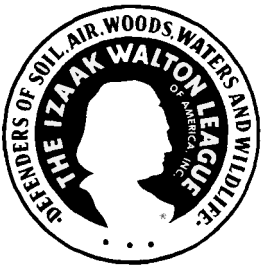
- Improving water quality**
- Removal of invasive plants**
- Controlling stormwater runoff**
- Removing and preventing litter in the park and creek**
- Engaging decision makers at local, state, and national levels to make sound policy decisions for the Creek.**

# Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA)

- Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) is a national group dedicated to common sense conservation. We rely on solution-oriented conservation, education, and the promotion of outdoor recreation to help protect our outdoors.
- The League has more than 40,000 members and supporters in 21 state divisions and more than 300 local chapters in 32 states.
- 1/3 of our chapters participate in the IWLA Litter Campaign by either conducting roadside clean ups, or by cleaning area streams and lakes.



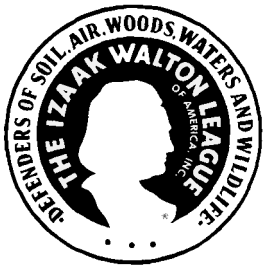




# IWLA Litter Skimmer

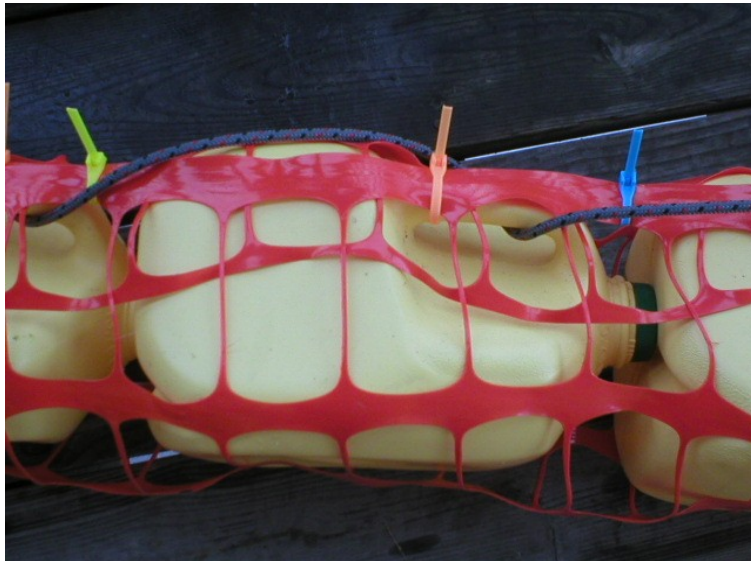


- Skimmers were first launched in Knoxville, Tennessee. The city currently uses this technique as its primary method of litter control. Last year alone, it captured 1,500 bags of trash.
- This year, IWLA brought the skimmer idea to the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Citizen groups, including public school students and home schooling networks are monitoring their “home-made” trash traps.



# Litter Skimmer

- Skimmers are built using milk jugs, construction fencing, zip ties, and rope
- Skimmers act to catch trash being carried in-stream where it can be removed before impairing downstream



# Trash Reduction Strategies

Friends of Sligo Creek has an overall goal of reducing trash levels throughout the Sligo Creek Watershed. Friends of Sligo Creek plans to accomplish this by:

- Regular Creek-Wide Clean ups.
- Outreach and Education
- Trash Trapping Strategies
- Implementing LID Practices



# Biannual Creek-Wide Clean ups.





# Outreach and Education

1. Program Meetings on Litter
2. Tee-shirt Messages
3. Creek Clean Work Days



# Trash Trapping Strategies



March 2004 installation



January 2006 photo after rainstorm

# Implementing LID Practices

**The County's use of biofilters not only adds color and interest to parking lots, but they also clean up the stormwater runoff from the parking lot. It is important to capture the trash at its source.**

