

CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION

Update of Controlled Blasting at the Rock Creek Trail Site CLEAN RIVERS – POTOMAC RIVER TUNNEL PROJECT



Greetings, Neighbors.

This is an update regarding the controlled blasting activities for DC Water’s Potomac River Tunnel Project at the Rock Creek Trail Site.

Test Blast Schedule (Updated):

While we aim to keep the schedule as consistent as possible, test blast dates may shift as field conditions or coordination needs arise.

- Test Blast #1: March 16, 2026
- Test Blast #2: March 24, 2026
- Test Blast #3: April 9, 2026

During the testing phase, DC Water will distribute a reminder notice one day before each scheduled blast.

We continue to coordinate closely with the National Park Service (NPS) to ensure all safety and operational procedures meet federal requirements.

Following this initial test-blast phase, controlled blasting will occur approximately every 10 days through August 2026 as part of ongoing excavation activities for the Potomac River Tunnel.

As a reminder, brief trail and roadway closures will occur around each blast, and all work will remain within approved safety guidelines.

What to Expect

Blasting will take place **Monday through Friday**, between **9 a.m. and 3 p.m.** Each operation is carefully managed by experienced safety professionals, with oversight from local and federal agencies. While work is underway, you may notice some noise or mild ground vibrations, but these are closely monitored to ensure safety and compliance. Marine traffic on the river will not be affected. The process is designed to be as unobtrusive as possible for residents, businesses, and visitors.

- Before each blast, you'll hear an air horn signal and see flaggers temporarily close the nearby trail and, for about five minutes, briefly stop traffic on the parkway.
- After the blast, another air horn will let everyone know it's safe to resume normal activities.

Your Safety Is Our Priority

All blasting is conducted under strict safety protocols. There is no danger to residents, businesses, or visitors. Our team works closely with the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Metropolitan Police Department, and National Park Service to ensure every operation is safe and well-coordinated.

About the Project

The Potomac River Tunnel is the next major phase of DC Water's Clean Rivers Project to help make our rivers and Chesapeake Bay healthier. During heavy rain, stormwater runoff and untreated wastewater can sometimes overflow into the Potomac River. Once in operation, the tunnel network will capture and redirect these overflows to DC Water's treatment plant.

This will reduce the volume of combined stormwater and wastewater entering the Potomac by up to 93%, and the frequency of these events from 74 to just four in an average year of rain, ensuring compliance with a 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered by DC Water, District of Columbia, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended in January 2016.

Stay Connected

Stay connected with us via the following channels:

- Project Email: dcpotomacrivertunnel@dcwater.com
- Project Website: www.dewater.com/prt
- Dedicated Project Hotline: 202-972-1388
- DC Water 24-hour Emergency: 202-612-3400