

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION: CLARA BARTON PARKWAY NEAR ROCK RUN



A part of DC Water's Potomac Interceptor Program



CONTACT INFO

Potomac Interceptor Rehab
dcwater.com/potomacinterceptor
Potomac.interceptor@dewater.com
202-787-4096

DC Water 24-Hour Emergency Center
202-612-3400

In the Spring/Summer 2026, DC Water launched the next phase of repairs, along a 2,700-foot section of the Potomac Interceptor along Clara Barton Parkway near the I-495 exit to Lock 10 of the C & O Canal. Crews are already on site preparing for the work—digging access areas and delivering materials needed to install a new pipe inside the existing sewer line.

This portion of the Interceptor ranging from 72-inch to 66-inch in diameter is part of a critical regional sewer system that carries 60 million gallons of wastewater every day from communities near Washington Dulles International Airport, crossing under the Potomac River, continuing through Maryland and into Washington, DC where it's treated at DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The repairs, which were previously planned but had not yet started, were accelerated after the January 19, 2026 sewer line collapse and spill. The focus of the work is to strengthen the long-term reliability of the system and prevent future issues.

To rehabilitate the pipe, DC Water will use a method called slip lining, installing new, slightly smaller pipe sections into the existing one to form a new pipe inside. At the same time a temporary bypass system will keep wastewater flowing safely around the work area, so service isn't disrupted. This allows crews to restore the structural integrity of the pipe, with less extensive digging and impacts to the surrounding area.

This effort is part of DC Water's 10-year, \$625 million project to rehabilitate this aging infrastructure and keep the Potomac Interceptor safe and reliable for years to come. More information about the process and what to expect can be found on the back.

POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR REHAB

SCHEDULE

- Late Summer 2026 to February 2027
- 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JANUARY 19

A section of the Potomac Interceptor collapsed resulting in significant overflow into the C & O Canal National Historic Park and Potomac River.

JANUARY 24

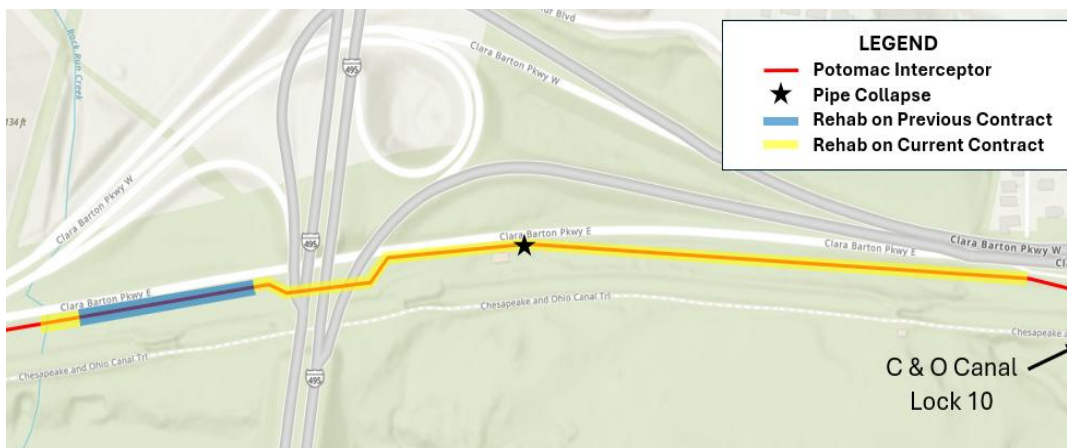
Utilizing powerful pumps and the C & O Canal, wastewater was rerouted around the collapsed section of pipe and back into the sewer system.

MARCH 14

Emergency repairs were completed and the flow was successfully returned to the Potomac Interceptor.

JUNE 17

Long-term rehabilitation efforts began with bypass pumping deliveries and installation in preparation for rehabilitation work.



WHAT IS SLIPLINING?

SLIPLINING- A common method to repair or rehabilitate existing sewer lines, water mains, and storm drains, by inserting a new, smaller pipe (the liner) inside the existing pipe. The process requires minimal excavation, making it less disruptive. Instead the liner is pushed or pulled into the existing pipe, and the space between the two pipes is sealed with grout or other materials. This strengthens the pipe with a new, corrosion resistant pipe, restoring the line to like-new conditions.

WHAT IS BYPASS PUMPING?

BYPASS PUMPING- A temporary method used to keep wastewater flowing when a section of the pipe is taken out of service. Pumps, hoses and above-ground temporary piping systems are set up to divert sewage around the work area, allowing crews to safely repair or rehabilitate the existing sewer line without interrupting service.

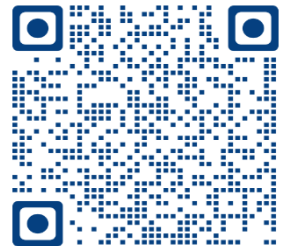


(Photo 1): Shows a typical launch and receiving pit where new pipe segments are pushed into the existing sewer pipe.



(Photo 2): Shows a typical bypassing pumping system. Pumping the wastewater out from a location and diverting it to a location around the work area.

Scan the QR code for more information on the Potomac Interceptor.



Scan here →

POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR HISTORY AND FACTS

1960- The 86th U.S. Congress authorized Public Law 86-515 for the funding and construction of the Potomac Interceptor on June 12, 1960.

1964- The Potomac Interceptor, tying northern Fairfax County and parts of Loudoun County, and Montgomery County, to the DC Blue Plains plant, is christened with its first sewage flows.

The Potomac Interceptor serves parts of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, Town of Vienna, Herndon, Dulles Airport in VA, and Montgomery County, MD.

■ Blue Plains Service Area

— Potomac Interceptor

★ Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant



54+

Potomac Interceptor length in miles

11

Tunnel sections

2

River Tunnel Crossings

36"-96"

Diameter in inches of pipe size on Potomac Interceptor