

Piney Branch Tunnel Project

FACTSHEET

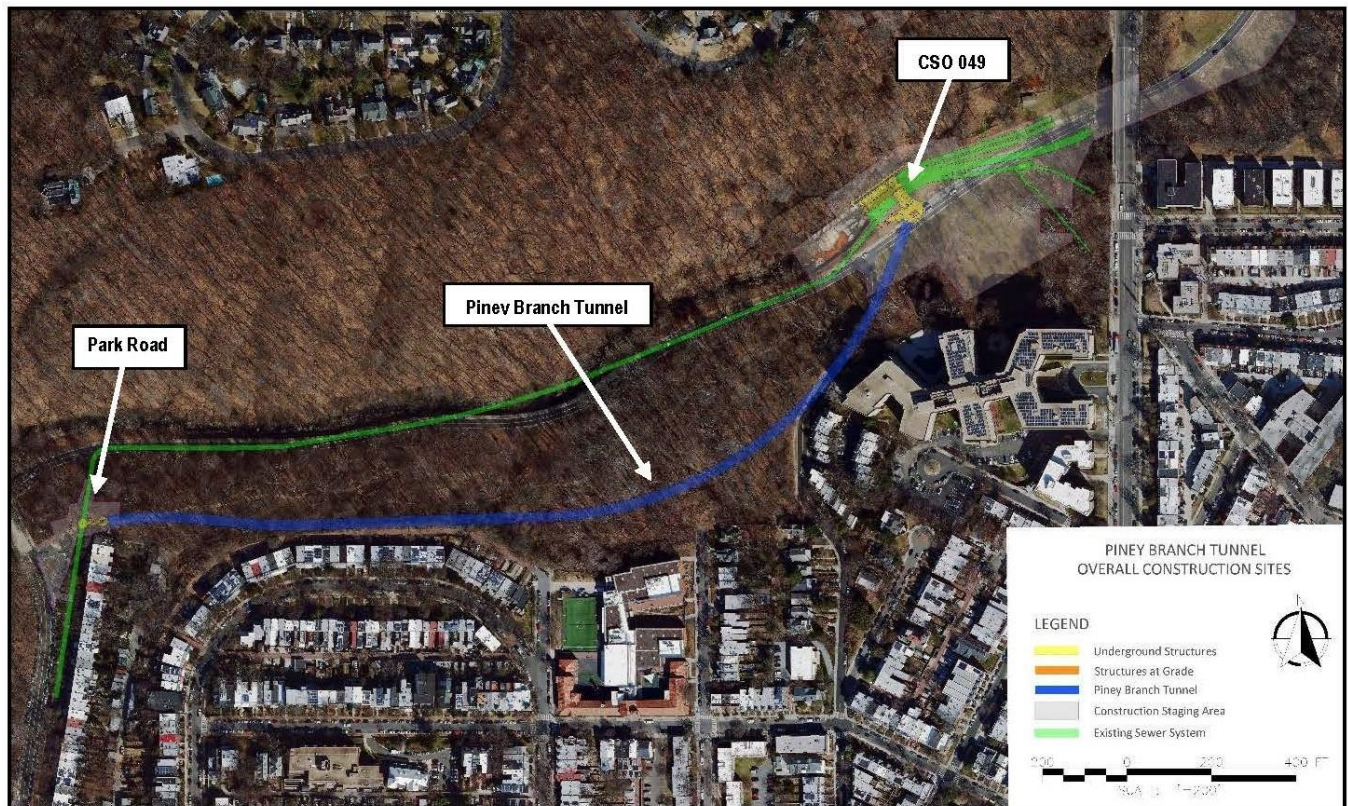
Background: The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) will construct the **Piney Branch Tunnel Project** within Rock Creek Park in northwest Washington, DC. The Project is a major infrastructure component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the **DC Clean Rivers Project**. The Project will prevent an estimated 4.2 million gallons of sewage combined with stormwater, known as combined sewer overflow (CSO) from flowing into Piney Branch during storm events when the capacity of the sewer system is exceeded. Once implemented, the project will reduce these untreated discharges into Piney Branch by an estimated 96% and limit the frequency from 25 overflow events to one in a year of average rainfall.

About The CSO 049 Outfall Structure: The CSO 049 outfall structure along Piney Branch is the largest of the 23 combined sewer system outfalls that flow into Rock Creek when the sewer system exceeds capacity during storms. An estimated 40 million gallons of untreated combined sewer discharge overflow into Piney Branch from CSO 049 every year, contributing to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) listing of Piney Branch as an impaired waterbody under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The Piney Branch Tunnel project would reduce the combined sewer discharges that contribute to water quality impairment of Piney Branch, Rock Creek, and ultimately the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Improvements in water quality would allow compliance with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice.

Project Overview: The Piney Branch Tunnel Project consists of constructing a deep underground tunnel to store a minimum of 4.2-million gallons of combined sewage. A diversion structure is being constructed at CSO 049 to capture and convey untreated sewage flow to the tunnel. A structure will also be constructed adjacent to Park Road NW to discharge the flow from the tunnel back into the existing sewer system when the system can handle the volume. The untreated flow will be conveyed to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment before being discharged into the Potomac River. To construct the project, some park land and tree removal was required. Tree replanting will take place upon completion of the project. Construction began in Fall of 2025 and will continue until 2029.



Major Components of the Project: The Piney Branch Tunnel includes construction of a tunnel between two structures at and below grade that will capture and divert sewage combined with stormwater, known as combined sewer overflow (CSO) and transport it to the treatment plant at Blue Plains (See images below).



Construction Site	Location	Key Components
Tunnel Corridor	Rock Creek Park from CSO 049 parallel to Piney Branch Parkway to Park Road NW	A 22-foot diameter tunnel excavated approximately 15 to 65 feet below grade for 2330 Ft.
CSO 49	CSO 49 near the intersection of Piney Branch Parkway and 17 th Street NW.	Diversion structure that will capture overflow and transport it into the tunnel.
Park Road	In the park where the Park Road NW bridge passes over Rock Creek Park.	A connection structure to convey flow to the existing sewer system to Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

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The Piney Branch Tunnel can be found at dcwater.com/pbs.
For the DC Clean Rivers Project visit dcwater.com/cleanrivers.