

DC Water will stabilize the slope along Canal Road NW near Georgetown University. This work is important to keep the area safe and to prepare for a bigger project—the Potomac River Tunnel—which will help clean up the river. Starting in September 2025, the sidewalk between Glover-Archbold Trailhead and Georgetown University's entrance will be closed for about 6.5 months while work is underway to secure the slope with a mesh covering and steel dowels.



PROJECT TIMELINE

PHASE	DATE
Construction Begins	September 2025
Construction Ends	February 2026

WHY

DC Water will construct a deep drop shaft connecting to the Potomac River Tunnel at this site, to reduce the amount of untreated sewage and stormwater entering the river and improve water quality. Due to repeated landslides and falling rocks on the slope, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has deemed the area a public safety concern. Stabilizing the slope will be performed before constructing the tunnel shaft to mitigate impacts associated with slope stability.



Existing Condition Project Area

WHAT WE'RE DOING

The slope stabilization process includes the following:

- Close the sidewalk
- Remove trees and vegetation
- Remove loose materials from slope
- Drill steel dowels into the slope
- Lay mesh on the slope
- Hydroseed slope
- Replant trees at the top
- Reopen the sidewalk when it's safe

We'll be drilling about 725 steel dowels into the slope and covering it with mesh to hold everything in place. Once it's done, the area will be revegetated with grass.



Example of Slope Stabilization in Progress

WHAT TO EXPECT

About 14,500 vehicles use Canal Road weekdays between 6 am–7 pm. We've worked with DDOT, the National Park Service, Georgetown University, Metro, and others to develop a construction approach and to keep traffic moving as smoothly as possible.

Traffic: Canal Road will stay open in both directions most of the time, but there may be occasional lane closures during off-peak hours.

Sidewalk: The north sidewalk will be closed for safety. Pedestrians and cyclists will be detoured. An ADA-accessible shuttle will be available for those who need it.

Vegetation: Upon completion the area will be revegetated with grass.



Rendering of Completed Project

GETTING AROUND DURING CONSTRUCTION



TRAFFIC: Canal Road will stay open in both directions most of the time, but there may be occasional lane closures during off-peak hours.

SIDEWALK: The north sidewalk will be closed for safety. Pedestrians and cyclists will be detoured. (See Image Above)

SHUTTLE: An ADA-accessible shuttle with bike transport will be available for those who need it.

See shuttle stop locations above. Call (703) 850-5431 for free Shuttle.

Reference either "Canal Rd shuttle Foxhall" stop or "Canal Rd shuttle GU" stop when calling.

For more information visit dcwater.com/slope or call 202-787-4400



About Potomac River Tunnel Project

The Potomac River Tunnel Project is an \$819 million, 5.5-mile-long tunnel, including the site near Georgetown University.

Learn more at dcwater.com/prt.