

# DC WATER'S UPDATED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN



Green infrastructure, like green roofs, porous pavement and rain gardens, provides greater benefits to the community than the previous plan to construct only underground tunnels for the Potomac River and Rock Creek.

The updated plan will provide water quality improvements sooner, offer additional environmental benefits, improve affordability, and support local jobs.



## BACKGROUND

Under the terms of a 2005 legal agreement between DC Water, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DC Water is implementing the \$2.6 billion Clean Rivers Project. The first phase of the project is underway and involves constructing a massive underground tunnel system to control combined sewer overflows to the Anacostia River.

Since 2011, DC Water has explored the use of green infrastructure as a tool to reduce combined sewer overflows to the Potomac River and Rock Creek. Green infrastructure captures, slows, and cleans stormwater before it enters DC Water's combined sewer system.

## THE PLAN

DC Water and the parties to the 2005 legal settlement have announced a plan to allow for large-scale green infrastructure installations and other modifications to the Clean Rivers Project impacting the Potomac River and Rock Creek.

For Rock Creek, DC Water will eliminate the planned underground tunnel and will instead build green infrastructure and targeted sewer separation to manage the volume of stormwater runoff. This portion of work will be completed by 2030.

For the Potomac River, DC Water will build an underground tunnel capable of holding 30 million gallons of combined stormwater and sewage. The tunnel will use gravity to allow the collected combined sewage to flow to Blue Plains for treatment and will be completed by 2030.

DC Water will also construct green infrastructure and targeted sewer separation to manage stormwater runoff. The green infrastructure in this area will be in place by 2027 and sewer separation will be completed by 2023.

For more details visit [dcwater.com/green](https://dcwater.com/green)

## BENEFITS

### Sooner

Unlike a massive underground tunnel system, green infrastructure provides water quality benefits as soon as installation begins. The Green Infrastructure and other improvements will allow the District to enjoy water quality and other environmental and social benefits as early as 2017.

### Better

Green infrastructure offers environmental, social, and economic benefits that would not be realized under the previous plan. Green infrastructure can increase property values, beautify neighborhoods, cool extreme summer temperatures, support natural habitats, enhance public space, and support local jobs.

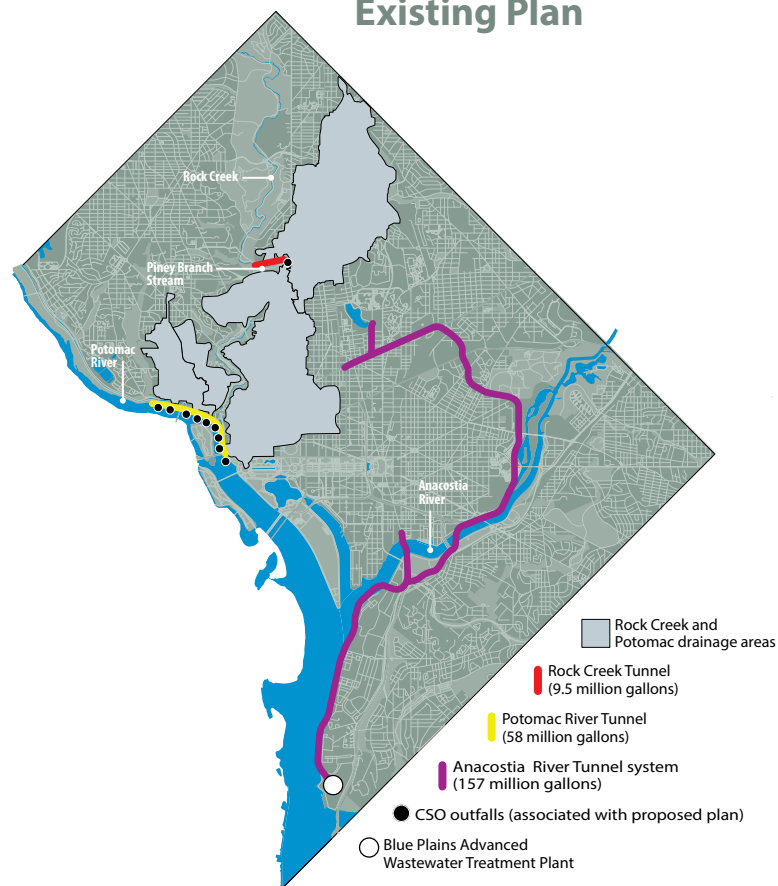
### Stronger

DC Water's proposed schedule for green infrastructure implementation and construction of the redesigned Potomac River Tunnel helps reduce the impact of construction on neighborhoods and allows sufficient time for required construction approvals. The revised schedule allows for an additional five years to complete portions of the project. This additional time will help protect our ratepayers responsible for financing the \$2.6 billion project.

### Jobs

DC Water will establish an ambitious local jobs program that includes training and certification opportunities for District residents interested in green infrastructure construction and maintenance jobs. DC Water has established a goal to have 51% of new jobs created by the green infrastructure project filled by District residents. DC Water will also engage professional service firms and contractors based in the District to perform work associated with green infrastructure.

## Existing Plan



## Updated Plan

