



What's on Tap

News for Customers of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA)

August 2006

WASA's 20-year plan to reduce pollution in local rivers begins with soil sampling

To help reduce pollution in local rivers, WASA will construct a network of huge, 200-foot deep, underground tunnels—nearly 10-miles long and 25 feet in diameter—to reduce the number of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the Anacostia and Potomac rivers and Rock Creek during heavy rain storms. Actual construction doesn't begin for another six years, however, planning for the tunnel routes is already underway.

In mid-September, WASA engineers will begin using truck-mounted drilling rigs to bore 150 to 250 feet into the ground to obtain soil samples to help WASA decide on

actual tunnel locations. The samples will show the types of materials present at each boring site, such as clay, sediment, sand, stone, etc., and will be used to determine the best routes for the tunnels. Once completed, these tunnels will reduce the number of overflows by 98 percent in the Anacostia River alone.



Sonic drilling rigs, like this one, will be in District neighborhoods along prospective tunnel routes to collect soil samples between 150–250 feet deep.

The series of borings—all in public spaces, will proceed in the following sequence:

Series One

- Two sonic borings in Anacostia Park, between the Metro Green line and the 11th Street Bridge in Southeast

Series Two

- One sonic boring in the Anacostia Park area at Barney Circle in Southeast
- One sonic boring in the Anacostia Park area south of the RFK Stadium parking lot in Southeast
- One conventional boring near the Rhode Island Avenue Metro station parking lot in Northeast

■ One conventional boring at the Northeast corner of West Virginia Avenue and Mt. Olivet Road, in Northeast

WASA expects little to no disruption to vehicular or pedestrian traffic during its boring operations, and will post advance notice of these activities throughout the targeted neighborhoods. Look for more information in the October issue of *CSO Update*.

Receive up-to-the minute information in the event of an emergency

By signing up for Alert DC, the District's emergency notification system, you can receive real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, who to contact and more. This text notification system allows citizens to receive emergency text messages on any text-capable device—cell phone, computer email or pager. During a major crisis or emergency, this system allows

see **Emergency** on back

What happens when you report a water main break?

From time to time, customers call WASA to report a water main break. On occasion, multiple main breaks are reported at the same time in different locations throughout the District. In order to determine which water main break requires the most urgent attention and whether a break constitutes a public hazard that requires a street to be closed, WASA asks callers to provide specific information regarding the location and appearance of the break. With that information, a chain of events begins.



WASA will dispatch technicians to investigate the water main break as soon as possible. Technicians assess the problem and report information back to the command center. The com-

mand center then calls Miss Utility which, by law, must mark the areas where WASA can dig into the ground before beginning a repair. Miss Utility will mark the ground within two hours, in emergency situations, or 48 hours, in non-emergency situations. WASA can then begin the repair, which is usually completed within 6-8 hours.

To report a water main break or obtain information regarding a water main repair, call WASA's 24-hour command center at (202) 612-3400.

Clogged storm drains can cause localized flooding

Many of us experienced travel headaches and other flooding-related inconveniences when steady downpours, for over a week at the end of June, dropped more than a foot of rain

on the District of Columbia. Did you know that clogged catch basins can be a major cause of flooding in public space?

When it rains, trash and debris is carried from the sidewalks and streets into the catch basins. When they become clogged, streets and sidewalks can flood. Moreover, the trash and other pollutants washed into the catch basins often travel through



the sewer system and into the local rivers.

WASA cleans District catch basins on an annual schedule with additional cleaning in response to customer requests to WASA's 24-hour emergency hotline (202) 612-3400. You, too, can help reduce the potential for flooding by removing trash, leaves and other debris from the catch basins and storm drains before a rainfall.

Spread the word to stop illegal dumping in catch basins

WASA and the District's new Department of the Environment have teamed up for a project to help keep trash, debris, oil and other pollutants out of the catch basins.

The Storm Drain Marker Program is providing 5,000 anti-littering/dumping storm drain markers and adhesive to individuals and community groups

for placement on neighborhood catch basins.

The markers have an illustration of a fish, and read in both English and Spanish, *NO DUMPING. DRAINS TO THE ANACOSTIA/POTOMAC RIVER.*



For information about the program, contact the Department of the Environment at (202) 535-2964 or WASA at (202) 787-2200.

Additional information to help keep District streets clean

General information about street cleanliness
Office of the Clean City
(202) 724-8967

Proper disposal of items not included in DC's curbside recycling program
Department of Public Works Curbside Program
(202) 645-8245

Free guide helps you plan, design, and save money on landscaping projects

Need tips on landscape planning and design, soil improvement, watering, mulch, low water-use plants and maintenance? You can find information on these topics and more in the *Water Wise—Landscaping and Watering Guide*. The Guide is designed to help you use

water wisely in planning and maintaining landscaping projects. To obtain your copy of the Guide, or for more information, call (202) 787-2200. The Guide is also available online at www.dcwasa.com. Be sure to get your copy today!



Emergency information available *from front*

DC Emergency Management personnel to deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you any time, day or night.

Alert DC is available

to citizens of the District of Columbia, as well as to individuals traveling to or working in the District. To enroll in the Alert DC program, sign up at www.dc.gov.

For more information, visit WASA's website at www.dcwasa.com.

Para informar emergencias del agua residuales, llama (202) 612-3400.

Report Emergencies 24 Hours a day!

To report improper use of hydrants, clogged catch basins, water main leaks, or suspected sewer backups, call (202) 612-3400.

To reach WASA's Lead Services Hotline, call (202) 787-2732.



District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

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