

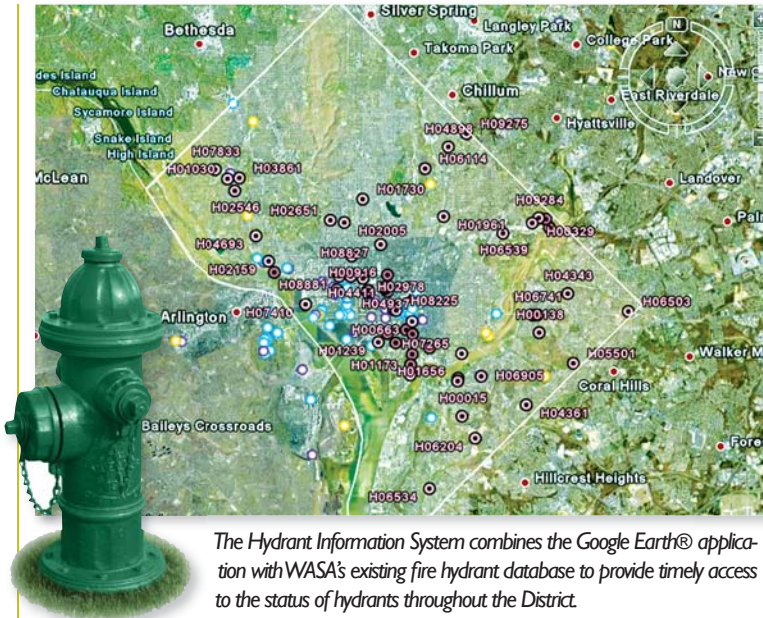


WASA provides online access to hydrant information

Recently, WASA launched its Hydrant Information System, a unique tool based on Google Earth®, to provide public access to timely information about the condition of fire hydrants in the District. The web-based tool is accessible by logging on to the WASA website at www.dcwasa.com.

Using this new Hydrant Information System, customers can easily locate fire hydrants and obtain basic status information including the identification number, current operational status and last inspection date for each hydrant. This new tool also allows customers to report a problem regarding a specific hydrant.

Google Earth® is free and works best using a computer with DSL or cable modem (broadband) capabilities. Individuals without a computer or high-speed Internet service can use computers at a public library. The District of Columbia Public Library offers public access to the Internet at various library branches and can be contacted at (202) 727-0321 for more information. Customers may also contact WASA at (202) 612-3400 to get information on a particular hydrant or to report a hydrant that may be leaking or damaged. In the future, WASA



The Hydrant Information System combines the Google Earth® application with WASA's existing fire hydrant database to provide timely access to the status of hydrants throughout the District.

will launch additional tools for customers without high-speed Internet capabilities. WASA is responsible for operating and maintaining more than 9,000 fire hydrants

in the District. Over the next five years, the Authority plans to spend \$25 million on a Hydrant Upgrade Program, which includes replacing 3,500 hydrants.

WASA reviews lead service pipe replacement schedule

The WASA Board of Directors is reviewing options to modify its intensive and expensive Lead Service Replacement program. Since the program began in 2004, WASA has removed more than 14,000 of the estimated 34,000 public lead service lines in the District and replaced them with copper pipe. In addition, a change in water chemistry in August 2004 has successfully eliminated the elevated lead levels once found in the drinking

water in some District homes. In fact, lead levels over the past two and a half



WASA provides quality and reliable drinking water.

years have been consistently below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lead "action level" and in full compliance with federal regulations for drinking water safety.

see [lead pipe schedule](#) on back

Protecting the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay



This fall, WASA submitted a final \$800 million plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce the nitrogen levels discharged from the Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant into the Potomac River. The Potomac is a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Nitrogen facilitates the growth of algae in the Bay causing the depletion of oxygen needed by fish and other aquatic life.

The new EPA operating permit limit for Blue Plains requires a reduction of nitrogen from 8.5 million pounds per year to 4.7 million pounds per year. The cost will be shared between District rate payers and the Authority's wastewater treatment customers in Maryland and Virginia.

WASA has been a leader in Bay clean-up by voluntarily reducing nitrogen levels by 75 percent since 1987, far exceeding the goals estab-

see [Protecting the Potomac River](#) on back

WHAT'S ON



District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

Customer Service Department
810 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 354-3600
www.dcwasa.com

Students receive hands-on lesson in wastewater treatment process

WASA participates in numerous District high school science classes to teach students about environmental engineering and wastewater treatment processes.

The Sewer Science class, taught by WASA personnel, uses a highly interactive mini-wastewater treatment plant as a teaching tool. Students learn first-hand the steps involved in treat-



Bell Multicultural High School students learn how wastewater is processed during the Sewer Science class.

ing wastewater at Blue Plains and recycling it back into the Potomac River. Students also make and treat their own wastewater using household items.

WASA provides all materials, including the student and teacher workbooks, at no cost. Additionally, WASA helps teachers develop the program and integrate it into their science classes.

If you would like your child's high school to participate in this program, have a science teacher call WASA's Office of Public Affairs at (202) 787-2200.

Protecting the Potomac River

continued from front

lished by the Chesapeake Bay Agreements in 1987 and 2000. According to the 2005 Chesapeake Bay Commission Report, less than 26 percent of the Bay's nitrogen is due to discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants.

A reduction in other sources of nitrogen – agriculture, animal waste, fertilizers, and the atmosphere – has to be addressed if the Bay restoration program is to succeed.

Lead pipe schedule *continued from front*

For the foreseeable future, lead levels in drinking water are well controlled by the change in water chemistry. Yet a significant portion of WASA's Capital Improvement Program is earmarked to cover the more than \$400 million cost of the accelerated program to replace all

known lead service lines in the city by 2016. Over the next several months, WASA will seek public input as it re-evaluates its lead service replacement timeline and future options in light of other critical needs to upgrade the District's water mains and fire hydrants.

WASA wins performance award

WASA's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant has received the Gold Peak Performance Award, which salutes excellence in wastewater treatment, from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). This is the second year in a row that the plant has been recognized for 100 percent compliance with federal permit requirements for water pollution control. In the last 10 years, WASA has invested more than



\$1 billion in improvements to Blue Plains to enable plant operators and maintenance staff to meet their goals to protect the environment, specifically the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. The WASA facility is located on a 150-acre site along the Potomac River and treats wastewater from the District and suburban counties in Virginia and Maryland.

Preventing frozen pipes

Here are a few tips that can save you money and aggravation caused by frozen pipes.

- Before it gets cold...*
 - Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic.
 - Seal cold air leaks where pipes are located.
 - Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, shut the indoor valve

and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.

When it is cold...

- Let warm water drip overnight, if possible from a faucet on an outside wall.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

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.