

General Manager's Message



Dear Customers,
In this issue of *What's on Tap?* you will read about the groundbreaking for the critically important First Street Tunnel Project to help protect the vulnerable

neighborhoods of Bloomingdale and LeDroit Park from flooding during severe rainstorms. The project is a welcome sign of progress for residents who endured basement and street flooding four times in the summer of 2012 because the existing sewer system is undersized.

But putting a 20-foot-diameter tunnel under a residential neighborhood is extremely challenging and as a result we are taking extraordinary steps to minimize the impact on residents. The contractor will use an innovative technique called ground freezing to limit the traffic, noise and dust from the project. In addition, we have set up a 24-hour hotline, alternate parking areas and a free shuttle service for residents. We are also conducting pre- and post-construction surveys on nearby homes and will monitor noise and vibrations throughout the construction.

Our goal is to complete the project as quickly as possible – with as little disruption as possible – and leave a tunnel in place that will serve these communities for more than a century, at least.

George S. Hawkins
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DC Water, Mayor break ground on First Street Tunnel Celebrate Flooding Mitigation Measures



Mayor Gray and those instrumental in the First Street Tunnel celebrate the construction start.

On June 27, DC Mayor Vincent C. Gray, City Administrator and Chairman of the DC Water Board of Directors Allen Y. Lew, and DC Water General Manager George S. Hawkins broke ground on the First Street Tunnel—an underground cistern to store stormwater during intense rainstorms to help mitigate flooding in Bloomingdale and LeDroit Park. The group also celebrated measures already in operation that are providing some flooding relief.

The neighborhoods are connected to an undersized sewer system and have been subject to flooding during heavy rains for more than a century. DC Water's long-

term solution, the Clean Rivers Project, will add capacity to the sewers and was scheduled for completion in 2025.

To speed up the relief efforts, Mayor Gray established the Task Force on the Prevention of Flooding in Bloomingdale and LeDroit Park. He named Mr. Lew and General Manager Hawkins co-chairs. The task force made 25 recommendations. The following are a few of those measures.

The First Street Tunnel, a 20-foot diameter tunnel under First Street, NW, will hold eight million gallons of combined sewage and stormwater runoff during heavy rains and a temporary

see **BLOOMINGDALE** continued on back

TapIt Metro DC – There's an app for that!

A new mobile phone app offers residents and visitors an easy way to locate businesses that provide free tap water to anyone with a reusable bottle. The free "TapIt Metro DC" app is available on the iTunes App Store and the Google Play Store. The TapIt Metro DC program is a joint effort among DC Water, the Council

of Governments and regional water utilities. The app makes it easier to fill up on the go and supports regional efforts to promote the value of water.



see **TAP IT** continued on back

Enhanced Nutrient Removal

In 2012, DC Water began construction on the Enhanced Nutrient Removal facilities (ENRf) at Blue Plains to help DC Water remove even more nitrogen from the cleansed wastewater that it puts back into the Potomac River. The facilities will be operational in January 2015, with construction complete in 2014.

DC Water added new tanks for denitrification, expanded nitrification tanks and built a new wastewater pumping station. Soon, the facilities will help the operators at Blue Plains lower nitrogen in the effluent to 4.7 million pounds per year, a decrease that should improve the health of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. As part of the project, massive pumps were installed. These pumps are the largest in the nation of this type being used in the industry and will lift the wastewater to reverse the flow on the plant for a segment of its journey. These pumps were tested late last month and passed with flying colors.

The total project cost is more than \$950 million for nitrogen removal, a project mandated by US EPA. It is one of three large-scale environmental projects currently underway on Blue Plains.



Bloomingdale *continued*

pumping station will carry it to the Northeast Boundary sewer. Completion is projected for spring 2016.

DC Water converted a portion of the former **McMillan Sand Filtration Plant** into storage for up to three million gallons of stormwater. During heavy rains, the stormwater is diverted there before it can reach the sewer to reduce the pressure that causes sewer backups and overland flooding. Construction was completed earlier this year.

More than a dozen **bioretention areas** along the Irving Street corridor are nearly complete. This green infrastructure will capture, infiltrate and treat stormwater runoff before it enters the sewer system, and provide other environmental and social benefits.

Last year, with funding from DC Water, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) installed a **60-inch stormwater pipe** in the 100 block of Rhode Island Avenue, NW. DDOT also enlarged catch basins, created a rain garden, and installed permeable pavement in an alley.

Ultimately, DC Water's **Clean Rivers Project** will increase the capacity of the sewer system, reducing the frequency, severity and duration of sewer flooding and basement backups when the Northeast Boundary Tunnel is complete, now scheduled for 2022. The tunnels will deliver flow to Blue Plains for treatment prior to discharge to the Potomac River.

The Mayor's Task Force on the Prevention of Flooding Final Report is available at: www.oca.dc.gov.

Spotlight on Groundwork Anacostia River DC, Inc.



Groundwork Anacostia River DC was formed through a formal process begun in 2007 when a group of neighbors organized their efforts to become a sub-watershed group for the Anacostia River Watershed and committed to improving their communities east of the Anacostia River.

The group has a mission to:

- Increase the capacity of residents and stakeholders to improve, care for, and promote their local environment;
- reclaim vacant and derelict lands for conservation, recreation, and economic development; and,
- reconnect residents to their neighborhoods' environmental assets, including parks, open spaces, and the Anacostia River and its tributaries.

They became a Groundwork Trust, a part of the Groundwork USA Network, and today they sponsor numerous programs, including:

Urban Archaeology Corps – In partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), the Corps gives five students a paid, 10-week summer internship, during which they research Fort Mahan (an NPS site that is a local park as well as the site of one of Washington's Civil War-era defenses) and the surrounding community.

Deanwood Learning Garden—In partnership with Parson's the New School of Design, GWARDC is helping to build seven garden boxes planted with a variety of trees, shrubs and flowers and a **bioretention area** with footbridge and community garden box for edibles. Groundwork will also work with families to educate them on how to live in a "net-zero" home.

For more information, please visit groundworkdc.org or call 202-650-5651.

Tap It *continued*

With over 400 locations in the DC metro area and over 200 locations in the District, the TapIt network provides a no-cost alternative to bottled water that reduces waste and saves money. The app makes finding participating businesses as easy as finding an ATM, Metro station or restaurant. App users can tag their refill on Facebook or Twitter, increasing visibility for businesses and allowing consumers to share feedback about the service. For more information, please visit www.freetapwater.org.



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