

Celebrating a Cleaner Anacostia River



“This project brings immense improvements to the District in terms of healthier waterways which will lead to a more vibrant waterfront and opportunities for recreation on the Anacostia.”

TOMMY WELLS, DC WATER BOARD CHAIRMAN

On March 28, hundreds of people flocked to the edge of the Anacostia River just south of RFK Stadium, at one of DC Water’s Clean Rivers Project sites. That day, a great celebration, kicked off the commissioning of seven miles of tunnel system and a new treatment facility at DC Water’s Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The event included bluegrass music by local band Jackson Flats, a marching band from Eastern High School and color guard from Theodore Roosevelt High School. The festivities included instructional signage and a model tunnel boring machine that demonstrated how the tunnel segments are mined. To illustrate the grand size of the Anacostia River Tunnel System, three bulk head gates were displayed on the ground and a fourth gate was removed by a large-scale crane. Removing these gates opens the tunnel, to prevent 80 percent of combined sewage overflows (CSOs) to the Anacostia River.

The construction of this tunnel began in 2013. The portion that opened in March is composed of two separate tunnel segments. A third segment will begin mining to the north later this year and connect with the First Street Tunnel, which was completed in 2016. When the entire Anacostia River Tunnel is complete in 2023, it will stretch 13 miles and reduce CSO volume to the Anacostia River by 98 percent.

General Manager’s Message

I recently attended the opening of the District’s new Infrastructure Academy, a partnership between District Government and utility, union, university, and private sector partners to provide much-needed skills training for District residents. This training can help local residents to secure well-paying, long-term employment in the infrastructure industry.



DC Water will contribute to the development of the curriculum for water utility training, provide technical guidance, donate specialized tools and equipment, and maintain a close relationship with the Academy so that trainees and graduates are first in line for infrastructure positions at DC Water. We will also assist with workshops on applying and interviewing for positions and on resume writing.

There are similar, and successful, programs already underway in other U.S. cities. The Academy, which brings multiple infrastructure related workforce development programs together under one roof, will focus on serving underemployed and unemployed residents.

I am encouraged by the level of collaboration and support shown for this initiative. By working together through public-private partnerships, we can continue to prepare and employ District residents for good, in-demand local jobs and rewarding careers.

Henderson J. Brown, IV, Esq.
Interim CEO and General Manager
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com



Hydrants are for Fighting Fires, Don't Open Them

Fire hydrants that allow firefighters to connect to a pressurized municipal water supply date back to the 1800s. Today's models are made to save people, property and homes from fires, and using high pressure has certainly aided in severe fire fights.

However, this pressure can be dangerous. Opening a hydrant requires special tools to protect the hydrant and the water main to which it is attached. Sometimes, people are tempted to open a hydrant in order to cool off, but the water comes out with such great force, it can knock a person over or cause injury, especially to children. Many hydrants can release more than 1,800 gallons of water per minute, lowering water pressure in the area, which can also hinder firefighting. Finally, all that water on the streets can wreak havoc with traffic and put the people playing in the water in harm's way.

There are plenty of ways to stay cool. Go to an air conditioned library, theater, museum or mall. DC's Department of Recreation offers free aquatic facilities across the District. To find one, visit dpr.dc.gov. Save yourself from harm and your neighbors from danger. Make this summer a safe one! If you witness someone who is not a DC Water employee open a fire hydrant, please call our Command Center at **(202) 612-3400**.

Pipe Spring Cleaning Complete May 7

This spring, the disinfectant used to clean the District's drinking water was temporarily switched from chloramine to chlorine. For most of the year, the Washington Aqueduct, which treats our drinking water, uses chloramine (chlorine plus ammonia) to prevent the growth of harmful microorganisms and provide long-lasting protection. The annual temporary switch to chlorine deep cleans our extensive pipe system to protect public health. Customers who take special precautions to remove chlorine from tap water, such as dialysis centers, medical facilities and aquatic pet owners, should continue to take the appropriate precautions to remove chloramines. We continuously monitor disinfectant concentrations to ensure we meet safe target levels. For more information, contact the Drinking Water Division at **(202) 612-3440**.



SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual DC Housing Expo & Home Show

SATURDAY, JUNE 9 • 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER

Get a free credit report, attend homeownership and financial literacy workshops and participate in home design and repair demonstrations at the 10th Annual DC Housing Expo and Home Show on Saturday, June 9, 2018, at the Washington Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Please call **(202) 442-7200** or visit dhcd.dc.gov for additional information. See you on June 9th.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
Customer Service Department | (202) 354-3600
5000 Overlook Avenue, SW, Suite 400, Washington DC 20032

DCWATER.COM



fb.com/mydcwater



@dcwater



@mydcwater



30941-I-0106