

# WHAT'S ON

# TAP?



NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 15 ISSUE 5



## General Manager's Message

## Hurricane—and severe weather—preparedness



Dear Customers,

They say “Necessity is the mother of invention,” and at DC Water we can attest to that. You may remember we had four severe flooding events

in 2012 in the Bloomingdale and LeDroit Park neighborhoods. Intense rainstorms overloaded the sewer system.

An obvious solution to install a much larger sewer would require probably a decade of digging up a major road artery and would cost billions of dollars.

This is where innovation came to the rescue. Our team investigated more than 40 different engineering solutions and crafted a creative plan to address the flooding with incredible speed. We’ve just converted a century old sand filter at the old McMillan water treatment site to hold stormwater. We tested it during the heavy rains in late April and it worked! Soon, we will break ground on a huge tunnel that will act as an underground cistern.

These solutions by themselves do not solve the problem - we could still have flooding in a severe storm - but the progress is apparent and we are well on our way to offering lasting long-term relief.

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As we have seen in recent years, hurricanes pack powerful forces and can cause damage and injury and wreak havoc with utilities. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak season occurring between August and October.

District area residents and business owners are urged to protect themselves, their loved ones and their property. DC Water offers precautions to take when the weather service reports impending severe weather or hurricane.

Please do the following before severe weather arrives:

- Visit [ready.gov/hurricanes](http://ready.gov/hurricanes).
- Keep a first-aid kit handy, including flashlights and extra batteries.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

- Keep a battery-powered radio nearby.
- Maintain an emergency supply of food and bottled water for your family and pets.
- Visit [dcwater.com/education/water\\_emergencies.cfm](http://dcwater.com/education/water_emergencies.cfm) and print out how to prepare for and respond to water emergencies.
- If damage is extensive, listen to the media for information about water and sewer infrastructure and the safety of your drinking water.
- Call DC Water's 24-hour Command Center for all water and sewer emergencies at 202-612-3400.

## DC Water Flushes Hydrants to Improve Drinking Water Quality

In March, DC Water began its annual hydrant flushing program to enhance water quality in the District's drinking water system. This program helps to minimize the problem of discolored water that occasionally occurs due to aging iron pipes that make up the majority of our distribution system. Although iron in drinking water is not a health risk, the buildup of iron pipe material sometimes causes discolored tap water. The flushing of hydrants may cause temporary water discoloration as the iron is washed out of the system.

We recommend that customers run cold water taps for several minutes until the water clears. If the discoloration persists, please contact the Drinking Water Division at 202-612-3440. The program runs from March to November, so you may see DC Water employees opening fire hydrants throughout the city.



## Stay Cool with DC Water

DC Water participates in numerous outreach opportunities each year to connect with customers, distribute information about our services and offer amenities that add value. Our **Misting Tent** is always a crowd-pleaser this 10' x 10' tent provides a refreshing mist and shade from the sun. **DC Water Mascots**, Wendy and Wendell the Waterdrops, are always popular with the little ones and bring energy to any event.

We can also provide **Mobile Brita Hydration Stations** that dispense filtered tap water to easily fill cups and water bottles. DC Water **Cooling Stations** quench a crowd's thirst with iced tap water from large portable water coolers and our **Mobile Water Conservation Unit** demonstrates household conservation techniques that help customers save money on their water bill. If you are interested in any of these options for your large community event, please submit a request (April through September) online at [dcwater.com/mistingtent](http://dcwater.com/mistingtent) or call 202-787-2200 for more information.



## Earth Conservation Corps- Changing lives while inspiring change along the Anacostia

In 1992, a small group of unemployed youth from a public housing community in Southeast Washington, DC, volunteered to change their lives by restoring the Anacostia River. Motivated by the belief that their strong hearts, minds, and muscles could reclaim the river, they banded together under the name Earth Conservation Corps.

Today, the Earth Conservation Corps uses hands-on, outdoor activities to teach Corps members the knowledge and skills necessary to become leaders and ambassadors of the environment. They learn about the impact pollution has on people, wildlife and the environment. Corps members lead volunteers during community service projects that clean and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed. Schools can also schedule environmental education activities at one of the education centers or at their school.

Each year, at least 15 out-of-school young adults from the ages of 17 to 24 participate in workforce training that may lead to professional certifications or job placement. Training programs focus on public lands and green industry jobs such as low impact development, environmental education, media arts, lead cleaning, pre-apprenticeships, and/or advanced level training.

For more information, please visit: [earthconservationcorps.org](http://earthconservationcorps.org) or call 202-479-4505.



Members of Earth Conservation Corps working to improve the health of the Anacostia River.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

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