

CURRENTS

NEWS FROM BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

November | December 2014

BWSC Launches New Public Education Campaign



Let's protect Boston's waterways

In Boston, we are all connected through our water. People, who live, work in, or visit the city all enjoy our harbor, rivers, streams, and ponds—our waterways—and keeping them pollution-free is a priority. When it rains or snows, the water that flows down our streets and sidewalks, called **stormwater**, picks up materials along the way.

Stormwater flows through our neighborhoods, into catch basins, then into waterways, and eventually into the Charles, Neponset, and Mystic Rivers and Boston Harbor.

To learn about ways that we can help prevent stormwater pollution, go to www.bwsc.org/stormwater!



TWO UNDERGROUND SYSTEMS

ATTENTION PROPERTY MANAGERS

Educate Your Tenants About Preventing Stormwater Pollution

Visit our new Stormwater Resources page, download and print information and distribute it to your tenants or call BWSC's Community Services Department at (617) 989-7000 for assistance.



STORMWATER POLLUTION FACTS DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- leaving pet waste on the ground or in the street can harm water quality? Let's Scoop the Poop and put pet waste in a trash can!
- one pint of improperly disposed of used motor oil can create a one-acre slick on the surface of a body of water? Let's remember that motor oil and other automotive fluids are hazardous waste and should be disposed of at Household Hazardous Waste Days! Go to www.cityofboston.gov/recycle.
- trash on streets and in catch basins can be picked up by stormwater and end up in local waterways? We all should put trash into a trash can!
- during rain storms, chemicals, like pesticides and fertilizers, can become runoff and pollute local waterways? Let's use less pesticides and fertilizers on our lawns and gardens or switch to low-phosphate alternatives!

Let's all protect Boston's waterways.
Go to bwsc.org/stormwater to learn more!

Protect Your Pipes: Holiday Cooking Tips

People love to cook holiday meals at home. This season, let's remember that fats, oils, and grease (FOG) should never be poured down drains. This includes the sink, the garbage disposal and even the toilet. Here is the proper way to dispose of cooking fats, oils, and grease:

- 1 Cool it.** Let hot cooking fats, oils, and grease cool off in the pan.
- 2 Can it.** Pour FOG into a container that can be covered and put into the trash.
- 3 Trash it.** Put the container in the trash for regular pick-up. Before washing dishes or baking pans, scrape any remaining food scraps or grease into the trash can.



Why is it important to keep FOG out of drains, disposals, and pipes? FOG that gets into pipes can cool and form clogs and blockages. These clogs can cause a sewer backup or a break in the sewer line. The resulting flood can damage property and can be costly to repair.

BWSC is offering free reusable grease can lids. To receive your lid, go to the FOG page at bwsc.org, call (617)-989-7000, or visit a neighborhood site location. Here's how to use the lid: Pour grease into a can and cover with the lid. Place can in the freezer until you need it again. When the can is full, remove the lid and either cover the can with plastic or put it directly into the trash for regular pick-up. Now, you have the lid to use over and over again!

NEIGHBORHOOD SITE LOCATIONS

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission will have a representative from the Community Services Department at neighborhood locations to offer assistance.

Brighton
Allston/Brighton APAC
143 Harvard Avenue
Thursdays 10am–1pm
11/20 and 12/18

Charlestown
Golden Age Center
382 Main Street
Tuesdays 11am–1pm
11/25 and 12/15 (Mon.)

BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

980 Harrison Ave.
Boston, MA 02119

Headquarters are open:

Monday – Friday
8am – 5pm

Wednesdays
8am – 7pm

(617) 989-7000

Chinatown
CCBA
90 Tyler Street
Thursdays 11am–1pm
11/13 and 12/11

Dorchester
Uphams Corner Municipal Building
500 Columbia Road
Fridays 10am–12pm
11/14 and 12/12

East Boston
East Boston APAC
21 Meridian Street
Wednesdays 10am–1pm
11/5, 11/12 and 12/3, 12/10

Fields Corner
Kit Clark Senior Center
1500 Dorchester Avenue
Mondays 10am–1pm
11/17 and 12/8

Hyde Park
Hyde Park Municipal Building
1179 River Street
Tuesdays 10am–1pm
11/4, 11/18 and 12/2, 12/16

Jamaica Plain
Jamaica Plain Public Library
12 Sedgwick Street
Mondays 10am–12pm
11/3 and 12/1

Mattapan
Mattapan Public Library
1350 Blue Hill Avenue
Fridays 10am–12pm
11/7 and 12/5

North End
North End Public Library
25 Parmenter Street
Thursdays 10am–12pm
11/6 and 12/4

Roslindale
Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center
4199 Washington Street
Tuesdays 10am–1pm
11/10 (Mon.) and 12/9

South Boston
SB Action Center
424 W. Broadway
Wednesdays 10am–1pm
11/19 and 12/17

West Roxbury
Roche Community Center
1716 Centre Street
Fridays 10am–1pm
11/21 and 12/19

South End & Roxbury
* Residents of the South End and Roxbury are invited to use the BWSC Headquarters as their Neighborhood Site Location.

