

Currents

NEWS FROM BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
July | August 2017

Martin J. Walsh, *Mayor*

Henry F. Vitale, *Executive Director*

Time to Save

It's always wise to save water, but it's especially important in the summer months when water consumption is expected to be at its highest. While Boston's water supply from the MWRA is sufficient to meet normal community water needs, you can cut costs by conserving water use at home. Here are some helpful tips for indoor and outdoor water conservation.

Indoor:

- Fix leaky faucets, pipes and toilets. This can save hundreds of gallons of water per week.
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving or doing dishes.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full or adjust the water level setting accordingly.
- Keep a jug of water in your refrigerator for drinking rather than running the tap each time you're thirsty.



Did you know the **toilet** is the single biggest water user in your home? Test your toilet for invisible leaks. Place a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet into the toilet's tank. Wait 10-15 minutes (do not flush) and if the coloring appears in the bowl, you have a leaky toilet.

To repair a leaky toilet, the flush valve ("flapper") or the valve seat may need to be cleaned or replaced. Parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

Don't want to replace single parts? Consider upgrading to a low-flow toilet. New models could help you reduce your home water consumption by 25%.

Outdoor:

- Water your lawn only when needed. Grass roots can hold moisture even after several days without rain and frequent watering can actually weaken your lawn. To determine if your lawn needs watering, step on it. If it springs backup, no watering is needed. If it remains flat, it is time to water. The best time to water is in the early morning (4-6 a.m.) before the sun is at its hottest and can burn the grass, leaving it vulnerable to disease from mildew and fungus.
- Don't be afraid of brown patches. Grass naturally becomes dormant during dry, hot periods and will revive quickly after a steady rainfall or cooler weather.
- Raise your mower blade level to 2-3 inches or more. Longer grass retains more moisture because it shades the roots. It also encourages deeper rooting, requires less fertilizer and competes better against weeds.



Get Your Free Water Conservation Kit

Order a free BWSC Water Conservation Kit, and kick your home water conservation efforts into high gear. The kit includes:

- Kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators.
- A low-flow replacement showerhead.
- A water efficiency gauge to test your showerheads and sinks.
- Dye tablets to check for toilet leaks.



To order your kit, go to www.bwsc.org or call us at (617) 989-7500.

**Conservation kits available to Boston residents only.*



Also in the News...

BWSC Employees Recognized at Boston Fire Department 138th Annual Awards Ceremony

Longtime employees Billy O'Brien from South Boston and John Greeley from Hyde Park were awarded with the *Outstanding Civilian Service Award* for their response to an emergency on Dartmouth Street in Boston's South End last October.



BFD Commissioner Joseph Finn, BWSC Executive Director Henry F. Vitale, honorees John Greeley and Billy O'Brien, and Mayor Martin J. Walsh

BWSC and its Executive Director, Henry F. Vitale, joins Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn and his department in commending these individuals for their courage and professionalism.

BWSC is happy to announce that its Water Trailer is back in action for a 4th season! Keep an eye out for it around the city this summer as it will be providing free water at community events and helping Boston residents and visitors stay hydrated with Boston's award winning tap water.



Neighborhood Site Locations

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



- Pay your water bill with a check or money order -- no cash.
- Talk about any problems you may have with your bill or service.
- Find out how much water is being used on your property.
- Plan to make payments on bills that are past due.
- Receive help applying for a senior or disabled person's discount.
- Learn more about BWSC customer programs.

Brighton

Allston/Brighton Child & Family Service Center
406 Cambridge Street
Thursdays, 10 AM - 12 PM
7/20 and 8/17

Chinatown

CCBA
90 Tyler Street
Thursdays, 11 AM - 1 PM
7/13 and 8/10

East Boston

East Boston APAC
21 Meridian Street
Wednesdays, 10 AM - 1 PM
7/5, 7/12 and 8/2, 8/9

Mattapan

Mattapan Public Library
1350 Blue Hill Avenue
Fridays, 10 AM - 12 PM
7/7 and 8/4

South Boston

South Boston APAC
424 West Broadway
Wednesdays, 10AM-12PM
7/26 and 8/30

Charlestown

Golden Age Center
382 Main Street
Tuesdays, 11 AM - 1 PM
7/24 (Monday) and 8/29

Dorchester

Uphams Corner Municipal Building
500 Columbia Road
Fridays, 10 AM - 12 PM
7/14 and 8/11

Fields Corner

Kit Clark Senior Center
1500 Dorchester Avenue
Mondays, 10 AM - 12 PM
7/17 and 8/21

North End

North End Public Library
25 Parmenter Street
Thursdays, 10 AM - 12 PM
7/6 and 8/3

Jamaica Plain

Curtis Hall Community Center
20 South Street
Mondays, 10AM - 12 PM
7/10 and 8/7



Boston Water and Sewer Commission

980 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02119

Headquarters is open:

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

Wednesdays, 8 AM - 7 PM



(617) 989-7000



www.bwsc.org

Hyde Park

Hyde Park Municipal Building
1179 River Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM - 1 PM
7/11, 7/25 and 8/8, 8/22

Roslindale

Greater Roslindale Medical & Dental Center
4199 Washington Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM - 1 PM
7/18 and 8/15

West Roxbury

Roche Community Center
1716 Centre Street
Fridays, 10 AM - 1 PM
7/28 and 8/25

South End & Roxbury

Residents of the South End and Roxbury are invited to use the BWSC Headquarters as their neighborhood site.

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

Let's Protect Boston's Waterways

