

Currents

NEWS FROM BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

March - April 2018

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

Henry F. Vitale, CPA, Executive Director/ Treasurer

BWSC@Work

Notable events from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission

Green Infrastructure in Boston

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission is implementing eco-friendly projects designed to help manage stormwater and educate the public on our infrastructure. The goal is to mimic nature and treat the first inch of stormwater, which will substantially reduce pollution in our rivers and Boston Harbor. For most of Boston's history, stormwater management meant capturing stormwater and piping it quickly and efficiently to receiving waters, like the Charles, Muddy, Mystic and Neponset Rivers or Boston Harbor. In recent years the city has adopted a new "green" approach to stormwater management.

Keep an eye out for signage around Boston where green infrastructure is in place and explains how green features work. Signs are already up at East Boston's Central Square and soon will be installed at Audubon Circle, Washington Irving Middle School in Roslindale, Rafael Hernandez School and the David A. Ellis Elementary School, both in Roxbury.

As with the Washington Irving Middle School, BWSC has helped design "green" play and parking areas of four additional Boston Public Schools. The David A. Ellis, Jackson Mann K-8, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, and the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing all will be unveiled this year. BWSC is collaborating on a curriculum with Boston Public Schools for fifth and sixth grade classrooms that will be introduced during the 2018/2019 school year. The curriculum is designed to introduce students to green infrastructure at an early age and provide a better awareness of how infrastructure works within the community and what they can do to help the environment.



Eco-friendly outdoor learning and play space at the Rafael Hernandez school in Roxbury.



Residents stroll through Central Square in East Boston that feature permeable paver sidewalks designed to absorb rainwater.



Signage explains green infrastructure features in Central Square.

Other upcoming projects include bioretention featuring native plants to filter rain water on South Street and Bussey Street in Roslindale, and permeable pavers which will absorb rain and snow water that falls onto the sidewalks outside of BWSC's Headquarters on Harrison Avenue.

BWSC Construction Season to Begin

As warm weather returns to Boston, residents will see BWSC construction improvement projects start up again. One important project is the replacement of 3,640 feet of water main pipe on Brookline Ave from Riverway to Fenway. Want to know what's happening in your neighborhood? Log on to our homepage at www.bwsc.org and click on "projects". Also, join Nextdoor on social media where BWSC posts updates and notifications on improvements in your neighborhood.



Installing water meters on Brookline Avenue.



**Boston Water and Sewer Commission
Headquarters is open:**

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

Wednesdays, 8 AM - 7 PM

980 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02119



(617) 989-7000



www.bwsc.org

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

Let's Protect Boston's Waterways



Nextdoor

Spring Into Action!

Get involved in protecting the environment. Save the date for these upcoming events:

Fix a Leak Week - March 19-25

Save money and reduce your household water usage by finding and fixing leaks in your home. Boston residents can request a free water conservation kit to check for toilet leaks. Call us at 617-989-7500 to request one today!

World Water Day - March 22

Learn about the global importance of water in our lives. This year's theme looks at how green infrastructure can be a solution to water challenges we face in the 21st century. Visit www.worldwaterday.org for more info.

Earth Day - April 22

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for his or her contribution to the environment? Nominate them for a Greenovate Award! The Greenovate Awards ceremony takes place in April as part of our Earth Day celebrations. Visit www.greenovateboston.org for more details and to send in your nomination!

Prevent Stormwater Pollution: Dispose of pesticides and herbicides properly

Insecticides and fertilizers help a garden grow and flourish. When used correctly, these chemicals can protect plants from damage. However, if disposed of improperly, chemicals can pollute stormwater runoff and ultimately contaminate our waterways. If you use fertilizers and pesticides, you will need to know the do's and don'ts of their use.

Follow label instructions carefully and only use the specified amount. Avoid watering plants right after applying unless instructions say to do so.

Don't use chemicals right before it is windy or rains. Excess chemicals can wash into waterways if not applied properly or too much is used.

Bring any remaining chemicals to a Boston Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day site for proper disposal. Visit www.boston.gov/trash-and-recycling-guide for more info. Never dispose of these chemicals in the trash.



Spring Yard Waste Collection



Leaf and Yard Waste collection begins April 23, 2018. Bag, barrel, or tie yard waste for curbside collection on your regular recycling day. Visit www.boston.gov/trash-and-recycling-guide for more details.

Neighborhood Site Locations

- 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 persons' discount.



Allston/Brighton

Child & Family Service Center

406 Cambridge Street
Thursdays, 10 AM - 12 PM
3/22 & 4/19

Charlestown

Golden Age Center

382 Main Street
Tuesdays, 11 AM - 1 PM
3/27 & 4/24

Chinatown

CCBA

90 Tyler Street
Thursdays, 11 AM - 1 PM
3/8 & 4/12

Dorchester - Uphams Corner

Municipal Building

500 Columbia Road
Fridays, 10 AM - 12 PM
3/16 & 4/13

East Boston

APAC

21 Meridian Street
Wednesdays, 10 AM - 1 PM
3/7, 3/14 & 4/4, 4/11

Fields Corner

Kit Clark Senior Center

1500 Dorchester Avenue
Mondays, 10 AM - 12 PM
3/12 & 4/23

Hyde Park

Municipal Building

1179 River Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM - 1 PM
3/6, 3/20 & 4/3, 4/17

Jamaica Plain

Curtis Hall Community Ctr

20 South Street
Mondays, 10 AM - 12 PM
3/5 & 4/9

Mattapan

Public Library

1350 Blue Hill Avenue
Fridays, 10 AM - 12 PM
3/2 & 4/6

North End

Public Library

25 Parmenter Street
Thursdays, 10 AM - 12 PM
3/1 & 4/5

Greater Roslindale

Medical & Dental Center

4199 Washington Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM - 1 PM
3/13 & 4/10

South Boston

APAC

424 West Broadway
Wednesdays, 10 AM - 12 PM
3/28 & 4/25

West Roxbury

Roche Community Center

1716 Centre Street
Fridays, 10 AM - 1 PM
3/23 & 4/27

South End & Roxbury

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

