

THE SEQUEL ARRIVES!



BIORETENTION



The long-awaited sequel to DC Water's *"A Drop's Life"* video is here. The original animated video focused on the fate of a raindrop that found itself in the District's combined sewer system (dcwater.com/a-drops-life).

The sequel picks up the story with new raindrop characters and a new twist—it describes green methods to keep that raindrop and its buddies out of the sewers altogether by using what we call green infrastructure to absorb the rain before it ever makes its way to the sewer system. Green infrastructure includes curb bump-outs, rain gardens (also called bioretention) and rain barrels that capture rain water and store it for outdoor uses like gardening and car washing.

The video is fun and informative for all ages and gives background into DC Water's Clean Rivers project and the green infrastructure component. DC Water is beginning two large green projects this year, the Kennedy Street GI Streetscape Project and Rock Creek GI Project. More information about green infrastructure can be found at: dcwater.com/green-infrastructure.

The new video is available at: dcwater.com/adropslifesequel.

General Manager's Message

The DC Clean Rivers Project—our program to protect the District's waterways from combined sewer overflows—has garnered national and international attention since we broke ground in 2011.



Our solution for the Anacostia River is an enormous tunnel to hold combined sewage during rainstorms before conveying it for treatment at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The first tunnel segment was mined by Lady Bird, a massive tunnel boring machine as long as a football field. She completed the dig in 2013 and our contractors completed the necessary work to finish the tunnels in 2016. The project came in on time and under budget, with no lost time for accidents. In fact, the design saved \$850 million by combining the requirements of two environmental projects into one.

This is an impressive feat in tunnel-building and we are all pleased that *Engineering News-Record*, recently named the Blue Plains Tunnel as the 2016 Overall National Best of the Best Project. The project also received the Best Water/Wastewater Project award for 2016. It was selected from over 700 projects nominated through regional competitions in 2016 for teamwork, safety, innovation and quality, and for overcoming challenges. It was also one of the first projects built under a Design-Build model, which is key to teamwork and problem-solving. This award demonstrates again DC Water's commitment to protecting the environment and public health, with an obligation to wisely spend ratepayer dollars.

George S. Hawkins

George S. Hawkins
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com



Hydrants are for fighting fires

Fire hydrants are specifically made for use by firefighters to save people, property and homes from fires. 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 this can be dangerous. For one, the water comes out with great force—it can knock a person over or cause injury, especially to children.

Opening a hydrant releases 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.

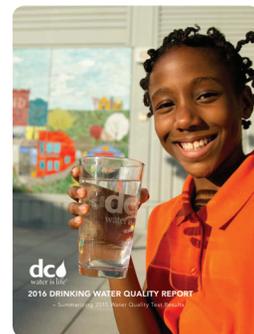
There are plenty of ways to stay cool. Go to an air conditioned library, theater, museum or mall. DC's Department of Recreation offers free aquatic facilities across the District. To find one, visit dpr.dc.gov. Save yourself from harm and your neighbors from danger. Make this summer a safe one!

Tap water disinfectant returns to chloramine

Beginning April 17, the Washington Aqueduct resumed using chloramines for drinking water disinfection. Chloramine (chlorine plus ammonia) is a common disinfectant for drinking water systems and is used most of the year in the District, providing long-lasting protection as water flows through DC's distribution system to your tap.

From March 20 to April 17, 2017, the disinfectant used for drinking water treatment was temporarily switched to chlorine. The Washington Aqueduct is the organization responsible for treating drinking water in the District. Water is routinely monitored throughout the city to ensure disinfection levels meet safe target levels. To view monthly

water quality results, visit dcwater.com/testresults. For more information, please contact the Drinking Water Division at **(202) 612-3440**.



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