

Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project

PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE

Background The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) proposes to build the Piney Branch Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 Storage Project within Rock Creek Park in northwest Washington, DC. DC Water and the National Park Service (NPS) are beginning a planning process that includes the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will analyze potential environmental impacts that would result from implementing the Project. The NPS has also initiated consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office and multiple tribal governments in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

About CSO 049 CSO 049 along Piney Branch is the largest of the 23 combined sewer system outfalls that discharge to Rock Creek when the capacity of the system is exceeded during storms. An estimated 40 million gallons of untreated combined sewer overflows consisting of sewage and stormwater discharge into Piney Branch on average every year, contributing to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) listing of Piney Branch as an impaired waterbody under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Project Overview DC Water is proposing to build a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage tunnel to capture sewage, combined with stormwater, that would otherwise overflow into Piney Branch during heavy rains. A diversion structure proposed at the Piney Branch outfall, known as CSO 049, would redirect sewer flows to the storage tunnel and eventually convey the combined sewage to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment when the pipes and system can handle the volume.

DC Water seeks to control these overflows to improve water quality as part of the **DC Clean Rivers Project**.

This project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to poor water quality in Piney Branch and ultimately the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the USEPA, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.



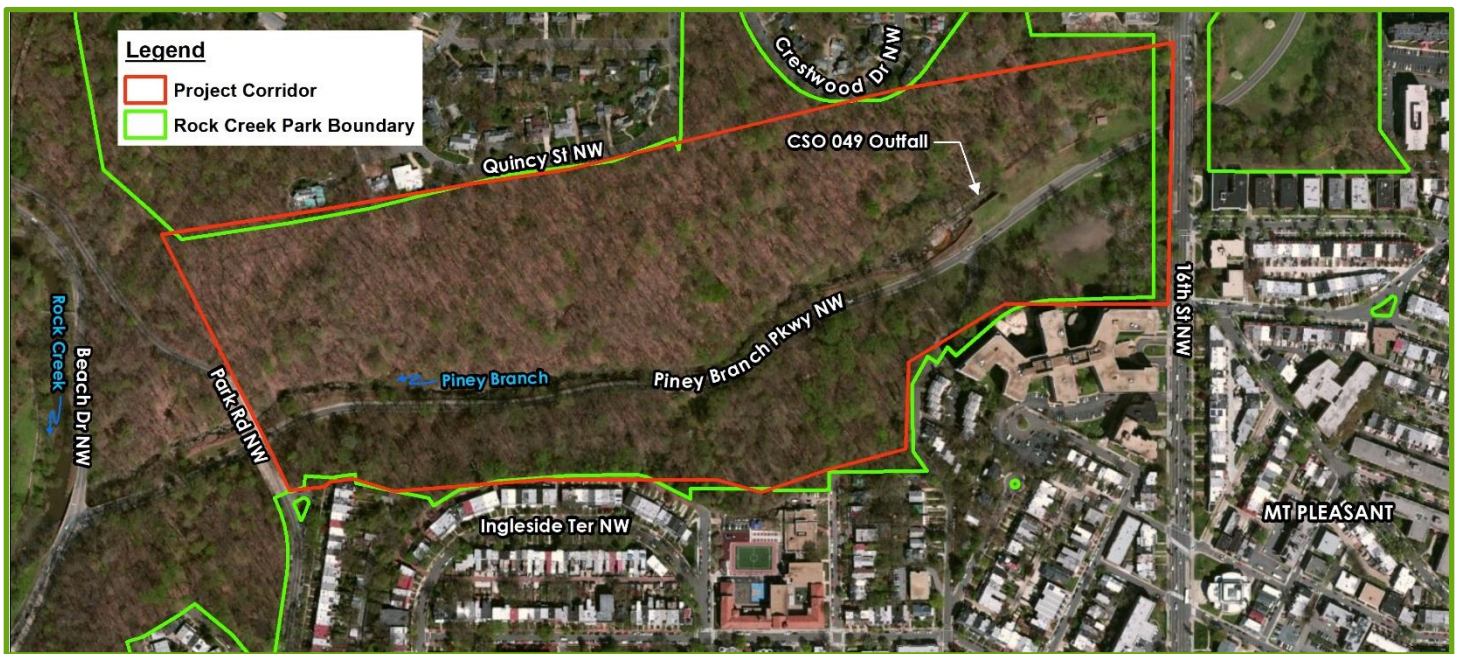
Upstream view of the existing CSO 049 outfall

Once implemented, the project would reduce untreated CSO discharges to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per year on average.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

For information on the DC Clean Rivers Project visit dcwater.com/cleanrivers.
More information on this project can be found at dcwater.com/pbs.





Corridor where the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project may be constructed within Rock Creek Park

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Public participation is vital to the NEPA planning process. The NEPA process will start with a 30-day public scoping period from January 18 to February 16, 2023, in which the NPS and DC Water are seeking public input regarding issues or concerns associated with implementing the proposed project. Your feedback will be used to refine project designs and to support the analysis of environmental impacts in the EA. You are also encouraged to submit comments on historic preservation issues to support compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. Here is how you can get involved:

Virtual Public Meeting DC Water is hosting a public scoping meeting on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 7:30 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST)**. The meeting will be approximately one hour, and you will be able to submit questions. You can access the meeting several ways.

1. At the time of the meeting, visit <https://www.goto.com/webinar/join> on your computer or mobile device and enter the Webinar ID: 565-700-747 and your email. If you do not have GoToWebinar, you will be prompted to install a small file to your computer or download the app on your mobile device.
2. You can call into the meeting (no video) using the toll-free phone number (877) 568-4108 and Audio Access Code: 955-186-999.
3. The webinar will be recorded and posted online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/dcPineyBranch> for anyone unable to attend the live session. The recording posted online will include closed captioning.

Submit Comments DC Water and NPS will be accepting formal comments until 11:59 pm EST February 16, 2023. Comments can be submitted online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/dcPineyBranch>. If you prefer to mail your comments, make sure they are postmarked by 11:59 pm EST February 16, 2023 to receive consideration. Mail comments to the following address:

Superintendent
Rock Creek Park
RE: Piney Branch Sewer
3545 Williamsburg Lane NW
Washington, DC 20008

Additional opportunities for public input will be available as the project continues.

dcwater.com