FY 2020 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Department of Environmental Protection

Meeting Date 9/20/2018

AGENDA ITEM 1 : General Agency Funding Discussion

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to provide Community Boards with important information to assist in drafting their statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. As you know, Community Board Members are volunteers who may not be familiar with the budget process and how agencies' programs are funded. At the same time, Community Board members are very knowledgeable about local service needs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:
I. Agencies begin the consultation with a presentation of their goals, funding decision process, and highlights of their funding needs.

II. Then, the agenda continues with Community Boards asking about specific program funding.

III. Lastly, the agendas include Boards' requests on district-specific budget questions. We request that the agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.
For the first section, please present on the four topics below for 10-15 minutes at the beginning of our Consultation. Also, please provide written responses or even a PowerPoint presentation that we can use to fully and accurately educate our Board Members.
1. What are your priorities and operational goals for FY19 and projected priorities and operational goals for FY20?

2. What are the current proposed FY19 and FY20 service and operational goals and proposed funding?

3. Which programs is the agency adding, dropping, or changing for FY19 and projected for FY20?

4. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DEP has overall responsibility for the City's water supply and sewer systems, including providing drinking water to all New Yorkers, maintaining pressure to fire hydrants, managing storm water, and treating wastewater. In addition, DEP also regulates air quality, hazardous waste, and critical quality of life issues, including noise. The Water Board is an independent body whose fiduciary mandate is to set rates that will satisfy System revenue requirements for operations & maintenance (O&M) expenses, servicing debt obligations, and achieving fiscally prudent year-end cash reserves DEP suggests a rate and the Water Board approves it. In all our decisions we weigh the impact of the systems needs to our ratepayers and we work to continuously improve and maintain our status as one of the most efficient water utilities in the nation.

A copy of our agency Strategic Plan can be found at:
https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/about_dep/dep_strategic_plan.shtml

Operation goals can be found in the Mayor's Management Report,
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/operations/performance/mmr.page.

Our priorities continue to be the management of our drinking water and stormwater collection system, our wastewater treatment facilities and the continued improvement of the quality of water bodies surrounding New York

City, protection of our watershed lands serving the Catskill/Delaware and Croton water supplies, and our very important mission to remain responsive to complaints about air and noise violations and asbestos abatement.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

Humberto (DEP): $11.4 billion for the capital improvement plan. $1.2 billion contracted for watershed protection program and stormwater collection system. $85 million to keep water assets safe and in repair. $19.6 million to replace sewers. $1.6 billion to construct new sewers.

Humberto (DEP): It's important to protect water at its source. DEP has preserved acres of land and maintained watersheds.

See updated agenda document provided by DEP.

FOLLOW-UP:

AGENDA ITEM 3 : After-Hours Construction Complaints

.Historically, there have not been enough inspectors to respond to after-hours construction complaints, late-night commercial noise complaints, and weekend special events. Last year, DEP reported the following inspector staffing levels: Daytime Unit: 12 (including supervisors); Early Morning Construction Unit: 6 inspectors, 1 supervisor; Night Unit: 12 (including supervisors); Late Night Unit: 4 inspectors, 1 supervisor. How have these staffing levels improved? Please provide the current staffing levels. What is the anticipated growth in staffing levels for FY2020. How is DEP assessing the performance of its inspectors? Are there any weekend Air & Noise inspection units? If so, how many of the weekend units are assigned to parks?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DEP's Bureau of Environmental Compliance (BEC) was approved for 9 additional inspector positions. Hiring will occur this FY and will allow for a new shift and additions to existing shifts. The exact distribution is not yet set. Currently, the Manhattan Day Unit has 13 staff including supervisors. Early Morning Construction Unit: 6 inspectors, 1 Supervisor Tuesday to Saturday, 6am – 2p.m. Night Unit 16 including supervisors. Within the night unit, we have 4 inspectors and 1 supervisor working from 11pm to 7am, Sunday to Thursday. The rest of the unit works Monday to Friday, 6p.m. to 2.am.

A new unit is being considered, using some of the new positions that would focus on construction complaints and work from 6am to 2pm Sunday to Thursday. The other new positions would augment the shifts that currently address construction issues.

Regarding the assessment of performance of our Air & Noise inspectors in relation to after-hours construction noise complaints, we would need more specifics on what is being looked for.

In regards to the question of weekend Air & Noise inspection units, yes we have staff working on weekends.

Parks address issues within the Parks, NYCDPR is responsible for noise enforcement inside of Parks, although we do work with Parks department on issues at times.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

See updated agenda document provided by DEP.

Mario of DEP: DEP responsible for water quality, there's no lead in pipes. It's up to property owner to make sure

water quality complies with state and federal standards. For schools and parks, it's up to DOE and Parks Department to make sure water is free of contaminants.

FOLLOW-UP:

Susan Stetzer (CB3): Still want to work directly with DEP regarding enforcement and noise violations.

Susan Stetzer (CB3): Can't there be more DEP staff with noise level meters, etc? Geri of DEP: Please let us know in advance of event, and we can have more DEP staff on site. We need to know the event is happening and there is expected increased noise. Summons issued for non-compliance.

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Idling Laws

What is the total dollar amount of fines for idling issued in FY 2019 and FY 2018, and how many summonses does that represent?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

For FY 17, 206 summons were issued. 206 x 350 =$ 72,100.

If there is a question is how much was actually collected/paid for idling summons, this information needs to come from OATH.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

FY17 figures are the most recent data. No data for FY18 and FY19 yet.

FOLLOW-UP:

Humberto: There are air quality complaints broken down by borough in packets.

AGENDA ITEM 5 : Water/Sewer Operations

Since DEP’s water/sewer-related operations and capital program are funded by water and sewer rate money, and therefore are not considered in the budget consultation process, what budget priorities would DEP like for CBs to help them advocate for during the FY 2020 budget process?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DEP's Environmental Compliance Units, including Air & Noise and Asbestos Control, continue to be funded by City tax levy funds, and DEP would appreciate the Community Boards' continued support for the funding for these units.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

N/A

FOLLOW-UP:

AGENDA ITEM 6 : Programmatic Catch Basin Cleaning Program

At last year's budget consultation, we asked about the Programmatic Catch basin cleaning program for FY 2018 and FY 2019. DEP responded that “LL48/15 is an amendment to Section 24-5030 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which requires all 150,000 catch basins within DEP's jurisdiction to be inspected annually and catch basins

to be unclogged or repaired within nine days of inspection or receipt of a complaint about a clogged or malfunctioning catch basin. The requirements of 24-5030 are effective for a three year period beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2019. Prior to LL48/15, DEP inspected catch basins on a three-year programmatic cycle. This new law has required DEP to acquire additional resources and staff in order to accelerate the inspection cycle from once every three years to once a year."

Has the law that requires yearly inspection been renewed? Or are inspections back to a triennial cycle?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

The policy of yearly inspection of catch basins continues.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

Mario of DEP: Will continue to clean catch basins on yearly basis regardless of law.

FOLLOW-UP:

AGENDA ITEM 7 : Closure Codes

Has DEP resolved why their closure codes are not properly reflected in Open Data? If now, when do you anticipate resolving the disconnect?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

This issue has been resolved by DEP's Operational Bureaus and by our IT office.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

N/A

FOLLOW-UP:

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MANHATTAN INSPECTION TEAM			
CB	# BASINS	START DATE	SURVEY COMPLETION DUE DATE
1	1,167	July-1	August-1
2	1,413	August-2	September-6
3	1,265	September-7	October-7
4	1,201	October-11	November-9
5	1,128	November-10	December-9
6	1,080	December-12	January-9
7	1,146	January-10	February-7
8	1,037	February-8	March-8
9	935	March-9	March-31
10	953	April-3	April-25
11	912	April-26	May-17
12	1,364	May-18	June-30
Total =	13,601		

Homeowner's Guide to Rain Event Preparedness:

Tips to help you protect your home from sewer backups and flooding due to rainfall events

NYC Environmental Protection

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Vincent Sapienza, P.E.
Commissioner

This tip guide provides ideas for how to protect your home from risks associated with rain events. Reducing risk from coastal flooding, which could be associated with major hurricanes, requires consideration of a wider set of preparedness actions. The New York City Building Code has requirements and the Office of Emergency Management has valuable guidance on how to prepare for and reduce risk from these events.

What causes sewer backups and flooding?

- **Heavy rain events that rapidly increase water flow into sewers**
  Just as highways can become congested if too many drivers are on the road, the city's sewers can become congested if too much water is trying to enter. When this happens, the flow in the sewers can rise above the level of basement toilets and fixtures, which can result in a sewer backup into your home. Also, catch basins in the street can become blocked and unable to drain stormwater as fast as the rain is coming down, causing local street flooding.

- **Issues with your home's sewer connection**
  Any blockage or break can impair your home's sewer connection or the city sewer's ability to convey stormwater. Pouring used grease or cooking oil down any household drain or flushing anything other than toilet paper and organic waste can cause blockages and increase the risk of a sewer backup.

- **Slope conditions may cause water to flood low points**
  Localized flooding may occur where there are low points on the ground that prevent stormwater from draining properly. If there are low points around the foundation of your home or other pathways to unprotected garage and basement doors below street level, water may find its way into your home.

- **Sidewalks and streets that don't absorb stormwater**
  New York City and other densely populated urban areas are mostly paved. These impervious (non-porous) surfaces do not allow rainfall to be absorbed into the ground. During heavy rains, huge amounts of water flow into sewers very quickly and can overwhelm the system, increasing the risk of localized flooding and sewer backups.

If you experience sewer backups or flooding not caused by conditions inside your home or property, call 311 to report the problem.

Other Tips

- **Consider homeowner's flood insurance**
  Homeowner's insurance policies are all different, and some may not cover damages due to flooding. It is important to check with your insurance provider and consider purchasing a sewer backup or flood insurance policy or rider to your existing policy. This policy or rider could cover the damage and cleanup costs resulting from sewer backups and flooding caused by heavy rain.

- **Elevate or relocate high-value items**
  Consider elevating valuable items in your basement. Put them on shelves or relocate them to a higher floor.

- **Avoid traveling through flooded roadways**
  Streets are designed so that stormwater flows toward catch basins. Sometimes tree roots, construction, and other street defects can cause small pools of water to form. These small pools usually dissipate shortly after it rains; however, in more severe cases street flooding can occur. Never drive or walk through a flooded roadway.

To report roadway flooding, please call 311.

For more information, please visit nyc.gov/dep.

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NYC 311

NEW YORK CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The fourteen wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) throughout New York City treat about 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater every day. These plants are supported by approximately 7,400 miles of sewers and 96 pumping stations that convey both wastewater and stormwater for treatment. To process wastewater, the WWTPs replicate the same natural processes that clean water in streams and rivers; however, our WWTPs speed-up those processes to treat high volumes in a much shorter period of time. Beginning with physical and biological processes and ending with chemical disinfection, New York City's 14 WWTPs remove most of the impurities before releasing the treated 'effluent' into the surrounding waterways. Thanks to wastewater treatment, New York Harbor water is cleaner than it has been in over a century. Wastewater treatment also produces combustible methane gas, which the WWTPs use as green energy.

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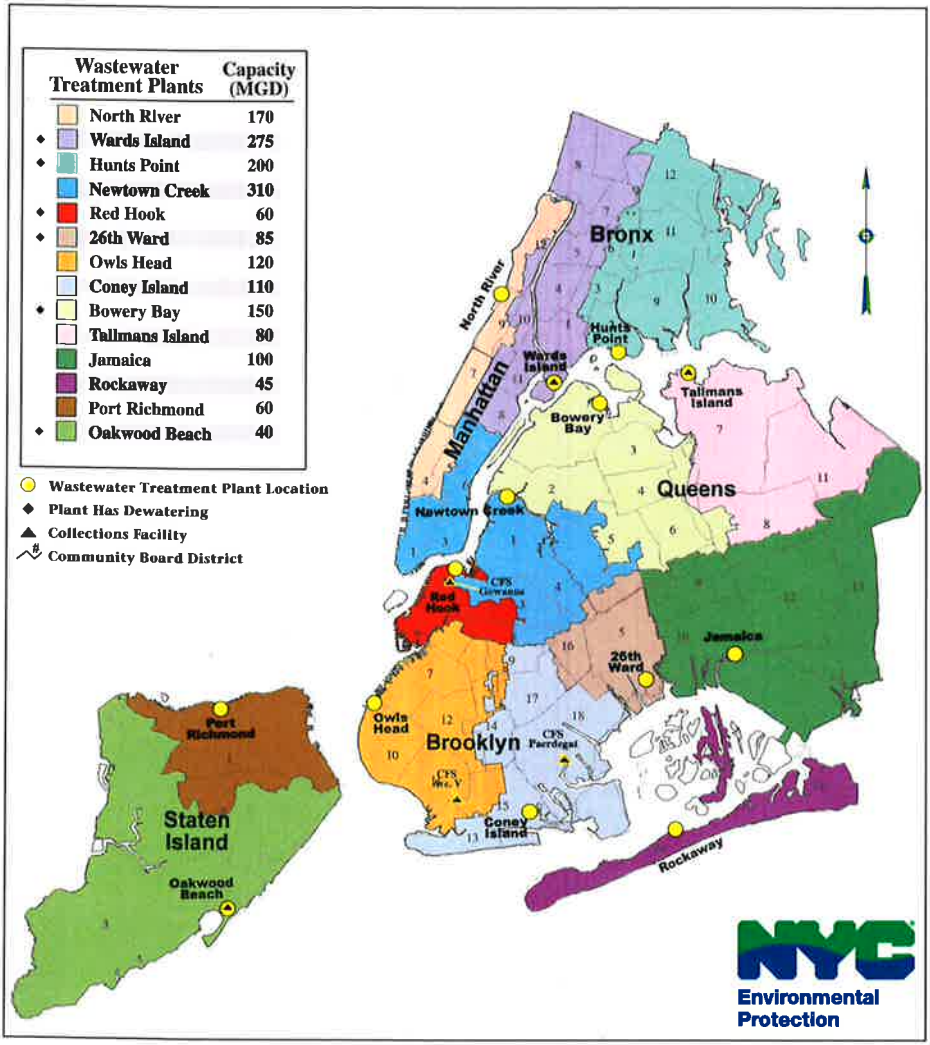
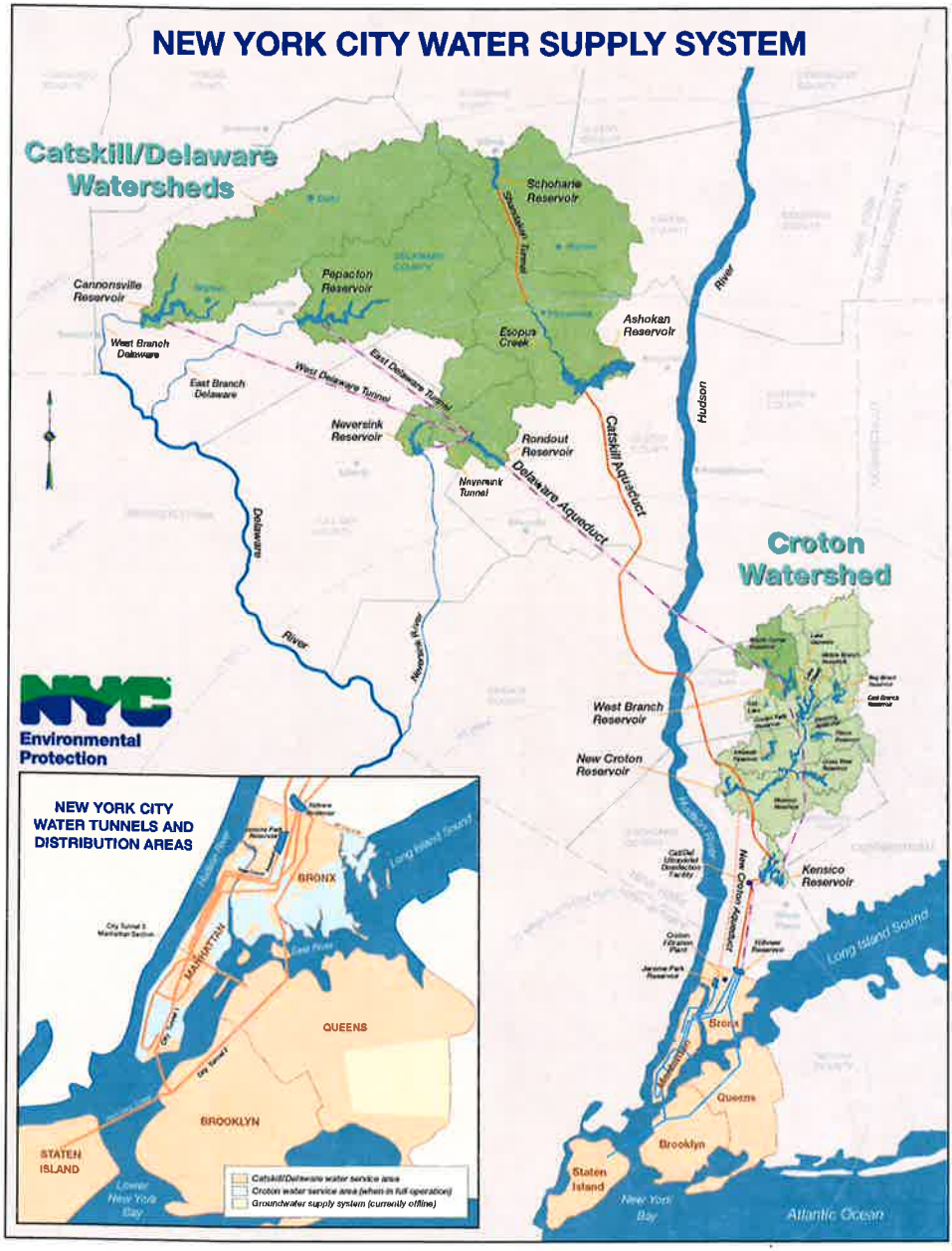
NEW YORK CITY DRAINAGE AREAS AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS



NEW YORK CITY WATER SUPPLY

New Yorkers really love their clean, fresh drinking water. Every day, 9 million people throughout New York City and New York State use about 1 billion gallons of drinking water from the New York City's Water Supply System. New York City's water comes from rain and snow that falls on the nearly 2,000-square-mile Croton, Catskill and Delaware watersheds. Nineteen reservoirs and three controlled lakes, some more than 100 miles away, store the water before it is delivered to the City almost entirely by gravity. To maintain the water's high quality, New York City has secured more than 130,000 acres of land in the watersheds, creating an ecological buffer that protects the water from contamination. New York City also partners with watershed municipalities, nonprofits and local farmers to develop programs and facilities that protect the quality of our great-tasting and healthy drinking water. Have a nice, cold drink of NYC Water and see for yourself!

NYC
Environmental
Protection


NEW YORK CITY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
Catskill/Delaware Watersheds
Schoharie Reservoir
Schoharie Tunnel
Cannonsville Reservoir
Pepacton Reservoir
Esopus Creek
Ashokan Reservoir
West Branch Delaware
East Branch Delaware
West Delaware Tunnel
East Delaware Tunnel
Neversink Reservoir
Rondout Reservoir
Neversink Tunnel
Delaware Aqueduct
Catskill Aqueduct
Hudson River
Delaware River
Neversink River
NYC Environmental Protection
Croton Watershed
West Branch Reservoir
New Croton Reservoir
Kensico Reservoir
New Croton Aqueduct
Croton Filtration Plant
Jerome Park Reservoir
Bronx
Queens
Brooklyn
Staten Island
New York Bay
Long Island Sound
Atlantic Ocean
NEW YORK CITY WATER TUNNELS AND DISTRIBUTION AREAS
BRONX
MANHATTAN
QUEENS
BROOKLYN
STATEN ISLAND
Long Island Sound
Lower New York Bay
Catskill/Delaware water service area
Croton water service area (when in full operation)
Groundwater supply system (currently offline)

New York City Water Supply
By Numbers

New Yorkers really love their clean, fresh drinking water.

- Every day, more than **8.5 million** people in New York City use about **1.1 billion** gallons of water.
- The New York City water supply system also provides water to **1 million people** in more than **70 communities** north of the city.
- New York City's water comes from the rain and snow that fall on the nearly **2,000-square-mile** Catskill, Delaware and Croton Watersheds.
- This system includes **19 reservoirs** and **three controlled lakes**, some more than **125 miles away**, with a storage capacity of **580 billion** gallons of water.
- More than **400,000 acres** of protected watershed land create an ecological buffer to keep water clean.
- **Three aqueducts**, the New Croton, Catskill and Delaware, deliver water to New York City entirely by gravity.
- In 1842, the **41-mile-long** Old Croton Aqueduct first brought fresh water to New York City. The **33-mile-long** New Croton Aqueduct replaced it in 1890.
- The Catskill Aqueduct is **92 miles** long and went into service in 1915.
- The **85-mile** Delaware Aqueduct, the longest continuous tunnel in the world, went into service in 1944.
- **6,800 miles** of aqueducts, tunnels and water mains are located beneath New York City streets.

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- City Water Tunnel **No. 3**, being built in stages and as deep as **800 feet** below ground, is one of the largest engineering projects in the Western hemisphere. When completed, it will allow for the shutdown, inspection and repair of City Water Tunnels **Nos. 1** and **2**, respectively in 1917 and 1936.
- Each year, scientists collect approximately **47,000 water samples** and perform **570,000 analyses** on them in **four state-of-the-art laboratories**. Another **1.6 million analyses** are performed using robotic monitoring equipment.
- More than **6,000 employees**, including almost **1,000** scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the upstate watershed, work for DEP.

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New York City
Department of Environmental Protection

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Vincent Sapienza, P.E., Acting Commissioner

Q&A | Catch Basins

What is a catch basin?

A catch basin is a type of storm drain located next to a curb that collects rainwater from the street and transports it either to one of DEP's 14 wastewater treatment plants (for combined sewers) or directly into a water body (for stormwater sewers). The catch basin is typically covered by a metal grate, which prevents large objects from falling in. Catch basins act primarily as a draining mechanism during heavy storms to prevent street flooding and allow rainwater to flow off of the city's non-absorbent (hard) streets and sidewalks.

Are all catch basins the same?

No. DEP maintains two types of basins: catch basins and seepage basins. Catch basins are connected to the sewer system by a pipe. Seepage basins are like dry wells, and are not connected to the sewer main by a pipe. They act like a drainage pit lined with loose stonework. When it rains, the water collects in the seepage basin and is absorbed into the surrounding soil. Because the water does not go directly into a pipe, it takes longer for a seepage basin to empty than a catch basin does.

How are catch basins maintained?

To help prevent catch basins from clogging, DEP's field operations unit makes sure that each of the catch basins is inspected at least once a year. They also respond to 311 complaints about clogged catch basins and street flooding. A special rain patrol is also sent out during heavy storms to clear debris off the top of catch basins. When a rain event is forecast, crews also pre-inspect areas prone to flooding to make sure the system is operating properly. To clean catch basins, DEP uses a truck-mounted crane, which first lifts the metal grate off of the catch basin and then uses a clamshell bucket to remove the debris.

How does DEP determine where catch basins should be installed?

DEP no longer accepts requests for catch basin installations. When DEP inspects a street flooding or ponding situation, it will evaluate the need for a catch basin and arrange installation if necessary.

Does DEP install a catch basin at every location that it inspects?

No. DEP does an engineering study before installing a catch basin. There are many requirements that must be met to install a catch basin. Not every location meets the requirements.

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