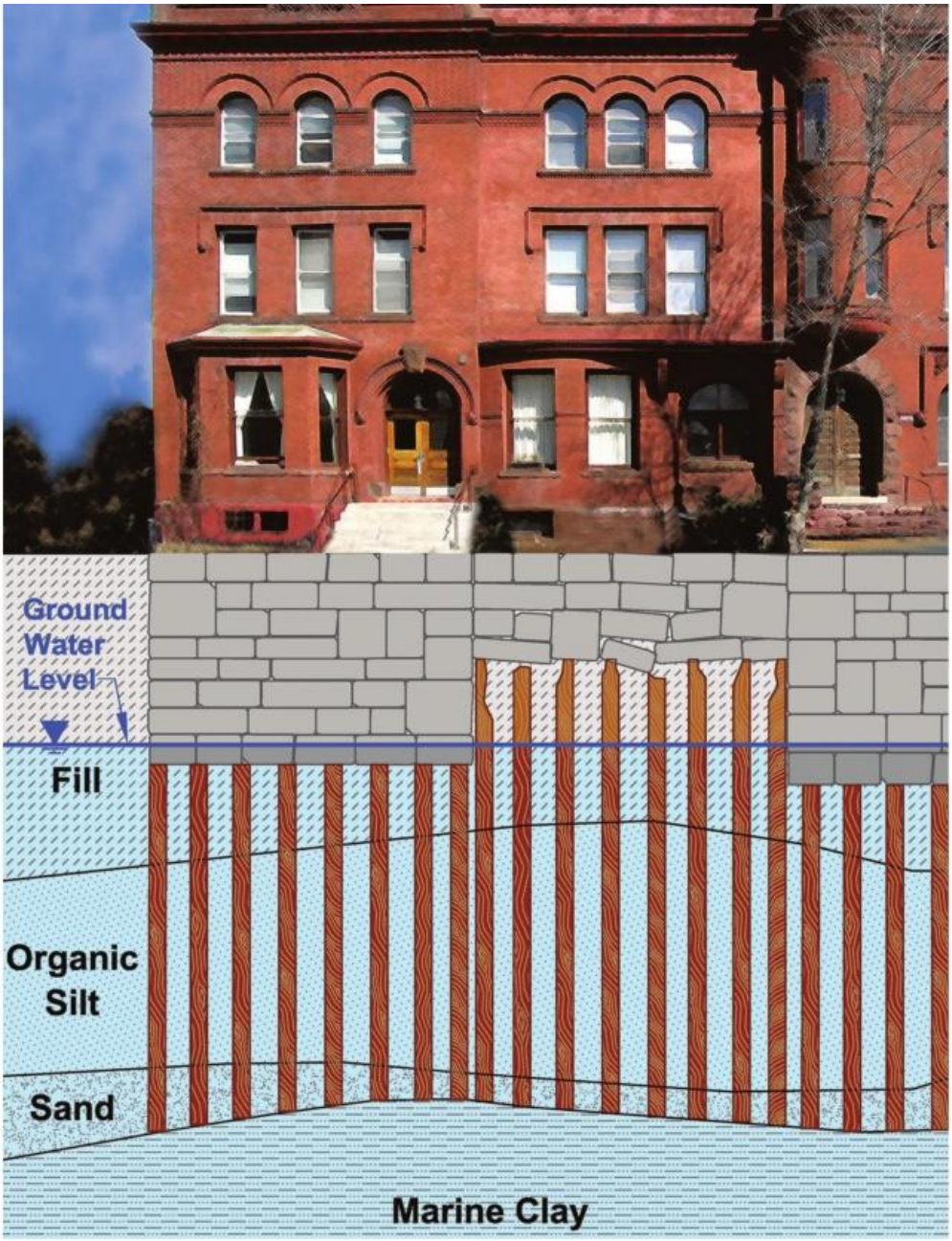

A wet winter has Boston's water tables in good condition, leaving the Groundwater Trust to focus on bringing new tech online and broadcasting real time information to the public.

The city's groundwater reservoirs are in much better condition today than they were at the start of last year according to the Boston Groundwater Trust (BGT), a silver lining of a January and March beset by rain.

Groundwater is vital in keeping structural pylons from rotting, sealing them off from bacteria that would otherwise destabilize building foundations throughout the city's many man- made land formations.

There's extensive infrastructure throughout Boston to preserve rainwater and keep water tables balanced. Heavy rains can overtax those systems and cause sewage overflows, which threaten public health. Structural damage can drain water levels until someone goes out and fixes the breach.

"Things are steady, we're in decent shape.

February was down a bit, but January was wet and the first few days of March essentially doubled February's entire precipitation," said BGT executive director Christian Simonelli.

Groundwater advocates have in recent years been focused on the groundwater conservation overlay district, an expanding zoning area that requires renovations and new construction to include rainwater collection systems.

Simonelli said the overlay district has been a success, bolstering reservoirs in the areas that need it most. The BGT is satisfied with the current borders and isn't pushing for any further expansion.

"It's much improved since we added East Boston, portions of the South End and Audubon Circle. We feel pretty comfortable with the areas covered now. We're certainly always looking for spots that should've been on our radar, but I really don't think we'll find any. We've done a pretty good job identifying which areas of the city have vulnerable wood piles," he said.

Instead, the BGT has been working on installing 30 remote monitoring systems in partnership with local startup BluCloud Inc. Those sensors came online slightly late in September.

The BGT has traditionally relied on sending out teams of people several times per year to manually check each well and log any that seem to be losing water. Automating that process will increase repair response times and circumvent disruptions from weather.

They're also planning to connect the sensors to a live online map, giving the public up- to- date information on water levels around the city. Simonelli says he hopes to see that go live by the end of the month.

"We're finalizing edits to the interface, more of a hub where the public can view that data. We'll have that on our website under our well monitoring tab where people can view all the information for all the wells in real time," he said.

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