

Well Installation Announcement

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST

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PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOSTON INSTALLS NEW GROUNDWATER OBSERVATION WELLS IN THE FENWAY

Tomorrow, September 5th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fenway at the intersection of Burbank Street and Hemenway Street, the Boston Groundwater Trust, with key officials including Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Secretary Douglas Foy, will announce installation of new groundwater observation wells in the Fenway, Back Bay, South End, and Beacon Hill areas of Boston. These wells are the first part of a city-wide program to drill over 500 new observation wells throughout the landfill areas of Boston; the first such program since the 1930's.

Tim Mitchell, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, explained the significance. "With these wells, residents of the city of Boston will be getting a clearer picture of the extent of the groundwater problem being faced in the city of Boston. Only by knowing the actual extent of the problem can we find the best way to remediate and protect groundwater levels in the city."

The funding for these wells comes from \$500,000 of state money obtained from the FY '03 environmental bond bill. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, through the assistance of Chief of Commonwealth Development Douglas Foy, has taken an active role in assisting the monitoring and remediation of groundwater in Boston.

"The groundwater issue is one we need to address collectively," said Commonwealth Development Secretary Doug Foy. "It is wonderful to have the state working with the Mayor's Office and the Boston Groundwater Trust to find a solution to this problem."

Boston City Councilor Michael P. Ross, a trustee of the Boston Groundwater Trust and an active participant in groundwater issues, expressed the importance of these new wells. "I am very excited that the Boston Groundwater Trust now has the funding to complete its city-wide monitoring system. Residents of the affected neighborhoods have shown that by working together with city and state officials, significant progress can be made."

Over 2,000 acres of metropolitan Boston and several entire historic neighborhoods built in the 19th and early 20th centuries are vulnerable to foundation damage from deteriorated groundwater levels. Depleted groundwater levels will gradually destroy the underground wood pilings used for the building foundations. This could devastate houses, churches and commercial buildings in downtown Boston neighborhoods including the Fenway, Chinatown, South End, Beacon Hill, Bay Village and Back Bay.