

July 2018 Newsletter



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Welcome and Latest on Well Elevations

Welcome to our new formatted newsletter. Much like our website redesign, we felt it was time for a refresh. As always, please let us know what you think.

It's July, summer is here (finally), the Red Sox are in first place, and we have just completed our fourth set of readings for the year. While January through April was above average for precipitation, May & June have been the complete opposite. Both months were below average, and it showed up in this reading set with most wells recording lower levels than the previous reading periods this year. Our 810 well network had 4 wells recording all-time highs and 6 wells recording all-time lows.

Update on Hot Spot Areas

BWSC has televised pipes along Stuart Street, in the Berkeley to Dartmouth Street and in the Saint James Avenue/Providence Street areas of the Back Bay. In the South End, along Clarendon Street, we continue to coordinate with BWSC on the best way to mitigate the low levels in some of the wells in this area. Along Montgomery Street in the South End some minor damp spots were discovered during inspections. A solution is currently in the early design stages. BWSC will again be dye testing lines on Commercial Street in the North End in the spring to look for leaks. We expect an update on these hot spots when the City State Groundwater Working Group meets in two weeks.

Project LightWell

Project LightWell Groundwater Data Sourcing program is up and running along Boylston Street. Partnering with project team LightWell the project consists of ten custom-designed, Bluetooth-enabled, translucent-Corian well caps. The well caps display real-time groundwater level data. Residents and visitors can interact with the data through the Boston LightWells mobile app. Please visit our homepage at bostongroundwater.org for locations and additional information.

Maps and Attachment Details

Attached are the usual color coded well elevation maps for our entire network. These maps are updated with new groundwater recharge location information obtained from BWSC. Recharge systems approved through the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) and in the public way are now indicated on both maps. I've also attached additional files and have a brief explanation of each below.

2000-2018 Monthly Precipitation

This table provides a month by month look at the precipitation totals in the City from 2000 to present.

BGwT 2007-2018 Average Network Elevation vs. Precipitation

I have revised this graph from a line to a bar graph. Please let me know what you think. This bar graph illustrates the average elevation of all 810 wells in our network vs. precipitation. While we have wells that have been read since 1999, 2007 is when we completed the bulk of our well network installations. Therefore, this 11 year period provides the largest amount of well data to work with. It's helpful to look at the average vs precipitation and see the slight (but important) gains made. The repairing of underground infrastructure coupled with the installation of recharge systems plays a major role in helping us maintain groundwater levels and capturing the precipitation.

BGwT 2018 Well Network Elevations

This table illustrates our 2018 well elevation ranges for each reading period. I've highlighted the highest numbers of the year for each elevation range. The table provides a good view of how the well network responds throughout the seasons of the year.

As always don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions that you may have. I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve you.