



CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY

***PRESS RELEASE ***

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Fisherman's Park Flood Gates Completed to Address Neighborhood Flooding

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ – Atlantic City Mayor Frank Gilliam announced that the Fisherman's Park Flood Gate and Pump Project is complete and residents and businesses in the area will start to witness less nuisance flooding.

Mayor Frank Gilliam stated, "This is truly a neighborhood project, for years the Baltic Avenue Canal has not worked as designed and now that the new flood gates are in place, it will help reduce flooding in the city from the Ducktown area to the Inlet."

The Baltic Avenue Canal has two outlets with associated tide gates: one located at Atlantis Avenue and Beach Thorofare, and another at an open canal at Fisherman's Park. Timber flood gates were constructed in 1912 to help control stormwater collected on Atlantic, Arctic, and Baltic Avenues, as well as surrounding streets. In the past, gates would be closed during high tide events to prevent the water from entering the system and flooding City streets. By the 1960's, the timber flood gates on each end of the canal were destroyed and have not operational until now.

The Baltic Avenue Canal was a well thought out public works project. It consists of a 9,700 foot long canal, over ten feet wide and eight feet tall. The canal can store over 1.1 million cubic feet of stormwater when the flood gates are operational, serving a 775-acre drainage area.

The Fisherman's Park Flood Gate and Pump Project is part of a \$12 million effort to rebuild the Baltic Avenue Canal. The timber flood gate has been replaced with a ten-foot-wide stainless-steel sluice gate with titanium bolts and a bronze connector. A diesel-fueled emergency generator will power the flood gate during power outages. The bulkhead has been replaced, 85 feet of new canal constructed, and two pumps were installed to evacuate the canal when the gates are closed.

Mayor Gilliam noted, "Thanks to the many federal agencies who assisted in the funding for this important project, as well as the hard-working City employees who managed this awesome construction effort."

The City has invested over \$8 million to replace the flood gates, added two pumps and made this system fully operational. Federal funding was made possible by grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Housing & Urban Development Agency and the US Economic Development Agency. Rutala Associates, the City's grant consultant, secured the grant funding for this and other Atlantic City projects.

Another phase of this project is in the design stage, slated to add six large pumps to the Atlantis Avenue Flood Gate System to evacuate water during significant flooding events. A \$6.5 million grant from the State will completely fund this project.

Mayor Gilliam noted, "Atlantic City continued to work with federal and state agencies to obtain funding to improve our infrastructure and make the City more resilient."

Earlier this year, the City opened Phase 2 of the \$50 million Absecon Inlet Seawall and Boardwalk reconstruction project. This project has been on the drawing board for more than twenty years. When fully complete in 2019, the Inlet neighborhood of the City will be armored with rock and steel bulkheads from Oriental Avenue to Gardner's Basin. The last section of this project should be out to bid in the next few months and includes protection of Caspian Pointe as well as bike and pedestrian paths to connect the Boardwalk to Gardner's Basin.

The City has been awarded grant funds from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, New Jersey Economic Development Authority, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Department of Transportation, and New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to leverage this massive project.

The City is also working with local properties owners who have had multiple flood claims in attracting FEMA funds to help fund the elevation of their homes. Since homeowners cannot apply for this grant directly, the City has worked to submit applications on their behalf. Last week, FEMA awarded a \$1.75 million grant to the City to fund the elevation of ten homes throughout the City. This grant program is offered annually and property owners who are interested should contact the City's Office of Emergency Management.

The City has secured \$450,000 for emergency generators for the All Wars and PAL Buildings so that they can serve the neighborhoods during times of power outages.

On a larger scale, a grant from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has been awarded to the City to design a microgrid that would power the AtlantiCare Medical Center and other critical facilities during power outages.

The City has partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers on a design and ultimate construction of new bulkheads along Sunset Avenue from the Expressway to Albany Avenue.

Atlantic City is also working with the Army Corps and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the development of a coastal protection plan for the entire Back Bay area. The \$3 million New Jersey Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Study will develop solutions that reduce damages from coastal flooding including flood gates at the Absecon Inlet.

Flooding issues on the Black Horse Pike have continued to be a priority for the City. The City is actively working with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, who has allocated \$8.6 million for bulkhead and road elevation improvements on this State Highway including improvements to the frequently flooded intersection of West End Avenue and the Route 40/322.

Mayor Gilliam noted, “The City has been very proactive in attracting grant funds to make our neighborhoods more resilient from flooding and future storm events.”

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