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Brockton, Massachusetts Becomes First City in New England to Fight Trash in Water with a Bandalong Litter Trap

BROCKTON, Mass. (December 12) – The “City of Champions” has yet another reason to celebrate their name, as they become champions in the fight against litter. The city has made a remarkable commitment to protect their environment by becoming the first city in New England to install a Bandalong Litter Trap to capture and remove floating litter on the Salisbury Plain River.

The project is a result of the Brockton Department of Public Works and their desire to reduce the impact of litter on their environment. After watching trash in storm water runoff emptying at outfalls, the Brockton Department of Public Works realized the importance of removing litter from the waterways.

“Litter causes significant damage to our environment,” said David Norton, Water & Sewer Contract Administrator for the City of Brockton. “Not only is it unsightly, but it also harms plants, animals and people, as it often contains germs that lead to a variety of disease and creates a toxic environment as it decomposes.”

Constructed of inert, corrosion-free high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and aluminum, the Bandalong floats in waterways and utilizes the water’s natural current to guide and capture litter before flowing further downstream. By continuously operating 365 days a year without mechanical assistance, the Bandalong is a proven cost-effective solution to a growing problem of litter in waterways throughout the world.

The Brockton installation features unique lift-out baskets that can easily be removed and emptied with standard public works equipment. Georgia-based Storm Water Systems, North America’s exclusive licensee of the Bandalong Litter Trap, installed the floating litter collection device in the Salisbury Plain River in late October.

In addition to reducing the negative impact of litter on the environment, the decision to install the Bandalong Litter Trap was made in part because of the litter that often formed “trash dams” downstream of the Advanced Wastewater

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Reclamation Facility. Brockton saw the need for flood mitigation because the waters of the Salisbury Plain River were impaired by not being able to flow as intended out of the City.

The installation of the Bandalong Litter Trap is the city of Brockton's most recent project displaying their commitment to protecting the environment. Recently, Brockton invested over \$110M to improve and upgrade the wastewater treatment facility and sewer collection systems. The installation has received support from officials in Brockton, including Mayor Linda M. Balzotti, who is eager to see the results.

"With this investment, Brockton is making a concrete statement concerning our city's commitment to the environment and providing safe, clean water for generations to come," Mayor Linda M. Balzotti said. "We are proud to be the first city in New England to install a Bandalong Litter Trap."

Because Brockton is the first in their region to install a Bandalong Litter Trap, agencies such as the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) and FEMA have exhibited a substantial interest in the installation and subsequent results.

The first American installation in Washington DC collected over three tons of floating litter in the first 12 months of operation. Currently, there are over 205 installations in the world, with the Brockton installation being only the fourth in the United States.

About Brockton, Mass.

The city of Brockton, Massachusetts is located in Plymouth County and is home to approximately 100,000 residents. The city prides itself on its rich diversity of cultures, vibrant history, growing commercial base, award-winning public school system and environmental stewardship. The EPA recently honored the Brockton's Wastewater Treatment Plant Contract Administrator, David Norton with the "2010 Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Award." To learn more about the City of Brockton, Massachusetts, visit www.brockton.ma.us

About Storm Water Systems

Storm Water Systems offers innovative products and systems to remove trash and debris from stormwater runoff and natural waterways. Based in Cleveland, GA, Storm Water Systems was founded on more than 30 years of expertise in isolating pollutants from the environment. To learn more about Storm Water Systems and the Bandalong Litter Trap, visit www.stormwatersystems.com