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**Office of the First Selectman
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Press Release



Byram River Streamflow Gage Installed

Peter Tesei, First Selectman for the Town of Greenwich, announced today that the stream flow gage planned for the Byram River has been installed. The installation is part of a cooperative effort between the Town, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (CTDEMHS) and the United States Geologic Survey (USGS). The gage is part of the USGS national real-time water data system that is used across the country to monitor daily stream flows. It provides local communities much needed information on flooding and/or drought conditions.

“The installation of the stream flow gage on the Byram River is a real benefit to the Town,” stated Tesei. “During storm events we will have the ability to continuously monitor stream conditions and will be in a better position to give residents advanced warning during flood emergencies.”

The gage will collect stream flow measurements and download that information hourly to a USGS website where Town officials and residents alike will have access to the data. During high flow conditions, the system will be set to record data every fifteen minutes. “The next step is to tie the gage into our reverse 911 system,” explained Dan Warzoha, Director of Emergency Management. “When this is done, residents in the flood-prone areas will be alerted when conditions call for action.”

“Dan and I have been working on this installation for over a year, coordinating local resources with state and federal agencies” stated Denise Savageau, Conservation Director. “Our partners at USGS and CTDEMHS, were committed to making this happen. We now have real data online and that is good news for Greenwich. I can’t thank everyone enough who helped us see this project through.”

The gage installation is being funded by a grant from CTDEMHS/FEMA for \$27,500. The Town will be responsible for annual operation and maintenance costs estimated at approximately \$15,000 annually.

According to Savageau, the new gage will not only help during a flood emergency, it will also provide the Town with long term stream flow data useful in watershed planning. Additionally, the gage will also provide information on low flow conditions and will be used to monitor drought conditions.

To view the USGS Real Time Water Data online, go to <http://water.usgs.gov/> and click on real-time data and select your State. The Byram River gage can be found by selecting Connecticut and then the Statewide Streamflow Table.

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