



PARKS PLUMBERS TAME A “SEE” SNAKE

Urban legend has it that giant snakes roam the New York City sewer system. There is truth to that myth now. Parks plumbers are using a new and innovative pipe inspection tool called See Snake Diagnostic Equipment. The See Snake is designed primarily to search for potential leak points in underground pipes. It circumvents the traditional time-consuming underground pipe inspection, which consists of digging and cutting different segments of the pipe until a leak is found.

The See Snake is an ideal tool for inspecting drain lines two to ten inches in diameter. It is composed of a camera attached to a flexible fiberglass rod and a monitor. The rod can be inserted into a pipe of over 300 feet in length and can negotiate multiple 90-degree bends. The head of the camera is equipped with a Light Emitting Diode (LED) which, unlike an incandescent lamp, does not have a fragile filament. The LED gives off red light to illuminate pipe interiors, resulting in a higher quality picture. The camera connection is plugged directly into a monitor, which includes a dimmer knob to adjust the LED brightness for varying pipe conditions.



The head of the See Snake is equipped with a camera.

The See Snake was recently used by 5-Boro plumbers Ruben Cano, Barry Klempner, and Scott Withers to locate a leak in the main drain line at St. Mary’s Pool in the Bronx. The pipe in question was buried 2 feet underground, so any attempt to expose the pipe and perform a visual inspection would have required several days of work. Instead, the See Snake allowed the 5-Boro plumbers to locate the underground pipe leak in a fraction of the time. The leaking area was found 50 linear feet from the drain. The damaged section of the pipe was exposed and the necessary repair was performed.



Plumbers Ruben Cano, Barry Klempner, and Scott Withers with the See Snake’s monitor.

Five-Boro bought its See Snake from Eigen Plumbing Supply for about \$2500. The telephone number for Eigen is (212) 255-1200. For additional information on the See Snake, contact Brad “Headlock” Clement at (212) 360-8230. Written by Brad Clement.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS ON BRONX BEACHES

With the summer quickly approaching, the Bronx Field Office has found a clever way to efficiently clean the sand at Orchard Beach while allowing the public to maximize their time at the beach. Last summer, the field office noticed that citizens were arriving earlier and earlier for their day at the beach. This presented a problem because the sand could not be thoroughly cleaned before the beachgoers arrived in the morning. To circumvent these early risers, the field office began cleaning the beach on Saturday and Sunday nights, after the busiest beach days of the week.

The trial run proved so successful that the field office is moving to night cleaning five times a week this summer. They are in the process of placing rack lights on their vehicles to ensure that the Beach King, which collects trash by raking the sand, reaches all of the debris. The cleaning process also involves a beach wagon which compresses the trash collected by the Beach King.

This effort to improve beach cleanliness while ensuring that the beach can be fully utilized by the public has also been a winner with the Parks personnel at Orchard Beach. Bob “Sheriff” Reeves, the PRM at Orchard Beach, found that a majority of his staff preferred working rotating nights. CPWs and APSWs involved in the experimental project enjoyed working at nights when the heat and crowds had dissipated, allowing them to spend more time cleaning and making the overall process more pleasant.

Building upon the success of the nighttime beach cleaning, Orchard Beach is starting to clean the comfort stations during the evening. CPWs are power washing and disinfecting the bathrooms from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM. This allows the restrooms to remain open during the busy daylight hours while still being sufficiently cleaned. For more information about nighttime beach cleaning, please contact PRM Bob Reeves at (718) 430-4688. Written by Maura “Webster” Hegarty.

TREE INJECTIONS: NEW WEAPON AGAINST BEETLE

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) has been invading trees in the New York City area since 1996, when it was first discovered in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Since that time, Parks’ only defense against the insect has been to find and destroy infested trees. Now, Parks is trying a new tactic with the help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture: a sort of vaccine for trees against the Beetle.

Starting this month, thousands of trees in New York City and Long Island will be injected with a systemic insecticide in an attempt to fend off ALB invasion. A systemic insecticide is incorporated directly into a tree via small canisters that are placed near the tree base, just above the roots. The insecticide is naturally absorbed from the canister into the tree, moving upward

— Continued on Page 2, Column 2 —

ARCVIEW HELPS CAPITAL SEE THE BIG PICTURE

Many divisions at Parks are starting to use Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology in their work. MIS and the Natural Resources Group are using GIS, and the Capital Projects division is now using this technology to enhance their design process. They have chosen ArcView GIS software, which has become the industry standard for GIS software.

ArcView's specialty is displaying many layers of geographical information in the form of maps, tables, and charts. A user can analyze data and then turn his or her findings into presentation-quality maps. This process can reveal new relationships, patterns, and trends that would not be visible with older tools like text files, spreadsheets, and databases.

ArcView is especially useful for preliminary decision-making. It presents information in a clear, visual form, allowing landscape architects and urban planners to look at proposed plans in the context of a site's existing conditions. This way, the planners can evaluate multiple scenarios and discover possible issues early in the design process.

ArcView is not a drafting tool, but it can be used in conjunction with a Computer-Aided Design (CAD) program. CAD drawings can be imported into ArcView over aerial images to illustrate the effect of a proposed project on an existing site. Photographs can also be incorporated.

Parks' In-House Design staff first used this software for the Forest Park Bridle Path Project, which called for reconstructing the bridle path system. Project manager Rob "Pheasant" Lopane began by obtaining old survey data for the site. This data was stored in a CAD file, which was imported into ArcView, where it could then be laid over an aerial photograph of the site. Rob also used data sets from MIS that contained layout and topographical information. With these maps, he was able to plan for intersection points of the horse paths with pedestrian paths and remedy possible conflicts early on, using barriers or altered path widths. His proposed path design was then placed over the larger map to illustrate the changes the plan would have on the park.

Our design team is again using ArcView as we plan for construction of the Bronx River Greenway. This approximately \$11 million project involves creating a master plan for the Bronx River from the city limits to the Long Island Sound, with links among Soundview, Lafayette, Starlight, Westfarms, and Bronx River Parks. The goal is to create a greenway system and plan for future acquisitions to create a continuous experience along the river. By importing aerial photographs of the area into ArcView, the designers can see the larger picture of how their proposals relate to each other and to existing conditions. Jim "Harmonicat" Mituzas has taken the lead in using ArcView to analyze existing conditions to develop a plan of attack. Design can now coordinate with the Planning office and Waterways & Trailways to choose the most appropriate projects.

Parks has only begun to scratch the surface of the many applications of ArcView. ArcView has the potential for organizing all of our Capital Projects onto one map that could eventually be embellished with many layers of detail, situating each park within the context of the city. *For more information about ArcView, contact Jen "Juggler" Slaw at (718) 760-6805. Written by Jen Slaw.*

— *Tree Injections, Continued from Page 1* —

into stems, twigs, and foliage. While this treatment cannot cure trees that have already been infested, it makes the treated plant unpalatable to the target pest (the ALB). The chemical insecticide, which is called imidacloprid, works by interfering with the insect nervous system, resulting in the insect's paralysis and eventually death.

Imidacloprid is applied to the tree through small trunk injectors (canisters that are externally attached to the tree base). One injector is required for every 2 inches of tree diameter at breast height of the tree. Therefore, a tree 24 inches in diameter would require 12 injectors spaced around its base. Holes are drilled at a 45-degree angle to the trunk, and chemical dispensers are placed in the holes. To activate the dispensers, one must tap the bottom with a small mallet or press it between the hands. The injection process takes a few hours, and the area must be secured to prevent disturbance of the injectors during this period.

Imidacloprid injection for ALB was introduced in Chicago in 2000. New York's program, which is feder-



Insecticide injectors spaced around the base of a tree.

ally funded and managed by the USDA, is scheduled to begin April 26. The program will treat approximately 8,000 trees in New York City and another 4,000 trees on Long Island, including trees on streets, in parks, and on private property (backyards, cemeteries, rail yards, etc.)

Tree injection is also used as a method to treat Dutch elm disease, oak wilt, and other tree ailments. It is a standard method of applying fertilizers and other insecticides. *For more information about the Asian Long-Horned Beetle or tree injection, contact Jackie "Ironwood" Lu at (718) 760-6597. Written by Jackie Lu.*

SHARE YOUR INNOVATIONS!

Do you have ideas that you know would improve our Parks? If you have suggestions for this newsletter or have recently implemented an innovative idea, please contact the Parks R & D Team at (212) 360-8229.

**City of New York
Parks & Recreation**



Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor

Henry J. Stern, Commissioner

Alan M. Moss, First Deputy Commissioner

Robert L. Garafola, Deputy Commissioner

Jack T. Linn, Assistant Commissioner

Jeremy Peterson, Director

www.nyc.gov/parks

Newsletter edited by Amy Tryon, 4/25/01

