



City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford  
Office of the Mayor  
Contact: Jonathan Carvalho  
(508) 979-1410  
[icarvalho@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:icarvalho@newbedford-ma.gov)

Date: September 28, 2017  
For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Mayor Mitchell and City officials announce infrastructure improvements recently added in Sassaquin to protect pond**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** New technological and infrastructure upgrades in the City’s Sassaquin neighborhood have been added to protect Sassaquin Pond, including the completion of a stormwater filter that will keep contaminants out of the pond.

Located at the corner of Leroy Street and Morton Avenue, the filtration system – known as a jellyfish filter – will improve the quality of water by removing a number of pollutants from stormwater runoff. With a residential area immediately surrounding Sassaquin Pond, stormwater runoff into the pond in the past has closed it to swimming at times, and the City has worked to improve and protect the pond with infrastructure upgrades. In addition to the new filtration system to mitigate stormwater, the Department of Public Infrastructure has installed 16 tree wells and updated two headwalls around the pond, adding to protection of the pond.

The new filtration system by Contech Engineered Solutions improves water quality by removing 99% of trash, 89% of total suspended solids (such as oil, grease and others), more than 80% of copper, and other pollutants that can affect the water quality. The filtration system treats 154 gallons per minute, and after treatment the water exits the filter into Sassaquin Pond. An emergency overflow space in the system activates in the event of major storms to prevent flooding in the area.

“Sassaquin Pond has been an oasis in the North End for generations, and my administration has been committed to protecting it for generations to come. The advanced ‘jellyfish’ filter is one of several important measures that will help negate runoff pollution from the surrounding streets and other threats to the pond’s long term health,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

#### **About the Jellyfish Stormwater Treatment Filter (by Contech Engineered Solutions)**

The Jellyfish Filter is a stormwater quality treatment technology featuring high flow pretreatment and membrane filtration in a compact stand-alone system. Jellyfish removes floatables, trash, oil, debris, TSS, fine silt-sized particles, and a high percentage of particulate-bound pollutants; including phosphorus, nitrogen, metals and hydrocarbons. The Jellyfish Filter has been tested in

the field and laboratory, and its performance verified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, as well as numerous other stormwater regulatory agencies.

For information on how the jellyfish filtration system works, this short video by Contech provides information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NskPFUwdALE>.

###