

## Newtown Creek Valentine's Day Tour



The [Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant](#) will once again be opened to the public for Valentine's Day tours. The tours will be held on Saturday, February 11, and will be led by plant operators. Tours will include a short overview of the wastewater treatment process followed by a visit to the 120-foot high observation deck located atop the iconic digester eggs. Located in Brooklyn's Greenpoint neighborhood, the Newtown Creek plant went into operation in 1967 and is in the final stages of a \$5 billion upgrade that has increased its wet weather capacity to over 700 million gallons a day. Newtown Creek has also been honored by The New York City Art Commission with two Awards for Excellence in Design.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Injury and Illness Recordkeeping Requirements

DEP is currently working on the Injury and Illness Report for the year 2016. The New York State Department of Labor requires all Public Employers to document and submit recordable injury and illness data annually. For an injury or illness to be recordable, generally it must result in any of the following:

- Death,
- Days away from work,
- Restricted work or transfer to another job,
- Medical treatment beyond first aid, or
- Loss of consciousness.

The injuries or illnesses must be recorded on the following forms:

- SH 900: Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses
- SH 900.1: Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses
- SH 900.2: Injury and Illness Incident Report

In addition, DEP is required to keep these records for at least five years and post the annual summary (SH 900.1), for the previous calendar year in a conspicuous location, from February 1 through April 30 each year.

For more information and fillable SH 900 forms please visit the [Department of Labor](#) website.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

*Nancy Cianflone, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Customer Services, is a guest commentator this week.*



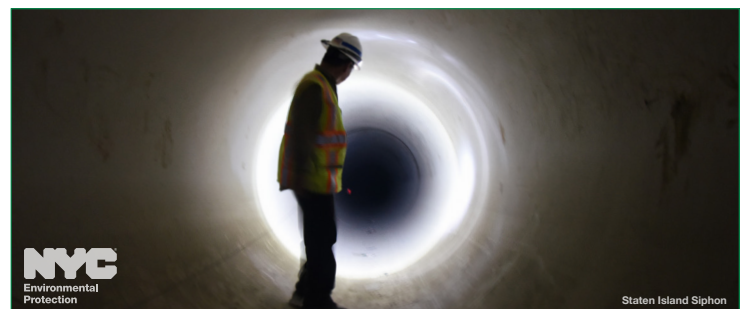
Last Friday Mayor de Blasio signed into law Intro 1385-A, which reauthorizes the City of New York's tax and water/sewer lien sale program for four years. The lien sale program is critical to DEP's ability to continue providing a reliable supply of high quality drinking water while also protecting public health and the environment.

All of our water related expenses—both operational and capital—are paid for with the money collected from the water and sewer rate charge—billed to all New York City property owners and authorized annually by the New York City Water Board. The lien sale authority for seriously delinquent water and sewer charges is a critical enforcement tool that allows us to keep water and sewer rates as low as possible, while fulfilling our critical mission.

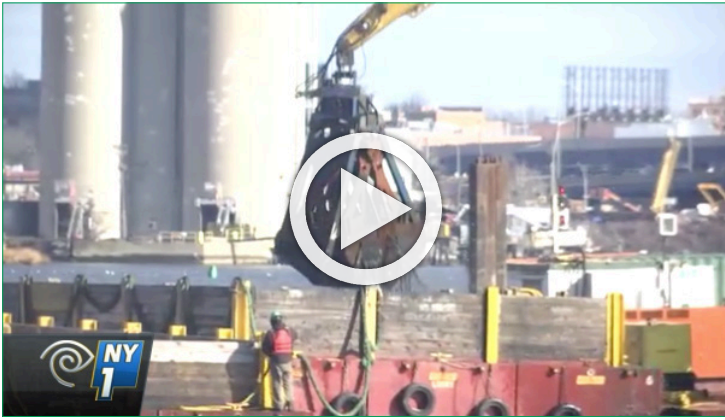
Each year, DEP collects more than \$100 million of revenue directly attributable to the sale of water and sewer liens and the pre-lien sale process. In addition, we estimate that we also collect another \$360 million annually, due to the lien sale's "halo effect", that is an inducement for customers to stay current on their charges to avoid being placed on the lien sale list. These funds represent approximately 13 percent of our overall budget, an amount that is vital to meeting our obligations every year.

When the lien sale program was last authorized in 2015, the law called for the formation of a Joint Lien Sale Task Force to evaluate the program and ensure that it's fair, efficient and effective. As a member of the task force, DEP partnered with the Departments of Finance and Housing, Preservation and Development, as well as Council Members **Julissa Ferreras-Copeland**, **Debi Rose**, **Donovan Richards**, and **Robert Cornegy** to explore ways to ensure the lien sale program is carried out in a fair manner.

DEP's lien sale authority is an essential tool that not only provides needed revenue, but also ensures that all building owners pay for the water and sewer services that their buildings consume. The work to reauthorize the program spreads across several bureaus at DEP, but I'd specifically like to recognize the contributions of Chief Financial Officer **Joe Murin**, BPAC Deputy Commissioner **Eric Landau**, **Rick Muller** and the entire BCS team including **Mike Moran**, **Patrick Hendricks** and **Albert Kramer**.



## Press Box



### DREDGING BEGINS TO CLEAN UP FLUSHING BAY

NY1 recently reported on the ongoing [\\$34 million DEP project to dredge portions of Flushing Bay](#) in order to improve the health of the waterway and significantly reduce nuisance odors. Currently, three long-reach excavators situated on floating barges are removing 91,000 cubic yards of sediment over a 17.5 acre area in the vicinity of the World's Fair Marina. Work thus far has resulted in the removal of 78 deteriorated timber piles and an abandoned pier, as well as non-native trees, in an effort to improve views along a portion of the 1.4-mile long Flushing Bay Promenade. The project will also include the enhancement of more than three-acres of wetland habitat.

Read the entire NY1 report [here](#).

## Steel Liners Destined for Newburgh



The third barge of steel liners slated for use in the construction of the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel is on its way to Newburgh. The website [VesselFinder](#) can be used to track the tug boat and heavy-duty barge as they traverse the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean and Hudson River during their journey. In total, 230 sections of steel liner, each section 40-feet long, will be shipped north to the construction site over the next few months. The 2.5-mile bypass tunnel is being constructed to address leaks in one of the two main aqueducts that supply drinking water to New York City and other upstate communities. It will be encased in 9,200 feet of steel since the geology underneath the Hudson River includes faulted limestone, which is not supportive of tunneling.

## Bluebelt Expansion Earns Award



The ongoing \$48 million expansion of the Staten Island Bluebelt in the South Shore's Woodrow area has received the [Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's \(ISI\) Envision Silver Award](#). The Award recognizes projects that foster a dramatic and necessary improvement in the sustainability, performance and resiliency of infrastructure. The award-winning Bluebelt program preserves natural drainage corridors such as streams and ponds, and optimizes them to help control and filter stormwater. As part of this project, the stormwater that is collected from local roadways will be directed to a new wetland that will be built on City-owned property at the east end of Sheldon Avenue. The work will include the planting of 723 canopy trees, 166 shrubs, 36,850 plants and wildflowers, and 115,000 square feet of seeding. The Bluebelt will hold and naturally filter the stormwater before it eventually drains into the Arthur Kill.

## Snowshoe Recreation in the Watershed



An upstate resident bravely ventured out into the elements last week to enjoy some snowshoeing in the [Richmond Recreation Unit](#), a 314-acre public access area in the Town of Windham, Greene County. DEP first established [public access areas](#) in 2008 to allow recreation without permits on certain watershed lands. Since then, the number of acres open for recreation without a permit has more than tripled, from 20,009 to 69,016. Last year, 2,640 additional acres of City-owned property across the watershed in Delaware, Greene and Ulster counties were opened. In total, DEP has opened 133,017 acres of land and water for various types of low-impact recreation.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**