

## Commissioner's Corner

DEP has one of the largest capital construction programs in the region and we are making significant investments in our infrastructure, from the south shore of Staten Island to Gilboa, NY. In recognition of last week being National Infrastructure Week, I'd like to highlight some recent significant investments and progress DEP has made as we maintain and upgrade the City's critical water systems.

Work continues in upstate Newburgh on the \$1 billion project to repair the 85-mile-long Delaware Aqueduct, the longest tunnel in the world. The bypass tunnel is now 2,021 feet long, and the tunnel boring machine (TBM) is operating well. The work at shaft 6B in Wappinger is also on schedule. The drainage tunnel will be complete this year, and shaft 6B will be ready to receive the TBM when it completes its work. This project is the largest repair effort in the 176-year history of New York City's water supply.

In Queens, we recently broke ground on a \$62.5 million infrastructure upgrade in Flushing and Bayside that will include more than 7 miles of new water mains. More than 4.3 miles of new ductile iron water mains will be built to replace the older cast iron pipes and 2.5 miles of trunk mains, which serve as a conduit between the large water tunnels and the local distribution mains, will be added. This

will improve water distribution and provide a reliable supply of high quality drinking water for the area. The 80 new fire hydrants will ensure access to the water supply for firefighters.

While the roadway is open to upgrade the water mains, approximately 4,300 linear feet of sanitary sewers will be installed in the area. Additionally, 350 linear feet of new storm sewers and 100 catch basins will be constructed to help to increase drainage capacity and help to alleviate flooding.

Lastly, we recently completed a \$6.8 million infrastructure upgrade in the Staten Island neighborhood of Dongan Hills. As part of the project, more than 2,400 linear feet of new storm sewers and the construction of 32 new catch basins will help to drain precipitation from the roadways. In addition, almost 1,900 linear feet of new sanitary sewers were installed.

While the roadway was open to construct the sewers, approximately 4,300 linear feet of new ductile iron water mains were added to replace older cast iron pipes. This will improve water distribution in the area while 18 new hydrants will ensure firefighters have ready access to the City's water supply.

These projects, and many more, are a part of DEP's robust capital program with \$19.1 billion in investments planned over the next



decade that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. The message of this year's National Infrastructure Week was, "The future won't wait. Neither can we."

*It's #TimeToBuild.* At DEP, we are proud to be building reliable and resilient critical water systems that will better serve our customers for many years to come.

## Spotlight on Safety

### May is Electrical Safety Month

Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFi) recognizes May as National Electrical Safety Month. The high volumes of electrical equipment in a workspace can expose workers to serious electrical hazards that can cause shocks, burns and fires. Many electrical incidents are a result of faulty or defective equipment, unsafe installations, or misuse of equipment.

Here is how you can protect against electrical incidents:

- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances and never plug in more than one high-wattage appliance at a time.

- Inspect electrical cords to ensure they are not frayed, cracked or damaged.
- Do not run electrical cords through high-traffic areas, under carpets or across doorways.
- Ensure ladders and other equipment do not contact power lines.
- If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and drive away from the line.

Remember to call the electric utility company and emergency services to report fallen power lines. For additional information, visit the [ESFi](#) and [OSHA](#) websites.



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.



## East Flatbush Gets Green Playground



Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** recently joined with **Governor Cuomo**, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner **Rose Harvey**, New York State Assemblyman **Nick Perry**, The Trust for Public Land, New York Road Runners, and I.S. 598 faculty and students to announce the construction of a new green community playground. Set to be completed this fall, the \$1.7 million playground will include a new basketball court, outdoor classroom space, fitness equipment, and running track. New green infrastructure elements including a turf field, trees and permeable pavement, will be able to capture more than one million gallons of stormwater each year, helping to protect the health of Jamaica Bay. The community playground is located on the Winthrop School campus in Brooklyn and is within a 10-minute walk from more than 30,000 East Flatbush residents.

## Health Fair Promotes Better Living



The Health and Wellness Fair hosted Friday at Lefrak in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Learning Center, Lecture Room and Training Center attracted numerous participants interested in living healthier lives. Attendees enjoyed a cooking demonstration by Corbin Hill Farm Share; sat for blood glucose, A1C, and blood pressure screenings; partook in yoga, massages, and meditations, and learned about Weight Watchers, Diabetes Prevention, WorkWell NYC, and City Share. Special thanks to everyone involved in making the fair a success, including: **Charlotte Abocomitini**, **Wanda Roldan**, **Frankie Camardella**, **Kerryann Russell**, carpenters, laborers, **Frank Munari**, **QWL/WorkWell Team**, **DC37**, **MEA**, **Union 1180**, **Jonathan Glotzer**, **Jennifer Norton**, **Sandrine Moore Straw**, **Nicole Diunte**, **Noeliz Lee (EH&S)**, **Camilla Bowser-Foster**, **James Lin**, **Maureen Brown** and **Lakeisha Bradshaw**.

## Celebrating Our Upstate Wetlands



DEP celebrated American Wetlands Month on May 11 by hosting a wetlands discovery event at Ashokan Reservoir. DEP wetland scientists displayed living samples of plants and wildlife found in nearby wetlands, and answered questions about these unique habitats. Wetlands help to maintain the high quality of New York City's water supply. Approximately 35,000 acres of wetlands are located within the watersheds that surround New York City's reservoirs. In March 2018, DEP updated its strategy for protecting these wetlands and their water quality functions. The strategy leverages land conservation, voluntary stewardship, and outreach programs to protect wetland resources from loss and degradation. Over 5,000 acres of wetlands are protected on City-owned lands, 58 percent of which have been acquired through watershed protection programs initiated in 1997. The month of May is set aside each year to recognize the vital role that wetlands play in our nation's ecological, economic and social health. American Wetlands Month has been celebrated each May since 1991.

## Ticateneyck Mountain Hike



DEP and NYS DEC will host a community hike to the summit of Ticateneyck Mountain on June 2 to celebrate National Trails Day. Ticateneyck Mountain is located in Ulster County along the town border of Olive and Woodstock. This moderate hike will comprise a 3.5-mile round trip. The hike follows old woods roads and ridgelines that open to spectacular views of the Catskill Mountains, Shawangunk Mountains and Ashokan Reservoir. Because the event is limited to 15 people, participants must pre-register by [clicking here](#) or by visiting our [NYC Watershed Facebook](#) page. Participants are also encouraged to bring water, snacks or lunch, and wear proper attire for hiking.

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