

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



James Mueller
Acting Deputy Commissioner
Engineering, Design
and Construction

We have committed a significant amount of capital dollars to improving polluted waterways and I'm proud to announce substantial progress on more than [\\$200 million in ecological improvements for Flushing Bay](#). Work includes the ongoing construction of more than three acres of new wetlands that will naturally filter the water in the Bay, the recently completed dredging of 89,000 cubic yards of sediment, and an upgrade of the sewer system that is preventing 225 million gallons of pollution from being discharged into the Bay each year. Reducing the volume of sewer overflows, removing built-up sediment that would become exposed during low tide and create nuisance odors, and restoring the natural wetlands to

help filter impurities from the water has resulted in a visibly healthier waterway for residents to enjoy and a more hospitable habitat for fish and wildlife.

WETLAND CONSTRUCTION

In 2017 DEP began a \$19.2 million project to construct more than three acres of new wetlands along the southern shore.

ENVIRONMENTAL DREDGING

The \$15.4 million project to dredge portions of Flushing Bay in the vicinity of the World's Fair Marina and two combined sewer outfalls has significantly reduced nuisance odors in the area.

SEWER OPTIMIZATION

The \$33 million subsurface sewer upgrades took place at five key junction points within the sewer system between LaGuardia Airport and the Long Island Expressway. By directing additional wastewater to the treatment facil-



ity, this project has reduced sewer overflows into Flushing Bay by 225 million gallons annually.

COLLEGE POINT SEWER SEPARATION

Work began in 2016 on a \$132 million project to separate the existing combined sewer system in College Point and permanently decommission three combined sewer outfalls on the eastern shore of the Bay. This will result in a nearly 50 million gallon reduction in sewer overflows annually.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In the Flushing Bay and Flushing Creek watersheds, DEP has built more than 1,250 green infrastructure assets over the last five years. This includes curbside rain gardens that collect and manage stormwater before it can ever enter the combined sewer system and contribute to overflows.

I'd like to thank our colleagues in BWSO, including **Carl Santoro**



and **Jevon Griffin**, BWT including **Jerry Volgende**, **Paul Kiskorna** and **William LeClair**, BEPA's **John McLaughlin**, and our BEDC staffers who have worked so hard on many of these projects, including **Roy Tysvaer**, **Shrinivasan Sewgobind**, **Nayan Shah**, **Dorothy Chao**, and **Beverly Watson**.

Spotlight on Safety

2018 Tick Season

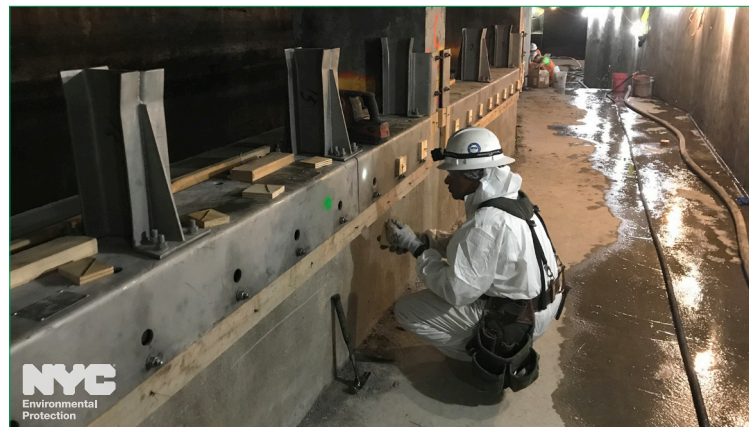
Ticks are common in humid, forested, shrub and tree-filled, and leaf-littered areas. In New York City, parks can be common areas for ticks, but you may be more susceptible to ticks in your backyard if you live in areas frequented by deer. For most tick-borne illnesses, you have at least 24 hours to find and remove a feeding tick before it transmits an infection.

To protect yourself from ticks, use the following precautions:

- wear light colored clothing (long pants and sleeves)

- continuously check clothing and skin for ticks during and after spending time outside
- apply insect repellent to clothing
- if you find a tick on your skin, remove it immediately with a tweezer
- if you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor

For more information, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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.

WOTG Helps NY'ers Beat the Heat



DEP helped thousands of revelers stay cool and hydrated as they took in the City's annual 4th of July fireworks along the East River and Coney Island. More than 20 staffers from BPAC, BWSO, and BCS manned 14 Water-on-the-Go fountains at 7 locations in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. Many thanks to BPAC's **Sara Pecker** and BWSO's **Anthony Marchese**, and **James Rossi** for coordinating the effort, and to BWSO's Field Operations team for battling crowds and scorching temperatures to ensure fountains were delivered and installed at key locations.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 19 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Anthony Munoz with BCS; **Peter G. Barning**, **Holy J. Cheong**, **Jane Kelenzon**, **Andrew R. LeFleur** and **Rajiv Wallace** with BEC; **Steven T. McCauliff** with BWS; **Philip Armstrong**, **Edward J. Ecock**, **Dillon S. Fields**, **Nazanin Ghanbari**, **Pinki Mondal** and **Ahmed T. Samed** with BWSO; **Craig L. Carter** and **Xuebin Zou** (not pictured) with BWT; **Tyler S. Ramcharan** and **Vivekananda P. Ramdat** with CFO/OIT; **Pranay Katta** with OD&HR; and **Javeena K. Anokye** with OER.

37 New Police Officers Join DEP



On June 29 DEP celebrated the graduation of 37 new police officers who were honored with a ceremony at the Ulster Performing Arts Center in Kingston. The new environmental police officers were trained at the Staff Sgt. Robert H. Dietz DEP Police Academy, the first of its kind in the nation to provide training and concentrated coursework in environmental law. The new graduates live in 12 different counties, speak eight languages and successfully completed a total of 31 weeks of instruction, during which they concentrated on topics such as counterterrorism, the environment, police science, and the proper use of firearms and defensive tactics. **Joseph Decker** and **Nnabuike Iloka** were also promoted at the ceremony to Lieutenant and Sergeant, respectively. Congratulations to all and we thank you for your service.

Teachers Tour the Watershed



BPAC's Education team coordinated a very successful bus tour of the Ashokan basin last week for more than 50 New York City educators. BWS Scientists **Paul Perri** and **Allison Dewan**, BWS Geologist **Dany Davis**, BWS Forester **Todd Baldwin** and BPAC's **Adam Bosch** presented to the group at various locations. DEP's Education team provides an important network for educators by leading tours like this one, coordinating workshops, and producing digital and print environmental education materials aimed at inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.