

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

DEP remains steadfast in its commitment to improving the health of local waterways by reducing combined sewer overflows. One of our most successful strategies is a public-private partnership with The Trust for Public Land (TPL), the NYC Department of Education, and the NYC School Construction Authority. DEP contributes funding to the construction of "green" playgrounds at public schools through TPL's NYC Playgrounds Program. Each state-of-the-art playground includes green infrastructure elements that manage at least the first inch of stormwater that falls on them, thereby reducing demand on the sewer system. As an added benefit to the surrounding communities, these new playgrounds now operate as public open space during weekends, holidays and school vacations. During the past week, we joined students, teachers, and our partners to cut a ribbon at two new green playgrounds in Queens.

In Ridgewood, we transformed a formerly cracked asphalt lot at the Robert E. Peary School, P.S. 75Q, into a 1-acre play space that serves

500 pre-K to 12th grade students. The green infrastructure components include specialized plantings and shade trees, porous pavement and permeable pavers, and a synthetic turf field that capture more than 375,000 gallons of stormwater runoff each year, thereby improving the health of Newtown Creek. DEP's green infrastructure contribution was approximately 15% of the \$800,000 playground construction cost.

At the Edward Bleeker School, J.H.S. 185Q, in Flushing, we converted the former asphalt lot into a 1.2-acre schoolyard that will serve 1,200 6th to 8th grade students. The synthetic turf field, shade trees, pervious pavers, and three rain gardens together capture more than 1.1 million gallons of stormwater runoff each year. These green infrastructure elements will improve the health of Flushing Creek and, subsequently, Flushing Bay. DEP's green infrastructure contribution was approximately 30% of the \$765,000 playground construction cost.

TPL and the students at both schools worked collaboratively to design the spaces. In addition to DEP-funded artificial turf fields, rain gardens, trees and pervious pavements, TPL's playground designs can feature outdoor classroom space, a running track, basketball, handball or tennis courts, water fountains, benches, game tables, and color seal art designed by the students. Students also learn about the city's sewer system and the role of green infrastructure in improving water and air quality, beautifying neighborhoods, and reducing summer temperatures.



After these two ribbon cuttings, we have now completed eight green playgrounds around the city that are helping to improve the health of the Gowanus Canal, the Bronx River, Jamaica Bay and Flushing Bay, in addition to Newtown Creek and Flushing Creek, with even more on the way. I would like to thank our entire DEP team

for their hard work, especially **Margot Walker**, **Tetyana Klymenko**, **Kerry Lowe**, **Miki Urisaka**, **Kent Pan**, **Phillip Wong** and **Paul Wojtal**. For more details about DEP's Green Infrastructure Program, visit nyc.gov/greeninfrastructure. To learn more about The Trust for Public Land, visit www.tpl.org.

Spotlight on Safety

Scissor Lifts versus Aerial Lifts

Did you know that not all "lifts" are created equal? Scissor lifts and aerial lifts are common devices used to conduct work from elevated locations, such as in construction, retail, and manufacturing. Although similar devices for working at various heights, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) a scissor lift is regulated differently from an aerial lift. Scissor lift platforms only move vertically above a wheeled base. This particular vertical movement of a mobile work platform makes it a type of mobile scaffold. Aerial lifts are different from scissor lifts as they are designed with a single extendable arm or boom. Generally, the arm moves in both an outward and upward direction. Aerial lifts are regulated under a separate OSHA standard.

Scissor lifts are commonly used at many DEP work locations to access light fixtures and electrical equipment. Therefore, workers must comply with mobile scaffold regulations for safe use and operation. Scissor lifts must be inspected before each work shift, and after any event that may affect its normal operation. The inspection record must be maintained for at least 30 days after the equipment was last operated. Employees using scissor lifts must receive training on safely operating this equipment.

For more information, consult your bureau EHS representative and [DEP Policies and Procedures on Walking/Working Surfaces – Scaffolding & Aerial Lifts](#). You can also view OSHA's publication on [Working Safely with Scissor Lifts](#).

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.

DEP Police Promotion Ceremony



Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Commissioner **Steven Lawitts** last week promoted three of the department's veteran environmental police officers during a ceremony at the Eastview Precinct in Valhalla, N.Y. Officer **Christina Murphy** was promoted to sergeant, and officers **Olivia Bachor** and **Scott Hogan** were each promoted to detective specialist. The promoted officers reside in Dutchess and Ulster counties. Over the last decade, DEP has nearly doubled the size of its Police Division to its current 203 sworn members. [Click here](#) to read more.

Interactive Map Watershed Recreation

DEP has released an interactive recreation mapping tool that uses layers of data and maps to help the public find properties that are open for fishing, hiking and other types of outdoor recreation. The digital map, which provides information on City-owned properties that are open for recreation, is now available on DEP's website by visiting nyc.gov/dep/recreation. The map also shows New York State lands such as forest preserve and other accessible areas. DEP will hold a number of public forums this summer to demonstrate the new mapping tool and help outdoor enthusiasts learn about watershed recreation opportunities on City-owned lands in the Catskills and Hudson Valley. For more information on this easy-to-use mapping tool technology, [click here](#).

WOTG at 2016 Pride March



DEP helped participants at the 2016 Pride March stay cool and hydrated with delicious, healthy drinking water thanks to three Water-On-the-Go fountains placed along the route.

The bright blue NYC Water tents, one of which was adorned with a rainbow NYC banner, were a welcome site for thousands of revelers looking to quench their thirst at Sunday's event. For a gallery of pictures, [click here](#).

Newly-Opened Dynamic H2O Exhibit



The Children's Museum of Manhattan is now featuring **Dynamic H2O**, a new, outdoor water exhibit that allows children and their families to better understand how New York City's complex water supply system works. Support for the 800-square-foot, three-level installation was provided by DEP and the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

Spring Blood Drive

The New York Blood Center is experiencing a serious shortage in blood supply due to a fall-off in donations. To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, DEP is hosting a blood drive at the below location and time. **Grahamsville Region Area:** Grahamsville Fire House, 6/29, 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday 32 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Steven Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Omar Atkinson, Andina Colon, Simone Green, Asata Hendricks, Merlissa John, Kimberly Pichardo and Zainab Soetan with BCS; **Richard Germade-Craan** with BEDC; **Jose Cabrera and Ariane Coelho Brotto** with BWS; **Andrew Alexander, Imam Alhussin, Kevin Auguste, Amar Bispat, Jeffrey Gomez, Md Enamul Hoque, Hasmik Korkis, Patrick Kabasele, Amar Kundan, and Mehendranauth Lachman** with BWSO; **Sian Lawrence** with CDBG; **Anna Brooks, Taylor Hard and Tara Ostock** with Comm. Off./OER; **Negina Koyenov** with FDC/Budget; **Lisa Brandquist** with Labor Relations; **Timothy Ellis, David Lin, Dylan Meagher and Kristin Ricigliano** with Sustainability/EPA; **Gisselle Mejia and Mark Wang** with Sustainability/GI.

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