

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*

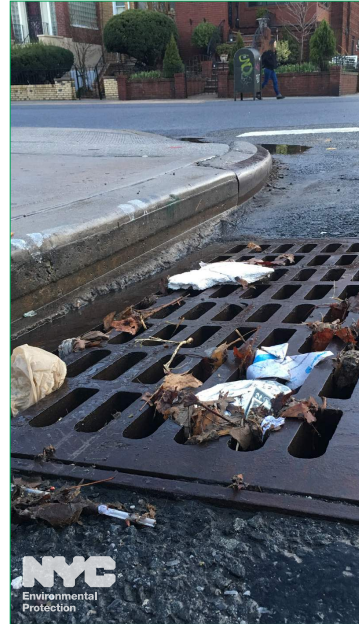


Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
Sustainability

New York City is one of the world's great waterfront cities, and has long been at the cutting-edge of innovative practices to improve water quality—including upgrades at our wastewater treatment plants, construction of the award-winning Staten Island Bluebelts, and a \$1.5 billion commitment to construct green infrastructure that naturally manages stormwater across our urban landscape. As a testament to the City's substantial investments over the last four decades, it's waterbodies are cleaner than they have been in more than a century. The City remains committed to protecting the overall health of our harbor while working to improve conditions in impaired waterbodies.

As part of the Clean Water Act, passed by Congress in 1972, cities and other urbanized areas with municipal separate storm sewer systems must obtain permits for stormwater discharges, which are intended to reduce pollution from stormwater. On August 1, 2015, the City received a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4 Permit) (No. NY-0287890) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The MS4 Permit requires the City to develop a Stormwater Management Program, which includes numerous programs designed to protect the health of waterbodies by reducing or removing pollutants in stormwater runoff in the portions of the city that are serviced by a separated sewer system. The MS4 Permit requires the City to submit its



draft Stormwater Management Program Plan (the Plan) to NYSDEC by August 1, 2018.

Last week, DEP joined with colleagues from across City government to release the public review draft of the Plan. The draft Plan describes the ways in which the City will satisfy the requirements of the MS4 Permit by managing stormwater discharges into and from the City's separate storm sewers. The Plan details the major components of the Stormwater Management Program and the associated best management practices to reduce pollutant discharges from the MS4. The components described in the Plan satisfy the MS4 Permit requirements to meet the maximum extent practicable standard. The draft Stormwater Management Program Plan is available at nyc.gov/dep/ms4 for public review, and the deadline for public comments is May 15, 2018.

DEP has lead interagency coordination efforts as part of developing the draft Plan and meeting the City's MS4 Permit. Essential components of developing the Plan include working with the City Council to pass legislation, holding

more than 200 coordination meetings with agency partners, briefing and incorporating feedback from environmental, neighborhood, and development organizations, holding technical workshops, and releasing annual progress reports. The Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis (BEPA) led this effort, coordinating with the Bureaus of Wastewater Treatment, Environmental Compliance, Engineering, Design & Construction, Water & Sewer Operations, Legal Affairs, and Public Affairs & Communications, as well as the NYC Law Department and 16 other city agencies/offices. We look forward to continuing this partnership with all stakeholders as we work to protect public health and the environment.

I'd like to recognize the dedicated team in DEP that has worked so hard to release the draft Plan: **Pinar Balci, Floren Poliseo, Mikelle Adgate, Sara Lupson, Kristin Ricigliano, Manuel Quintela, Abdulai Fofanah, Krish Radhakrishnan, Margaret O'Connor, Shree Dorestant, Marcella Eckels, Melinda Sherer, Antonia Pereira, David Montoya, Jennifer Rodriguez, Ryan Radmehr, Jill Wang, Kirill Kostyanovsky, Lauren Hamid-Shapiro, Meaghan Burke, Andreea Vlaiconi, Leslie Lipton, Diane Hammerman, Lorraine Farrell, and Kristen Molfetta.**



Spotlight on Safety

Agency Smoke-Free Workplace Policy

DEP has a Smoke-Free Workplace Policy, that prohibits the use of e-cigarettes, lighted cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic smoking devices, or any other smoking device. The policy is in accordance with the New York City Smoke-Free Air Act and the New York State Clean Indoor Air Act.

DEP's Smoke-Free Workplace Policy prohibits:

- smoking throughout the entire workplace in every DEP work location in New York

City and Upstate New York without exception

- smoking in Agency or City-owned vehicles and enclosed parking areas
- ashtrays in any indoor area

Compliance with the smoke-free workplace policy is mandatory for all employees and persons visiting the agency, with no exceptions.

To view the policy [click here](#). You can get assistance with quitting smoking by calling 311!

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.

First Rain Barrel Giveaways of 2018



DEP joined this past weekend with State Senator **Roxanne Persaud**, Council Member **I. Daneek Miller**, Assembly Member **Alicia Hyndman**, State Senator **Leroy Comrie**, and Council Member **Debi Rose** to kick off the 2018 Rain Barrel Giveaway Program. Distribution events were held at three separate locations for homeowners in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner's downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. Rain barrels can help reduce a homeowner's water bill as watering lawns and gardens can account for up to 40 percent of an average household's water use during the summer months. They also help to reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the City's sewer system, which helps to protect the health of numerous local waterways. Last year, DEP distributed approximately 7,500 rain barrels to New York City homeowners.

DEP Marks Activation Readiness



Commissioner **Sapienza**, BWSO Acting Deputy Commissioner **Anastasios Georgelis**, and Executive Director **Michael Farnan** visited March 29 with BWSO staff at Shaft Maintenance Headquarters to celebrate achieving activation readiness of the Queens-Brooklyn Tunnel of City Water Tunnel No. 3. Staff members enjoyed refreshments as the Commissioner congratulated them. For the past two years, staff from ACCO, BEDC, BLA, BWSO, EAO, BWS, and the Commissioner's Office have worked tirelessly to prepare the tunnel for activation-readiness.

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

Green Infrastructure at DeMatti Park



Commissioner **Sapienza**, NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, FAICP, New York State Senator **Diane J. Savino**, New York City Council Member **Debi Rose**, and Staten Island Borough President **James Oddo** announced last Tuesday the opening of the newly reconstructed DeMatti Park in Rosebank. DeMatti Park is the second Community Parks Initiative (CPI) site to open in Staten Island after undergoing a **\$7.1 million reconstruction**; with \$4.4 million in funding from Mayor de Blasio, \$2.2 million from the Department of Environmental Protection, and a \$450,000 grant from Senator Savino. New green infrastructure elements include rain gardens and a subsurface detention chamber that will contribute to a reduction of stormwater runoff of nearly 115,000 gallons each time it rains, helping to improve the health of New York Harbor. The complete transformation boasts improvements including new spray showers, an adult fitness area, bocce ball courts, a redesigned landscape with more green space, and accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additional seating areas with benches have also been added, as well as game tables. DEP has committed more than \$50 million in funding for green infrastructure installations at CPI sites throughout the city, helping to reduce sewer overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall, improve air quality, and lower summertime temperatures.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 14 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Khemwante Gangaram with BCS; **Vladimir Gomez** with BEDC; **Boning Liu** and **Tiffany L. Taylor** with BWS; **Scott C. Belgrave**, **Scott T. Briggs**, **Cyian M. Brown**, **Donavan T. Falls**, **Christopher J. Handley**, **Licely Crespo**, **Kevin J. Vanderlinde** and **Donnell White** with BWSO; **Jane A. Gajwani** with BWT; and **Theodore Pollack** with CDBG.