

Southeast Queens Bluebelts Take Shape

Last month, DEP began dredging Springfield Lake in Southeast Queens. The lake will serve as part of a new network of nearly 10 acres of Bluebelt wetlands that will receive stormwater through a newly built sewer system from neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and roofs, and filter it before it is released into Jamaica Bay. The lake dredging and construction of Bluebelts is one part of a \$69

million project that will bring three miles of new water mains, nearly three miles of storm sewers, and new roadways and sidewalks to the Springfield Gardens neighborhood. Installation of the water mains is 95 percent complete, work on the Bluebelt wetlands is ongoing, and the installation of sewers began in June. The project is expected to be completed by next fall. Click [here](#) to see more photos.



Spotlight on Safety

FDNY Certificates of Fitness and Related Permits

Did you know that activities such as dispensing fuel, operating an air compressor, and the storage and use of hazardous materials are regulated by the New York City Fire Department (FDNY)? In order to conduct certain activities within New York City involving flammable liquids and gases, or activities with the potential for causing a fire or toxic chemical release, DEP may be required to obtain FDNY permits and/or DEP workers may be required to hold Certificates of Fitness issued by FDNY.

The FDNY recently updated its permitting and Certificate of

Fitness requirements. DEP has also revised its Certificates of Fitness and Related Permits Policy to reflect the changes that affect our operations. The revised policy provides a list of FDNY requirements typically applicable to DEP facilities and operations, an overview of the FDNY Certificate of Fitness program, and where to go for information and certification. The revised policy will be in effect as of September 2013 and can be found [here](#).

For more information about NYC Fire Code and FDNY Rules please visit www.nyc.gov/fdny.

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. 

Commissioner's Corner

In 2011, we released the groundbreaking *Strategy 2011-2014*, a strategic plan outlining 100 distinctive initiatives for the agency under four core functions. Thanks to the outstanding commitment of the nearly 6,000 employees at DEP, we have already achieved 57 of the initiatives, partially completed 30, and have started work on 13 more. We expect to complete a significant portion of our remaining goals before the end of this year.

It is DEP's mission to protect public health and the environment by supplying clean drinking water, collecting and treating wastewater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution. And, as we look to the future, we are developing an updated version of our strategic plan that will include actionable items we aim to achieve over the next three to four years and also outlines a long term vision for the agency. Building on the tradition of the men and women who built New York City's original water system, we need to plan for the future and anticipate the challenges we will face over the next 10, 20, and even 50 years.

Executing the goals we outlined in *Strategy 2011-2014* has taught us all a lot about the strengths of our agency. Through the feedback we received in the employee surveys you completed last year, and after meeting and consulting with employees at all levels of our department, I would like to share with you some core values that I feel have helped make us the premier water utility in the nation:

1. **Safety.** We safeguard the well-being of our workforce, public health, and the environment.



2. **Service.** We provide the highest level of service to our customers with integrity.

3. **Support.** We support a culture of respect and our colleagues' continuous improvement through training and professional development.

4. **Sustainability.** We maximize environmental, financial, and social benefits as we deliver our services.

5. **Transparency.** We openly communicate with each other and the public to encourage cooperation and understanding.

6. **Innovation.** We employ a scientific approach to develop and embrace new ideas that move us forward and serve our customers better.

As we continue to plan for the future of our agency, I would like you all to take a moment and ask yourselves: How can we be the safest, most efficient, cost-effective, resilient, and transparent water utility in the nation?

Also, please take a moment to share your thoughts and goals by completing our new survey at <http://strategy/>. Or email us your ideas at strategy@dep.nyc.gov.

Focus on the Field



For the last 25 years, **Jim Garin** has been involved in almost every capital water delivery project in New York City. Born in Brooklyn, Garin was raised in the Oakwood Beach neighborhood on Staten Island and attended New Dorp High School. He earned a bachelor's of science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Polytechnic University in Brooklyn before taking a consulting position that focused on the engineering end of plumbing and fire protection.

Garin joined DEP in 1987 as an Assistant Engineer in the Water Distribution Group and, a year later, was promoted to Chief of Distribution Engineering. At that time, the group was responsible for the design of any water main that was less than 20 inches in diameter. He was transferred to the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) when it was first established in 1996 and served as an Engineer in Charge for five years. He returned to DEP in 2001 and served as Chief of the Project Development Section and Chief, Division of Capital Program Development and Planning before his promotion to his current title, Director of Engineering. The time at DDC and the relationships he built there now help him keep DEP projects on schedule.

"The five years I spent at DDC gave me a real appreciation for what their engineers require from their partner agencies, and that allows us at DEP to ensure that they have everything they need in a timely manner so that projects get completed on schedule," said Garin.

Responsible for a roughly \$700 million annual budget, Garin relies on his colleagues in BWSO, including **Nick Barbaro**, **Irina Veytsman**, and **Paul Faublas**, for keeping all the projects moving forward. Two of the larger

projects Garin has been involved with of late include the Staten Island Water Siphon and connecting City Water Tunnel No. 3 to the existing distribution system.

"The Siphon will provide a secondary water main feed to Staten Island and Stage 2 of City Water Tunnel No. 3 will decrease our reliance on Water Tunnel No. 1," said Garin. "So these large capital projects are really focused on creating redundancy and ensuring that the system remains in a state of good repair for future generations of New Yorkers."

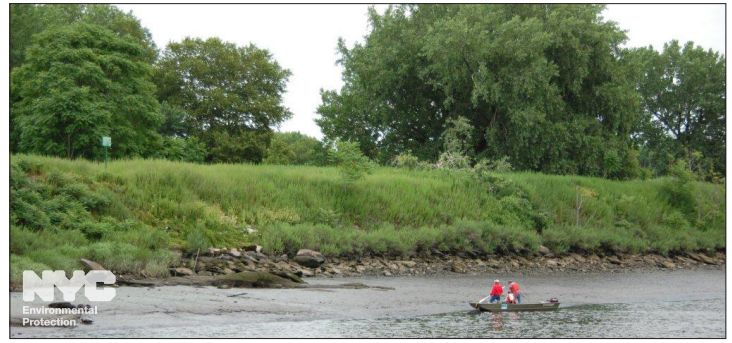
He has also overseen the transition of stormwater management from an all grey strategy to one that integrates the use of Bluebelts and other best management practices. "By harnessing nature to help manage stormwater we are doing it in a more cost-effective and sustainable manner that helps improve the health of our local waterways," said Garin.

"Jim's knowledge of BWSO issues, his talent as an engineer, his tremendous interpersonal skills, and the relationships he has developed with all our sister agencies over the years are invaluable to the agency," said Deputy Commissioner **Jim Roberts**. "His quiet and steady approach to turning complex engineering issues into successful capital projects is, like many of the achievements of the bureau and agency, often easy to overlook. I am happy to see a spotlight shone on one of our true silent DEP heroes."

Garin currently calls the Huguenot neighborhood on Staten Island home and in his free time he enjoys jogging, and playing golf, softball, and basketball. He has also coached a youth basketball team made up of girls from Staten Island for more than a decade.



Bronx River Shoreline Survey



Recently, staff from BWT conducted an outfall investigation and took water quality samples along the shores of the Bronx River. **Johnwis Garcia** and **Shaun Keating** from the Marine Section provided assistance to the Shoreline Survey Unit, including **Fekade Woldegiorgis**, **Keith McDonald**, **Mayank Shukla**, **Mitul Patel**, **Ru Zhao**, and **Jorge Villacis**.

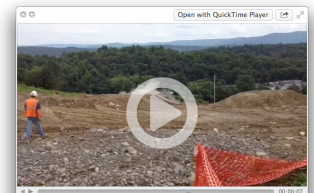
Brookfield Landfill



Eagle eyes on Staten Island recently spotted a juvenile American Bald Eagle on the site of the former Brookfield Avenue Landfill. Three years ago, DEP began remediating the former landfill, a municipal solid waste disposal site that operated from 1966 to 1980. The project is converting the 132-acre site into public parkland, forest, and wetlands. The first phase of the remediation—closure of the landfill and restoration of wetlands—will be completed this year, two years ahead of schedule. As part of this work 76,000 spartina plants were installed in the site's western and central tidal wetlands. And, beginning next month, approximately 17,000 trees and shrubs, as well as freshwater wetland plantings, will be added to the site.

It's a Blast!

Test blasting began recently in Orange County where a new shaft will be built to allow for the construction of the 2.5 mile Rondout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel, a roughly \$800 million project to repair a portion of the Delaware Aqueduct. Look for more news on this exciting project as work progresses this fall.



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