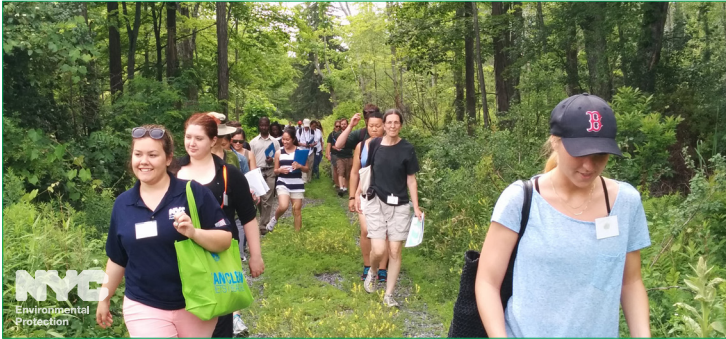


Field Trip!



DEP's education office organized a watershed tour for 50 non-formal educators who work at museums, parks, environmental centers, nonprofit organizations and other government agencies in New York City. The tour included several stops near Ashokan Reservoir to learn about how New York City's drinking water is collected, conveyed and protected. The educators also learned about the history of the water supply and why healthy forests are important to water quality. The trip was made possible by funding from the Watershed Agricultural Council. The educators will use information learned during the trip to inform their own programs that reach thousands of young people and adults in the five boroughs each year.

Spotlight on Safety

Complacency: The Silent Killer

With National Safety Month: "What I Live For" coming to a close, it is important to focus on the recurring themes of preparation and prevention of injury. Particularly, avoiding complacency. We tend to run on "auto pilot" if we have done something many times before without getting hurt. In 1998 Larry Wilson, a behavior based safety consultant, launched SafeStart, an advanced safety awareness program. According to Wilson's article, "Complacency: The Silent Killer", these four states: Rushing, Frustration, Fatigue and Complacency, can cause or contribute to critical errors and increase the risk injury.

Changing bad habits can take time, but eventually the good habits will become automatic. Apply the following Critical Error Reduction Techniques to help avoid complacency:

- assess your tasks so you don't make a critical error
- analyze close calls and small errors
- look at others for the patterns that increase the risk of injury and avoid them
- work on your habits

For more information, visit [SafeStart](#) and read the article [Complacency – The Silent Killer](#).

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

With the summer season officially upon us, we recently launched the sixth season of the highly successful Water-On-the-Go program. Since 2010, DEP has placed portable NYC Water drinking fountains at public plazas, busy pedestrian areas, and parks around the city during the summer months to promote the high quality of NYC Water and to offer it as an economical, healthy, and environmentally responsible alternative to bottled water and sugary beverages.

This year, in addition to operating flagship locations such as Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1, Union Square and City Hall Park, DEP staff is coordinating with community groups and green markets to place fountains in other strategic locations in all five boroughs to expand the reach and accessibility of the program. In addition, Water-On-the-Go is collaborating with GreenNYC to support the recently launched [B.Y.O. campaign](#), which promotes the use of reusable mugs, bottles and bags rather than their disposable counterparts. Reducing the consumption of single use plastic bottles by encouraging New Yorkers to refill reusable bottles with tap water supports Mayor de Blasio's [OneNYC Plan](#), including goals to send zero waste to landfills and reduce waste disposal by 90 percent by 2030. The Water-On-the-Go fountains will be available at [various locations](#) around the city through Labor Day and are easily spotted with their accompanying bright blue NYC Water tents.



Drinking tap water is the environmentally responsible way to stay hydrated as the production of plastic water bottles for use in the United States consumes 1.5 million barrels of oil a year—enough to power 250,000 homes or 100,000 cars all year. And, at approximately one penny per gallon, tap water is about 1,000 times less expensive than bottled water. In addition, NYC Water is a healthy alternative to sugar-sweetened beverages, containing zero calories, zero sugar, and zero fat. A typical 16-ounce bottle of soda contains about 180 calories and 20 cubes of sugar. Sports drinks, marketed as healthy alternatives, have as many calories as sugary beverages and usually contain high levels of sodium.

I'd like to recognize the staff in the Bureaus of Public Affairs and Water and Sewer Operations who coordinate the program and ensure that the fountains are operating properly. In addition, I'd like to thank the 20 summer interns who staff the fountains and spread the message about the many benefits of NYC Water.



Rain, Rain - Barrel Giveaway



Following events in the Morris Park neighborhood of the Bronx and St. Albans, Queens, DEP recently coordinated rain barrel giveaways in Mill Basin, Brooklyn with **Council Member Alan Maisel** and in Rosedale, Queens with **Council Member Donovan Richards**. Thus far, DEP has given away approximately 800 rain barrels in 2015. 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 also 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. Pictured with Council Member Maisel and Mill Basin homeowners are **Frank Fontana**, **Denise Hubbard** and **Karen Ellis** with DEP's Bureau of Public Affairs.

Softball Showdown



DEP's softball team faced off against a team from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier this month at Heckscher Field in Central Park. Pictured is **Joshua Zumbado** with the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. A member of the Engineers and Architects Softball League "A" Division, the team only has one game remaining. All are welcome to come out and cheer on their colleagues on July 13 at 5:30pm at Heckscher Field. More information can be found [here](#).

Play Time



Last week, DEP joined The Trust for Public Land, the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority to unveil a state-of-the-art playground on a formerly bare asphalt lot at the School of Science and Applied Learning, CS 300, in the Tremont neighborhood of the Bronx. Designed with help from the school's students, the playground includes green infrastructure components that will allow the space to capture up to 700,000 gallons of stormwater runoff each year and help to improve the health of the Bronx River. This is the seventh playground that has been rehabilitated and upgraded with green infrastructure elements through this unique partnership.

Subway Series

Come join hundreds of your colleagues and spend the afternoon at Citi Field on Saturday, September 19 at 1:05pm for DEP's Employees, Families and Friends Day. The Mets will be battling the Yankees in the "Subway Series": New York's greatest sports rivalry. Discounted tickets can be purchased for only \$39 by [clicking here](#).

Tickets **must be purchased before 11:59 PM on Tuesday June 30**, so act now to take advantage of this amazing deal!

Staying Safe Online

DEP's Office of Information Technology has begun publishing a monthly Cyber Security Tips Newsletter to help raise awareness about the common issues that put both departmental and personal information at risk, and to provide helpful ways to lessen that risk. [Click here](#) to view this month's publication. Please note, all official DEP OIT communications will be sent via OIT_Communication@dep.nyc.gov.

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