

Brooklyn Students Release Trout Upstate



DEP recently joined Trout Unlimited and 4th grade students from Brooklyn's P.S. 9 to release juvenile trout that the students have raised in their classrooms since October of last year. Nearly 125 fingerlings were released into the Cross River, which is part of New York City's drinking water system. Trout thrive in clean waters and their presence serves as an important indicator of the health of the City's watershed streams. The release took place at the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Westchester County.

Spotlight on Safety

May is Motorcycle Safety Month

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 5,172 motorcyclists were killed in 2017, a 3% decrease, but motorcycle riders are still over-represented in traffic fatalities. Drivers should be aware of sharing the road with motorcyclists, and both should obey traffic laws, avoid distractions, yield to pedestrians and never drive or ride while impaired.

Tips for Motorcyclists

- SLOW DOWN!
- wear a [DOT-compliant](#) motorcycle helmet

- never ride a motorcycle unless properly licensed
- ensure your motorcycle is in proper working condition and secure any cargo

Tips for Motorists

- be aware that motorcycles can easily disappear in your blind spot or be hidden behind objects
- motorcycles may change lanes abruptly to avoid dangers, and may appear suddenly alongside you

For more information, visit the [NHTSA's 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.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Tasos Georgelis
Deputy Commissioner
Water & Sewer Operations

Last week I joined my colleagues in BWSO and from DDC to tour just a few of the many projects that are part of **Mayor de Blasio's** historic commitment of \$1.9 billion to address flooding in Queens neighborhoods between Jamaica, Glen Oaks, Rosedale, and Springfield Gardens. The program, the largest of its kind, consists of 45 projects overall, including 10 that are substantially completed and 11 that are in active construction. The bulk of this funding is going toward the construction of large trunk sewer spines along 150th Street, Guy Brewer Boulevard, Farmers Boulevard, and Springfield Boulevard.

Some of the projects we visited were:

- A \$17 million capital project in the area roughly bounded by 204th St., Colfax St., Hollis Ave., and 112th Ave will install new storm sewers and water mains. DDC's Engineer-in-Charge (EIC) **Joseph Dorce** is managing the construction.
- In Springfield Gardens a \$57 million capital project is under way to install new storm sewers and catch basins to alleviate ponding conditions in the area. The project also includes sanitary trunk and

water main replacements. This work is also being overseen by EIC Dorce.

- A \$49 million project along 90th Avenue that is being managed by EIC **Mauro Devincenzi** and will see the installation of a new trunk and distribution water mains.
- And Rosedale, which is undergoing a \$14 million upgrade that includes new storm and sanitary sewers and nearly four miles of new water mains. The EIC handling this project is **Kanhai Shivsankar**.

Progress is also underway in Brookville, where we are undertaking an \$84 million infrastructure upgrade to improve drainage and alleviate flooding. The project, also being managed by EIC Devincenzi, is the first work to feature the new trunk spine sewers. The plans call for the creation of a double-barrel storm sewer system that outlets to Idlewild Park, which will serve as an outlet for additional projects yet to be built as part of the southeast Queens program.

The BWSO team has been, and continues to be, aggressive in tackling flooding issues in southeast queens. I want to thank my colleagues in BWSO, especially **Sol Posada, P.E.**, and our partners at DDC and DOT for their assistance in bringing this critical infrastructure to neighborhoods most in need.



Focus on the Field: Value Ambassadors for Transparency

This month, Weekly Pipeline celebrated DEP's core value of Transparency with the Value Ambassador program. As part of the program, we are highlighting four DEP employees nominated by their peers who, through their work, best represent Sustainability at DEP. Next month, Weekly Pipeline will showcase DEP's final core value of Safety.



November: Innovation



December: Support



January: Diversity



February: Service



March: Integrity



April: Sustainability



May: Transparency



June: Safety

JANET AMARO, is the Chief of On-line Permitting for BWSO and has been with the City since 2002. Janet has taken on a leadership role for numerous priority projects within BWSO including developing the public facing lead service line map, increasing cross connection compliance, and streamlining the permitting process for water and sewer connections. Each of these projects requires clear, consistent communication with multiple internal bureaus and external stakeholders. Janet's ability to hold herself and her peers accountable to the project's milestones and tight deadlines have contributed greatly to the ongoing success of these projects and has increased the transparency of BWSO as a whole. Thanks to Janet's efforts, every New Yorker can now check if they have a lead service line; the majority of all BWSO permits will



soon be online; and homeowners and plumbers are more knowledgeable about DEP's Cross Connection program. Janet was nominated by **Kaitlyn Richter**.

AUGUST (AUGIE) BUFFA, is the Associate Deputy Director of Enforcement of Air and Noise Compliance in BEC and has been with DEP for 27 years. Currently, Augie oversees the Night Unit and manages a team of air & noise inspectors. In addition Augie is the primary coordinator of DEP's Multiple Agency Response to Community Hotspots (MARCH) initiative. The MARCH detail is a task force of agents from several city agencies who arrive at nightlife venues looking for violations that could range from too few fire exits to loud music. Through his clear and open communication, both with the public and internally, Augie keeps all stakeholders transpar-



ent to the process. Augie was nominated by **Mike Gilsenan**.

DIANA (DELLAFIORA) CUOZZO, is the administrative lead for all DEP Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) inquiries in BLA and has been with the department since 2015. Diana processes all the FOIL requests by the public, the press and public officials in the interest of promoting transparency. She has done a tremendous job coordinating with the team over the last couple of years to eliminate a backlog of 700 FOIL requests and has dramatically improved DEP's response times. She has also led the effort to integrate our FOIL response system into the integrated citywide FOIL portal. Diana has led trainings



on the FOIL response system within BLA and for others within the agency, and works with FOIL liaisons in all the Bureaus. Diana was nominated by **Elissa Stein Cushman**.

GIRMA MOGES, of BPAC is the Director of Digital Media and has been with DEP for 10 years. Girma works to increase the agency's transparency by sharing our projects, initiatives, and updates with millions of New Yorkers on our website. He takes complicated subject matter and distills it into shorter, clearer messages that everyday residents can understand. Girma has taken on the challenging task of updating DEP's website by removing outdated and unnecessary information, and simplifying DEP's message to reach a wider audience. Girma's



hard work is ensuring a better understanding and transparency of the entire DEP's work. Girma was nominated by **Michael DeLoach**.

Welcome Aboard!



On May 22, 24 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

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