

Commissioner's Corner

In order to continue to improve the health of New York Harbor, over the last several years we have developed and implemented one of the most aggressive and ambitious Green Infrastructure (GI) programs in the country. This includes the construction of nearly 3,000 curbside rain gardens, or bioswales, in neighborhoods from the northern Bronx to portions of Brooklyn and Queens.

Rain gardens have proven to be an effective way to improve harbor water quality as they intercept

stormwater before it can drain into the sewer system and contribute to Combined Sewer Overflows. And, as the GI program has matured over the years, we have continuously worked to refine and improve the standard designs for the rain garden and our policies and procedures.

As the program spreads into new neighborhoods, staff works diligently to engage community boards, civic associations and elected officials in order to explain what the GI program entails and the ben-

efits it will bring to the community and the environment. What we have been reminded of again and again during this process is that every neighborhood is unique.

During our conversations and meetings with the northern Queens community, we learned that some property owners really like the way the sidewalk in front of their home currently looks, and that they didn't want to see changes to it. Specifically, we learned that some owners have installed a strip of lawn adjacent to the street in front of their home that they don't want to lose. Other property owners would prefer that the full sidewalk in front of their home remain a concrete surface. With this understanding, our engineers developed alternatives to the traditional rain garden that would provide the same GI benefit, while preserving the look and feel of the existing above-ground surface.

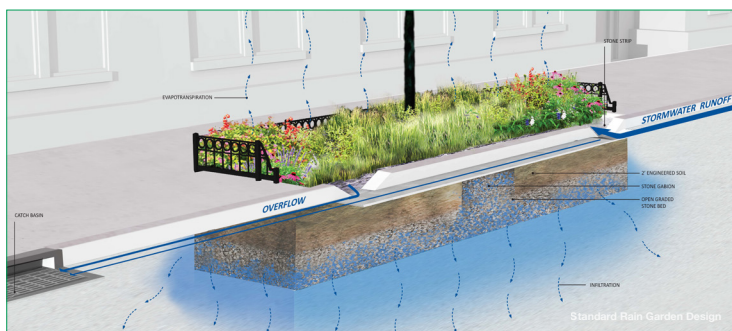
The Green Strip will function like a typical rain garden below ground, but will look like the existing grass planted strip that many property owners have already installed in the

sidewalk. This option will not include a tree guard or any type of fence.

The Concrete Sidewalk will function like a typical rain garden below ground, but will look like the existing sidewalk. This option will also not include a tree guard or any type of fence.

Additionally, we will allow any property owner with a disabled license plate or parking placard to fully "opt-out" of any type of GI in front of their home.

Moving forward, if it is determined that GI is feasible in front of a home, the homeowner will have the option of selecting from the traditional rain garden design, or one of the new alternatives. While it will take us some time to work out the logistics for this new procedure, it's also important that we continue to work with the community to address their concerns and ensure the long-term viability of the GI program. I'd like to extend my thanks to all of you as we continue our important work to protect public health and the environment.



Spotlight on Safety

Emergency Egress is a Key Element for Safety

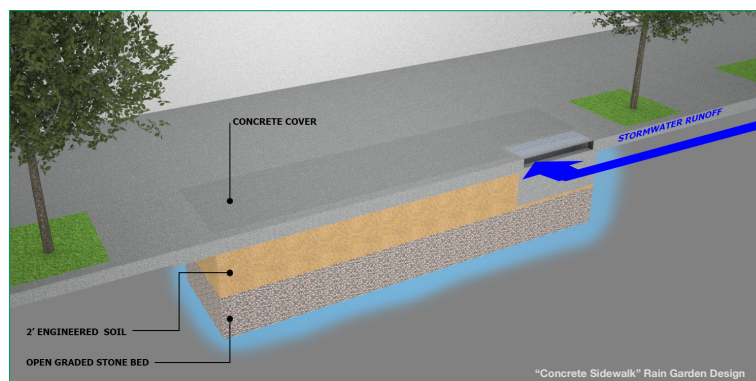
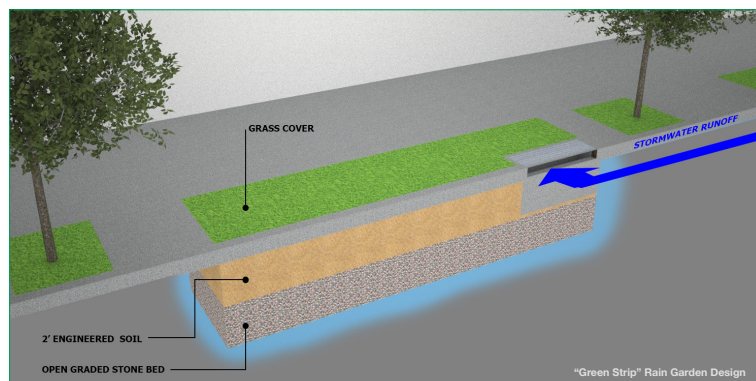
Emergency egress is an essential tool to keep employees safe in the event of a fire or other emergency in the workplace. Buildings must have a clear means of egress that lead outside. Emergency exits should be marked with signs and each exit route must be adequately lit. Additionally, work locations with more than 10 employees are required to have written emergency plans that are communicated clearly to employees which list these means of egress. In the event of an emergency, first responders may also use an egress

as a way into the building so it is very important to make sure they are readily available at DEP required locations.

Follow the guidelines below for a safe evacuation:

- keep all means of egress clean, clutter-free, and unobstructed
- do not place hazardous materials or equipment in areas that are used for evacuation
- do not use corridors or stairways for storage

For more information see DEP's Policy on [Emergency Planning](#).



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.

Tributary Sampling Near Schoharie



BWS scientists **Holly Novick** and **Melissa Murgittroyd**, members of the Catskill Field Sampling group, are pictured above testing a tributary of Schoharie Reservoir. Novick is collecting water samples into the bottle to be taken back to the laboratory to be tested for potentially dozens of parameters including nutrients, pathogens, metals, etc. In total, DEP water quality scientists test for more than 200 parameters. The sonde that Murgittroyd has placed into the water can be used to measure a variety of things such as temperature, pH, conductivity and sometimes turbidity.

Then and Now



Ninety years have passed since these beautiful bronze tablets were erected on the Gilboa Dam, located at the northern point of the watershed. Construction on the dam began in 1917 and water was first impounded within the reservoir on July 24, 1926. The reservoir can store up to 19.6 billion gallons of water, and it accounts for roughly 15 percent of the drinking water delivered to New York City each day. Last year, the dam's completed [\\$138 million rehabilitation project](#) was recognized with a [national award for engineering excellence](#) from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

Scale Model of Bypass Tunnel TBM



This impressive scale model provides a detailed look at the tunnel boring machine (TBM) that will drive the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel. The bypass tunnel is a 2.5-mile conduit that will be constructed 600 feet below the Hudson River. The finished bypass will be connected to structurally sound portions of the Delaware Aqueduct to convey drinking water around a stretch of the tunnel that is currently leaking water into the river. The TBM will build the new tunnel by crushing bedrock that lies ahead, installing precast concrete tunnel liner segments, grouting the tunnel lining as it moves forward, and transferring the debris to small rail cars, commonly called muck cars. A small locomotive will move people, materials and debris through the tunnel until the work is complete. Last week, DEP staff traveled to the factory in Ohio where the TBM is being assembled to run a series of tests. The TBM is expected to be delivered to the Newburgh site in sections starting this May. Click on the photo to view a short [video](#) of the scale model.

Value Your Friendships

A note from **Kaitlyn Maceira**, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program (NYC EAP).

February is a jam-packed month with important holidays. I mean, let's think about it—no other month has a day focused on a furry little animal predicting our weather pattern for the next six weeks (what can go wrong?). We have a day devoted to our nation's presidents and a whole day devoted to love. However, I'm missing one. Everyone knows that February 14th is identified as a day to show your love to those around you, but did you know that February 13th is a day to show your friends how much you value them? February 13th is Value Our Friendship Day, and, though it's already passed, we here at NYC EAP want to take it seriously. Friendships don't need to be lifelong and they don't need to have constant contact; a good friendship is just one that makes

you feel supported and cared about. One's support system is very important in being emotionally and mentally productive in our day to day lives. A strong support system can come in many different shapes and sizes: It can be a new friendship with a coworker, a friendship with your significant other, a friendship with your pet or a friendship that has supported you year after year. None of these are better or worse than the other and they all deserve to feel valued. So this month, NYC EAP would like you to take some time and let a friend know that you value them and the support they give to you, in whatever capacity that may be. It doesn't take long, and it does make a difference. If you or a loved one is in need of support or information, free and confidential problem-solving services are available at NYC EAP. Contact us by phone at (212) 306-7660 or email at eap@olr.nyc.gov.

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