

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Paul Rush, Deputy Commissioner for Water Supply, is a guest commentator this week.

Anglers looking to cast a line this spring are invited to enjoy world-class fishing on DEP's upstate reservoirs, their headwaters and tailwaters, and myriad public lands that include frontage along creeks and streams throughout the watershed. The City's 22 water supply reservoirs and lakes, covering roughly 36,000 acres, are open for fishing from shore or from boats

that have a valid DEP boat tag.

Many of the reservoirs and lakes include deep, cold water that is optimal for trout fishing. New York's trout season generally runs until Oct. 15. However, the trout fishing season on certain New York City reservoirs is open year-round or closes later than Oct. 15. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) outlines statewide fishing regulations, including information on licenses, catch limits, and stocking, on its [website](#).

To promote fishing in the watershed, DEP developed a fishing brochure and an interactive map to help anglers find access areas, planned several family fishing days at its reservoirs, and reached out to anglers at outdoor expositions, community days and other events. Fishing resources and upcoming events include:

- DEP will host several family fishing days at its reservoirs with more information to be posted to DEP's [Watershed Facebook page](#).
- DEP has developed the interactive [RecMapper](#) utility, which allows anglers to zoom in to any part of the watershed to find access for fishing, hiking and other activities. The RecMapper includes dozens of recreation areas that are open for fishing at reservoirs and streams within the watershed. It also includes links to angler maps that show the depth contours within each water supply reservoir.
- A [fishing brochure](#) has also been compiled by DEP to help anglers find access and learn what species of fish are located in each reservoir. The centerpiece of the brochure is a chart that outlines all the species that are present in each reservoir, including whether the angling for all the species is fair, good or excellent.
- Fishing on New York City reservoirs was also featured in the [2016-2017 New York Freshwater Fishing Guide](#). The guide features information about the

coldwater and warmwater fisheries at the reservoirs, and it includes information on state fishing regulations.

- 2017 also marks the fourth year that New York state-certified outdoor guides are permitted to offer their services—including guided fishing trips—on water supply reservoirs and lands. A list of certified guides that are approved for the program on water supply lands and waters can be found by [clicking here](#).
- Fishing on all city-owned reservoirs and lakes, along with some recreation units along streams and creeks, requires a free DEP Access Permit. An access permit can be obtained through DEP's online permitting system, found at [nyc.gov/dep/accesspermit](#). Those with questions about permitting may also email recreation@dep.nyc.gov or call (800) 575-LAND. Those fishing on streams that run across water supply lands should carefully check signs in those recreation units to determine whether a permit is required.

Some of the best trout fishing in the United States is found on New York City's reservoirs and the streams, creeks and rivers that surround them, and we at DEP are proud to support anglers of all ages by improving recreational access. I hope that the efforts I mentioned above encourage more young people and families to partake in this cherished outdoor pastime as another fun trout fishing season begins.



Spotlight on Safety

2017 National Work Zone Awareness Week

National Work Zone Awareness Week is observed every April nationwide. This year's theme is "Work Zone Safety is in Your Hands." Motorists should be constantly alert and prepared for dynamic changes in and around traffic work zones (TWZs). A distracted driver may not notice these changes in time to prevent a potentially fatal crash. Speeding, in-vehicle distractions, and inattentive or aggressive driving near TWZs are costly mistakes that can result in fines, jail time, and even the loss of a life.

DEP workers should be alert and pay attention to all safety instructions while driving near a work zone. Equal concern must be taken when DEP employees create a work zone setup and must follow the procedures listed in DEP's [Traffic Work Zone Safety Policy](#). Tomorrow, April 5, is also "Go Orange Day" and all roadway safety professionals are encouraged to wear orange to proudly show their support of work zone safety. For more information visit [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#).

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.

Training for the Operators Challenge



Five teams of wastewater treatment workers have begun training for DEP's upcoming Operators Challenge to be held at the end of April. Teams include the Bowery Bay Coyotes, Jamaica Sludge Hustlers, Hunts Point Hit Men, North River Dirty Water Dogs, and the newest team hailing from the Lower Hudson - the Watershed Warriors. The rookie team is looking forward to testing its skills against the other teams, growing as an organization, networking with colleagues, and sharing knowledge and techniques to continue to utilize best practices at the upstate plants. The team's members are: **Erik Coddington**, coach; **Kenneth Taylor**, captain/operator; **Bruce Decker**, operator; **Daniel Bryne**, operator; **Matt Burd**, process engineer, and **Eric Albano**, alternate/operator. The team has been thriving in practice and appreciates all the support that the downstate plants have provided. Good luck to both the rookies and returning veterans!

Watershed Trees Yield Maple Syrup



The gradual warming of temperatures this time of year allows maple sap to run from thousands of maple trees across New York. In fact, the state is home to the largest resource of tappable maple trees in the United States—and many of them are within New York City's watershed. Maple producers throughout the watershed have tapped trees, boiled the sap, and created a range of products, from maple syrup to candy. DEP contributes to this sweet effort in its own way. Eight maple producers in the watershed have lease agreements with the City to tap maple trees on water supply lands that have been preserved around the reservoir system. This year, those maple producers installed 5,573 taps on City-owned lands which bring maple sap to family operations like Roxbury Mountain Maple, pictured above. More information about New York maple syrup—including a map of producers in the watershed—can be found by [clicking here](#).

Come Enjoy Fishing at Lake Gleneida



Looking to get outside? DEP is hosting a Family Fishing Day at Lake Gleneida on Saturday, April 29. The event will begin at 9am and last till 2pm. Experts from DEP and the state Department of Environmental Conservation will be on hand to teach kids and adults how to fish. Bait and tackle will be provided for those who don't have their own. Those with tackle are encouraged to bring it! Lake Gleneida is located in the Putnam County town of Carmel, about 4.5 miles west of the Southeast train station on Metro North's Harlem Line. The lake is great for largemouth bass fishing, and it also includes several species of trout. DEP employees are encouraged to join and enjoy the great outdoors. Those interested in the event can register by [clicking here](#).

Earth Day T-Shirts Available Soon



To celebrate Earth Day, which is coming up on April 22, the DEP Employee Store will soon be selling commemorative T-shirts. The store is located in the Lefrak Low-rise lobby and is open Tuesdays from 12pm–2pm. The Employee Store only accepts personal checks or money orders made payable to NYC DEP. Payment is due when you pick up your order. You can also shop online on The Source. For more information, please contact the Employee Store Associate at employeestore@dep.nyc.gov or call (718) 595-6964.

Get Free Help Filing Your Tax Returns

If you earn \$64,000 or less, you may qualify for free online filing or in-person filing with an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer who can help you claim deductions and credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and NYC Child Care Tax Credit. There are more than 200 NYC Free Tax Prep sites in all five boroughs. Some sites let you drop off your tax documents and pick up the completed return later. Remember, the tax filing deadline is April 18. Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/taxprep for more information.

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