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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 16-75

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\$41.5 Million Project to Bring New Water Mains, Sewers, Roadways, Sidewalks and Trees to Ozone Park



Additional Sewer Capacity and New Catch Basins will Improve Drainage and Mitigate Flooding

Resurfaced Roadways and New Sidewalks and Lighting to Improve Safety for Pedestrians and Driver

A Map of the Project Area and Photos of the Work are Available on <u>DEP's Flickr Page</u>

The New York City Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Transportation (DOT) and Design and Construction (DDC) today announced that work has begun on the installation of nearly three miles of new sewers and more than three miles of new water mains in the Ozone Park neighborhood. The \$41.5 million project will include the addition of more than 200 new catch basins that will drain stormwater from the roadways and help to reduce flooding during heavy rain. In addition, nearly 80 new fire hydrants will ensure that firefighters have ready access to the City's water supply. Once that work is complete, the roadways will be rebuilt, new sidewalks and lighting will be installed and 200 trees will be planted. DEP and DOT are funding the project and DDC is managing the construction, which is anticipated to be completed in late 2018.

"The investment of more than \$40 million in Ozone Park will improve the quality of life for residents and businesses, so we are excited to be breaking ground on the work," said **DEP Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**. "The new sewers and catch basins will help to reduce flooding and new water mains will ensure a reliable supply of water for decades to come. The work will also include

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the construction of green infrastructure, which will help to beautify the neighborhood, improve air quality and reduce pollution in Jamaica Bay."

"Upgrading and maintaining our roads, sidewalks and infrastructure are a key priority of our agency," said **DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg**. "Through this long-awaited project, we are making an increased investment in our roads, lighting and sidewalks. We are proud to collaborate with DDC and DEP on this multi-pronged project to ensure a better quality of life in Ozone Park."

"In keeping with Mayor de Blasio's vision for a more sustainable and resilient city, we are proud to start working on the vast infrastructure improvements for New Yorkers in Ozone Park," said **DDC Commissioner Feniosky Peña-Mora**. "Installation of the rain gardens will not only reduce flooding, but will also circumvent polluted runoff from reaching natural bodies of water. Residents will be provided a fully rehabilitated water delivery system, top-of-the-line sewer systems, new roadways, increased lighting, more trees and green, environmentally conscious sidewalks, which all contribute to a healthier quality of life."

"This \$41.5 million investment in Ozone Park's infrastructure will significantly improve the neighborhood's quality of life," said **Queens Borough President Melinda Katz**. "The departments of Environmental Protection, Transportation and Design and Construction should be commended for embarking on this important project that will benefit Ozone Park residents for decades to come."

"This important infrastructure investment will make our Ozone Park community more sustainable and resilient for decades to come," said Council Member Eric Ulrich. "In addition to the new sewer lines, residents of Ozone Park will have more than 200 new catch basins, which will reduce roadway flooding, and nearly 80 new fire hydrants, helping to ensure the safety of the community. Furthermore, the project will give residents of Ozone Park new roadways, sidewalks, lighting, and more than 200 new trees, improving the quality of life in the entire community. I thank the Departments of Transportation, Design and Construction, and Environmental Protection for making Ozone Park a priority."

"The project to repair and upgrade the infrastructure throughout Ozone Park will reap countless benefits for my constituents who live and commute in this area every day," said **Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.** "The installation of new sewer grates will decrease the risk of flooding and, paired with freshly paved roads, allow for a smoother flow of traffic, and additional fire hydrants will ensure the neighborhood is never without the proper resources to remain safe. The overall aesthetic value of Ozone Park will increase significantly with new sidewalks and trees, and I look forward to seeing the completed upgrades to my home neighborhood. I thank DOT, DEP and DDC for their innovative vision being illustrated with this project and their dedication to keeping our city clean and safe. I look forward to working with these agencies to ensure an efficient, professional project."

"Seeing shovels in the ground is a welcome sign for any improvements to the community, but this is especially true for a project nearly forty years in the making," said **Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder**. "With today's announcement, our families in Ozone Park will finally receive the street and sewer infrastructure that will reduce flooding, raise home values and beautify the neighborhood. I commend DEP Commissioner Sapienza and Commissioner Trottenberg at DOT for their commitment to the community and steadfast dedication to this long-awaited work."

This project will include the replacement of more than 18,000 feet of 8 and 12-inch distribution water mains and over 15,000 feet of sewers. Additionally, 535 feet of new storm sewers will be constructed. The redesign will also include the addition of 178 new catch basins and the replacement of 23 existing basins. And, 46 new hydrants will be added with 32 existing hydrants replaced. Upgrading the water and sewer infrastructure is also helping to accommodate the construction of a new school in the area. Once the subsurface construction is completed, 11 lane miles of roadway will be rebuilt along with 338,000 square

feet of new sidewalk and 7.5 miles of new curbs. In addition, 97 new street lights will be installed.

The project will also include the construction of 10 specially designed curbside rain gardens. Each of the rain gardens will have the capacity to collect and absorb nearly 2,500 gallons of stormwater when it rains, thereby easing pressure on the sewer system and reducing overflows into tributaries of Jamaica Bay. To view a video of a bioswale collecting stormwater go here. The bioswales will also green the neighborhoods and help clean the air. In addition, 200 new street trees will be planted once the infrastructure work is completed.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing approximately 1 billion gallons of high-quality water each day to more than 9 million residents, including 8.5 million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,500 miles of sewer lines and 96 pump stations take wastewater to 14 incity treatment plants. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 in the upstate watershed. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program, with a planned \$14 billion in investments over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.

The Department of Design and Construction is the City's primary capital construction project manager. In supporting Mayor de Blasio's lenses of growth, sustainability, resiliency, equity and healthy living, DDC provides communities with new or renovated public buildings such as such as firehouses, libraries, police precincts, new or upgraded roadways, sewers, water mains in all five boroughs. To manage this \$15 billion portfolio, DDC partners with other City agencies, architects and consultants, whose experience bring efficient, innovative, and environmentally-conscious design and construction strategies to city projects. For more information, please visit nyc.gov/ddc.



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