

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Michael DeLoach, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs, is a guest commentator this week.

New York Harbor is a critical part of the Hudson River estuary and over the last decade DEP has invested more than \$10 billion

to improve water quality and restore wetlands and adjacent grasslands, helping to bring back native fish populations and allow for greater recreational use. DEP is also investing in the stewards of tomorrow by partnering with DEC to sponsor more than 70 public high school students who participated in last week's "A Day in the Life of the Hudson & Harbor." The students, advanced placement environmental science students from Baruch College Campus High School in Manhattan and 7th graders from Hunter's Point Community Middle School in Queens, participated in the event during which teams collected



and analyzed water samples and made environmental observations along the East River at Gantry Plaza State Park. Students used field techniques to track the river's tides and currents, examined the water's chemistry, identified macroinvertebrates and fish, and observed oyster colonies.

During the event, five stations were set up where students were able to measure the river's currents and perform tests to determine the level of turbidity, pH, salinity and dissolved oxygen in the water. The high school students were paired with seventh graders and taught them how to properly measure water quality. The seventh graders taught their high school partners the techniques they use to clean and monitor the oysters they are raising in the East River. The students were supervised by science teachers from their schools. Special thanks to BPAC's

Kim Estes-Fradis and **Robin Sanchez**, who were instrumental in organizing this event. DEP also supplied the equipment for the event, including seine nets and lab materials to investigate aquatic life, water chemistry and quality, tides, and weather.

This annual event, now in its 15th year, is part of DEC's [Hudson River Estuary Program](#). The data collected through this event by nearly 5,000 students at 72 different locations, from Troy to New York City, will be analyzed and posted on the "A Day in the Life of the Hudson & Harbor" website. DEP has led the way in making New York Harbor the healthiest it has been in more than a century, and this valuable program is inspiring young environmental stewards to care for New York's waterways so that residents can enjoy all the Hudson River has to offer for generations to come.



Spotlight on Safety

National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying in workplaces is a leading cause of poor productivity and low morale. It usually involves repeated and intentional incidents that intimidate, isolate, offend, degrade or humiliate a particular person or group of people; this includes cyberbullying.

Acts of bullying can include:

- spreading malicious rumors, gossip, or innuendo about a person
- undermining or deliberately impeding a person's work
- yelling or using profanity with the intention to intimidate
- frequent unwarranted criticism
- belittling a person's opinions, especially in front of peers or other work colleagues
- tampering with a person's personal belongings or work equipment

The following examples do not constitute bullying:

- simple one-time acts of rudeness
- performance management, coaching, or counseling from a supervisor that is done in a consistent, fair, and respectful way
- disciplinary action of an employee who violates DEP's Uniform Code of Discipline and other written policies

If you are being bullied, firmly tell the person that their behavior is not acceptable and ask them to stop. If this is ineffective or you feel unsafe, walk away and do not retaliate. Keep a journal of daily events and report them to your supervisor, manager or directly to DEP's Workplace Violence Coordinator. For more information, visit DEP's [Workplace Violence Prevention](#) page.

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.

City College Helps Conserve Water



DEP and the City College of New York (CCNY) recently completed a [water conservation project](#) that has resulted in a savings of nearly 11 million gallons of water a year. With funding provided by DEP, CCNY has replaced nearly 800 older bathroom fixtures in 10 buildings on its Hamilton Heights campus with new, high-efficiency models. This work will reduce CCNY's demand for water by an estimated 30,000 gallons of water per day. DEP is funding water demand reduction projects across the city in preparation for the shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct in 2022. The retrofit, which cost about \$200,000, upgraded about 780 fixtures in the following buildings: Aaron Davis Center, Administration Building, Compton Goethals, Harris Hall, North Academic Center, Marshak Science Building, Shepard Hall, Spitzer Hall, Steinman, and Wingate. This unique partnership project was based off a similar effort DEP is undertaking in the City's public schools. Thus far, more than 29,000 new, high-efficiency bathroom fixtures have been installed at 323 public school buildings throughout the five boroughs. This has resulted in an approximately 70 percent reduction in water use at each of the buildings, saving nearly 3 million gallons of water each school day.

Donate Items to Holiday Food Drive



The Thanksgiving 2017 Holiday Food Drive has begun! Items donated at Lefrak will go to the Food Bank for New York City. Collection boxes will be set up in the Flocculator Enclave on the 19th floor until Nov. 13. Please call **Joe Sokolowski** at ext. 6168 or **Sara Pecker** at ext. 5487 for more information. As a reminder, no glass containers or expired food items will be accepted. Donations collected upstate in Kingston and Shokan will be given to Ulster County Community Action, which provides needy families with ready-to-prepare Thanksgiving food baskets. Donated items can be brought to boxes located in the front lobby (Kingston) and in the Ben Nesin lunch room (Shokan) until Nov. 13. Please call **Danielle McCutcheon** at 845-340-7263 if you have any questions. Food items donated in Grahamsville will be presented to the Grahamsville and Ulster Heights United Methodist Churches, which both operate very active food pantries throughout the year. Please call **Jona Hamilton** or **Pam Zanetti** at 845-334-7107 for more details.

Students Clean Staten Island Bluebelt



Students from the Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning High School on Staten Island helped last Friday to clean up Wolfe's Pond Bluebelt in the Prince's Bay neighborhood. The collaborative community service project is in its fifth year and prepares students to become environmental stewards for the Island's Bluebelts. Watershed supervisor **Joe Scarlotta** and watershed maintainers **Phil Arale** and **Stanley Colangelo**, BWSO, oversaw the cleanup as 26 students equipped with gloves, grabbers, trash bags, and safety vests collected 25 bags of debris. The Wolfe's Pond Bluebelt uses two constructed holding basins and a weir to control the stormwater it collects from a drainage area of approximately 589 acres. The Bluebelt system also serves as an important open space and habitat for the Island's diverse wildlife. This summer, DEP completed the [largest ever expansion of the Bluebelt system](#) with the completion of the Sweet Brook Bluebelt. This \$48 million infrastructure upgrade for the Woodrow neighborhood added more than three miles of storm sewers, installed hundreds of catch basins, replaced existing water mains, and extended sewers to nearly 600 homes in the area, allowing them to discontinue the use of septic tanks. DEP also finished a [\\$15 million new Bluebelt project](#) in the South Shore's Pleasant Plains neighborhood.

Fashion Show to Highlight Diversity



The EEO Office and the EEO Diversity Committee will be celebrating our employee's richness in culture and talent at the agency's first ever multicultural fashion show, *Fashion Your Seatbelt*, which will be held next Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 12-2pm at the Rego Park Community Center. *Fashion Your Seatbelt* will highlight various garments and accessories representing many cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Please consider participating in this exciting event and showcasing your unique and diverse cultural fashion and/or style. If you are interested in volunteering or modeling, or have any further questions, please contact Diversity Liaison **Gloria Rodriguez** at 718-595-4549 or grodriguez@dep.nyc.gov, or email the Diversity Committee at depdiversitycommittee@dep.nyc.gov.

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