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New York City Public School Students Help Clean up Staten Island Bluebelt



More Than 30 Students from Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning High School Gathered at Wolfe's Pond Bluebelt to Remove Litter for 'Day of Service'

Photos of the Event are Available on [DEP's Flickr Page](#)

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today joined with more than 30 students from the Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning High School on Staten Island to help clean up Wolfe's Pond Bluebelt in the Prince's Bay neighborhood. The collaborative community service project is in its fourth year and prepares students to become environmental stewards for the Island's Bluebelts.

"Encouraging young New Yorkers to care for the Bluebelts teaches them to both protect and respect these precious ecosystems that also serve as critical drainage infrastructure for surrounding communities," said **DEP Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**. "The Bluebelt is an innovative and sustainable approach to managing stormwater and reducing flooding. We thank the students and staff from Gaynor McCown for their commitment to keeping Staten Island clean and free from litter."

The Wolfe's Pond Bluebelt collects stormwater from a drainage area of approximately 589 acres. The Bluebelt consists of two constructed holding basins and a weir to control the stormwater. The Bluebelt also serves as an important open space and habitat for the Island's diverse wildlife. On Staten Island, DEP has connected thousands of homes to the City's wastewater treatment system, eliminating the need for septic tanks, and preserved or

More Information

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constructed more than 60 Bluebelt wetlands to reduce roadway flooding and improve harbor water quality.

Staten Island residents can play a vital role in supporting the Bluebelt by helping to keep streams and wetlands pristine and by protecting them from pollution.

Get involved:

- Become a member of the Adopt-A-Bluebelt Program. The program offers local community groups, companies and individuals an opportunity to enhance Staten Island's open spaces by acting as Sponsors who adopt parts of the Bluebelt. Under the Program, Sponsors may hire private companies as maintenance providers, to care for Bluebelt sites. Each Sponsor's generosity is acknowledged with a sign, displaying the name of the Sponsor at the adopted site.
- Organize a Bluebelt clean-up or participate in any one of DEP's Friends of the Bluebelt clean-up events held each year.
- Join a group that shares your interest in the environment such as Friends of Wood Duck Pond, Friends of Jack's Pond, your local civic association, or contact your Community Board to learn about its activities. For more information about these activities, call 311 and ask to be connected to DEP's Staten Island Bluebelt field office.
- Report illegal dumping directly to 311.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of water each day to more than nine million residents, including eight 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 in-city 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. This capital program is responsible for critical projects like City Water Tunnel No. 3; the Staten Island Bluebelt program, an ecologically sound and cost-effective stormwater management system; the city's Watershed Protection Program, which protects sensitive lands upstate near the city's reservoirs in order to maintain their high water quality; and the installation of more than 820,000 Automated Meter Reading devices, which will allow customers to track their daily water use, more easily manage their accounts and be alerted to potential leaks on their properties. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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