

Commissioner's Corner



Capital upgrade projects at DEP are typically large-scale, requiring many years of planning and design work before shovels are even in the ground. In the case of our \$455 million project to clean up and restore the Paerdegat Basin area, construction of all three phases of work—building the city's largest Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Retention Facility, dredging the Basin and restoring more than 50 acres of native grasslands

and wetlands—stretched over a decade. But I think anyone who has visited the area of late would agree that it was well worth the investment. Significantly reducing the frequency and volume of sewer overflows into the Basin, removing built-up sediment that would become exposed during low-tide and create nuisance odors, and restoring the natural wetlands to help filter impurities from the water has resulted in a

significantly healthier waterway for residents to enjoy and a more hospitable habitat for fish and wildlife.

The final portion of the project, the restoration of 52 acres of native grasslands and wetlands along the shores of Paerdegat Basin, was recently completed. Prior to this work, the shorelines were strewn with litter and the landscape was dominated by invasive species. Significant grading took place in order to construct 4.2 acres of salt marsh wetland along the southern shore and 1.9 acres along the northern shore. The wetlands will help to naturally filter the water in the Basin and provide a habitat for fish and wildlife.

Upland, we planted 20.1 acres of native maritime grasslands on the southern shore and 21.2 acres on the northern shore. This coastal grassland community will help to promote the ecological improvement of the Paerdegat Basin area and is expected to be a popular place for both year-round and migratory birds. In addition, we recently completed a 5-acre ecology park equipped with pedestrian walkways and informational signs. It will serve as an educational resource to promote awareness of the various environments found throughout the City.

Overall, we planted nearly 100,000 plugs of maritime grassland and wildflowers, more than 5,300 shrubs and nearly



1,100 trees. New fencing and sidewalks were installed along the perimeter of the park and stormwater from the adjacent streets will be conveyed to sites within the parks and, in some instances, used for irrigation.

Earlier, we built the largest CSO retention facility in the city. It went into operation in 2011 and has resulted in an approximately 70 percent drop in CSOs. The final component of the upgrade was the two-year dredging of the Basin. This work has helped to significantly reduce any nuisance odors and has improved the ecological health of the Basin.

Many DEP employees played important roles in the project and I'd like to thank each of them for helping to successfully restore Paerdegat Basin to a healthy ecosystem. To learn more [click here](#), to see additional photos [click here](#), to view a short video [click here](#), and to read the Associated Press news article [click here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Update on Workplace Violence Prevention

DEP's [Workplace Violence \(WPV\) Prevention Program](#) has been revised and is now accessible on The Source. The intent of the program is to minimize and respond to incidents of workplace violence. Additionally, a Frequently Asked Questions document has been created to highlight the most important aspects of the program and to address any issues that previously may have been unclear. Some key updates to the program include:

- clarification on the investigation

process for incidents

- creation of a WPV Task Force
- outline of bureau specific WPV risks and control measures

DEP employees have the right—and are encouraged—to report incidents or concerns about WPV without fear of retaliation. If you believe you have experienced or witnessed workplace violence, you should immediately notify your supervisor and/or the DEP WPV Prevention Coordinator at wpvconcerns@dep.nyc.gov.

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.



Joining the Ranks



Last Friday, Commissioner Lloyd presided over a graduation ceremony for 13 new Environmental Police Officers (EPO) who successfully completed 31 weeks of training at DEP's Environmental Police Academy. The EPOs will immediately be deployed to protect New York City's 2,000-square-mile watershed and critical infrastructure across nine counties that supply roughly half of New York State's population with reliable, high quality drinking water. The new EPOs, who reside in 8 different counties and speak five different languages, completed intense training in counterterrorism, the environment, police science, the use of firearms, and defensive tactics. In addition, they completed courses in environmental conservation law, land navigation, fish and wildlife science and watershed protection. For more information [click here](#) and to view more photos of the ceremony, [click here](#).



BRRR!!! Baby It's Cold Outside!

With cooler temperatures here, and cold weather on its way, DEP is once again supporting the New York Cares Annual Coat Drive to provide warm outerwear to those New Yorkers who are unable to provide for themselves. The drive will begin on Monday, November 1, and run through Wednesday, December 30. Donations may be brought to the lobby of the low-rise building at Lefrak, and deposited in the collection bin. Flyers will be distributed shortly with more information.

Kudos Corner



Last week, nearly 800 DEP employees were honored at Employee Recognition Day. The annual celebration was held at the DC 37 Headquarters in lower Manhattan and, in total, 792 employees were recognized for their length of service to the City and for perfect attendance. Congratulations to all! [Click here](#) to see more photos and [here](#) to see the program for the event.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 22 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources and Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Miriam Korn with ACCO; **Kody Cooper, Peter DeMarco, Lia Fabian, Rashaad James, Luc Jean-Philippe, Cesar Jurado, Lloyd Mclean, Delia Montalvo, Raheem Norris, Dwaine Perdomo, Salvatore Pino, Sharifa Saki, Roma Sharma, Vishaal Sidoo, Ruben Villalt and Lingyun Wang** with BWSO; **Farah Delances** with BEC; **Kamal Lashley, Stephen Murphy and James Rosa** with BEDC; and **Daniel Gonzalez-Zelaya** with BWT.

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