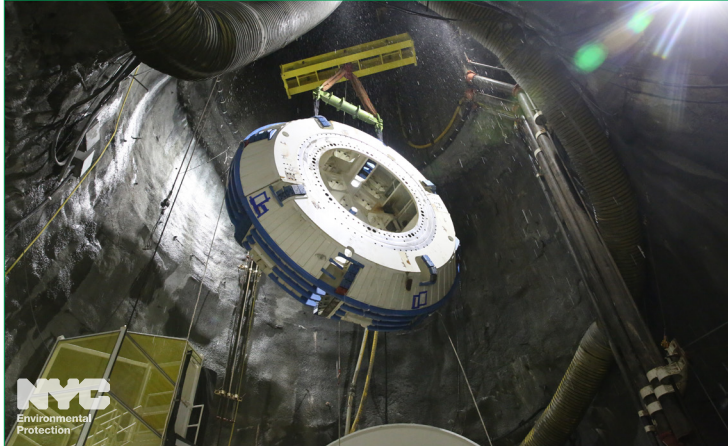


## Nora Takes Shape Below Newburgh



**N**ora is one of the world's most advanced tunnel boring machines (TBM) and she is being assembled 854 feet below ground in Newburgh, NY. The entire machine—including its cutter head, body and trailing gear—will be more than 470 feet long and weigh upwards of 2.7 million pounds. Its cutter head (pictured above) is 21.6 feet in diameter. The TBM is an integral part of DEP's [\\$1 billion project](#) to repair the 85-mile Delaware Aqueduct, the longest tunnel in the world. More photos of Nora can be viewed [here](#).

## Spotlight on Safety

### Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season

The holiday season is a festive time of year, but it is also a time to take certain precautions. Statistics show that accidental fires and electrical accidents increase during the winter holiday season.

The following tips can help ensure a safe holiday season:

- do not stand on a chair to hang decorations, use a stepladder
- never hang decorations from fire sprinklers
- inspect all lights, decorations and extension cords for damage before using
- do not overload electrical outlets

- never connect extension cords with each other
- refrain from placing extension cords in high-traffic areas of your workplace, or under rugs, carpets, or furniture
- turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before you leave

The holiday season also means more get-togethers with family and friends. If you are driving, always be aware of winter weather conditions and never drive under the influence of alcohol! For many more helpful tips, visit National Safety Council's [Holiday Safety](#) 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.

## Commissioner's Corner



I recently had the opportunity to join with the FC Harlem Lions, a Harlem-based non-profit youth development soccer organization, and Chelsea FC stars Ashley Cole and Michael Essien to make a wonderful [announcement](#) that will have a real positive impact on the community—a new covered soccer field will be built on DEP property adjacent to the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The \$2.5 million field, funded by private donations, is expected to be constructed of synthetic turf and enclosed with a galvanized steel tensile fabric structure that is open air at its base and at its southern end. The new field will operate in addition to an open-air field FC Harlem Lions currently operate one block south of the proposed site. There are also plans to incorporate green infrastructure

into the design by managing stormwater runoff via crushed stone French drains along the east and west sides of the tensile structure that lead to a stone infiltration gallery beneath the field.

FC Harlem Lions and Executive Director Irv Smalls have been great partners of DEP's in activating underutilized space surrounding the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant through their strong community-based programming. We are looking forward to partnering with them to provide a new recreational amenity in Harlem. I'd also like to thank **Alicia West**, BPAC; **Chaandi McGruder**, BLA; **Arthur Spangel**, director of plant operations, BWT; **Keith Cataldo**, facility manager at North River; and **Kiah Miller**, plant chief at North River, for their efforts.



## *“Green” Park Opens in the Bronx*



DEP on Thursday joined NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell Silver**, Council Member **Rafael Salamanca, Jr.** and students from the East Bronx Academy for the Future to cut the ribbon on the [newly reconstructed Seabury Park](#). Seabury Park is the first Community Parks Initiative (CPI) site to open in the Bronx after undergoing a \$777,000 full reconstruction. DEP provided \$160,000 for green infrastructure. Green features include a rain garden, underground storm chambers and permeable concrete, and flood-tolerant plants which, combined, are able to capture up to 69,000 gallons of stormwater per year. DEP has committed approximately \$50 million in funding for green infrastructure installations at CPI sites throughout the city, helping to reduce sewer overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall, improve air quality, and lower summertime temperatures.

## *Please Donate Your Gently-Used Coats*



Please consider donating your gently-used, freshly laundered coats for men, women, and children to the [29<sup>th</sup> Annual New York Cares Coat Drive](#), going on now through Dec. 30. Help our fellow New Yorkers keep warm during the severe winter months ahead. Just last year, thanks to caring New Yorkers like you, New York Cares collected and distributed 109,000 winter coats to families who would have otherwise faced a long, cold winter without one. A DEP drop-off bin is located on the first floor of the low-rise at Lefrak Headquarters. For more details, please contact **Joe Sokolowski** at ext. 6168 or **Sara Pecker** at ext. 5487.

## *More Watershed Acres for Recreation*



DEP has opened access this year to 1,038 [additional acres of water supply land](#) where outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy low-impact recreation. The expanded access includes 411 acres on five new parcels of recreation land, and 627 acres that were added to existing recreation areas throughout the Catskills. With the state's regular hunting season continuing through Dec. 10, sportsmen and sportswomen are encouraged to utilize the 94,857 acres of water supply land managed by DEP that are open for hunting. That includes 69,991 acres known as “public access areas” that are open for hiking, hunting, and trapping without the need for a DEP Access Permit. Parcels open for hunting are spread across 344 recreation areas in Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties.

## *Donors Needed for Blood Drive*



# **Blood Drive**

Give the gift of a lifetime this holiday season and donate blood! DEP is once again partnering with the New York Blood Centers to help maintain the community's blood supply. Donors with an O-negative blood type, or “universal donors,” are especially urged to give because their blood can be transferred to anyone. Remember to eat and hydrate before you donate. Blood drives will be taking place at the below locations and times:

- **Lefrak:** 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room, 12/6 and 12/7, 7:45am–1:45pm
- **Kingston/Catskill Area:** 51 Albany Avenue, 12/6, 1pm–6pm
- **Kensico/Highland Regions-Sutton Park Area:** Sutton Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Room, 12/7, 8:30am–2:30pm
- **Schoharie Area:** Stamford Baptist Church, 12/8, 1–6pm
- **Downsville Region Area:** Downsville Fire Hall, 12/13, 9am–2:30pm
- **Grahamsville Region Area:** Grahamsville Fire House, 12/20, 9am–3pm

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**