

2012: It's a Holiday Wrap

Last Thursday, DEP employees gathered to celebrate the holidays and another successful and productive year as the agency works towards its goal of being the safest, most effective, cost efficient, and transparent water utility in the nation. In 2012, DEP completed many important projects and reached a number of significant milestones.

Of the 100 distinct initiatives outlined in DEP's Strategic Plan, *Strategy 2011-2014*, 63 were fully or partially achieved and 36 are on schedule. In recognition of these efforts, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies awarded DEP the 2012 Platinum Award for Utility Excellence.

Under **Mayor Bloomberg**, DEP has made a larger commitment to maintaining and improving the reliability and long-term sustainability of the city's water supply system than any administration in history. In 2012, DEP completed one of the administration's largest investments—the \$1.6 billion Ultraviolet

Disinfection Facility. The facility is the largest of its kind in the world and will provide enhanced disinfection for the Catskill-Delaware water system, which supplies drinking water to more than eight million New Yorkers.

In 2012, DEP also made a number of local investments in water and sewer infrastructure. In Forest Hills, DEP completed a \$24 million upgrade of water and storm sewer infrastructure to alleviate roadway flooding and improve the water distribution system. DEP also broke ground on a \$69 million upgrade of water and sewer infrastructure in Springfield Gardens. The project includes the installation of approximately 2.8 miles of new sewer lines and nearly 3 miles of water mains.

In the Watershed, DEP installed Crest Gates at the Gilboa Dam, which provide for enhanced water level control at the Schoharie Reservoir. The gates are part of a \$400 million full scale rehabilitation at the Dam. DEP also began work to upgrade the Ashokan Dividing

Spotlight on Safety

Tips for Driving Safely During Inclement Weather

DEP's work doesn't stop when there is snow and ice on the roads. Dams still need to be inspected, tap water needs to be sampled, and sewer and water pipes need to be maintained. Below are a few tips for driving light and regular duty vehicles safely in snow and ice:

- **Slow down.** Adjust speed for road conditions and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles.
- **Make sure you can see and be seen.** Keep windshield wiper blades free of ice, make sure that your vehicle has window washing fluid, and ensure that headlights are clean. Use the defrosters so you can see out of front and rear windows.

- **Don't Over-Steer.** If you hit a slick patch, don't overcompensate by trying to "steer" out of it. Take your foot off the gas, allow the tires to regain traction with the roadway, and then slowly steer out of the situation.

Fleet performs periodic preventive maintenance on all DEP vehicles, but employees should inspect their assigned vehicle before every use to ensure tires, lights, wipers, and other equipment are in good working order. If a defective condition is found, it should be reported to your supervisor or vehicle coordinator immediately.

Click here [to learn more.](#)

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

Last week we reached an important milestone in the rehabilitation of the Gilboa Dam when the first of two siphons was put into operation. The siphon is a metal pipe—6 feet in diameter at its widest point—and is capable of moving 250 million gallons of water a day out of the reservoir, over the Dam, and into the creek below.

The siphons are critical to the ongoing \$400 million rehabilitation of the Dam which includes reinforcing it with 234 million pounds of concrete, reconstructing the spillway, and installing a new release tunnel around the Dam from the reservoir to Schoharie Creek. By removing water from the reservoir with the siphons, contractors can access portions of the Dam that might otherwise be obstructed by water pouring over the spillway. The siphons will also help us meet our commitment of removing water from the reservoir equal to 50 percent of the snow pack during winter months, while also providing additional flood protection.



opportunities on the extensive network of dirt roads. The transfer will also help foster positive relationships with our watershed partners due to the property's location just outside the Catskill Park.

Transferring the property to state management provides a unique opportunity to enhance recreation and tourism opportunities for the Town of Windham and the surrounding Catskills while doing so in a manner that will not compromise the high quality NYC water supply.

Additionally, with support from the towns of Mount Pleasant and North Castle, beginning this winter, we will remove fallen and damaged trees from a 45 acre parcel of land near the Kensico Reservoir. Many of the trees were planted when the reservoir was built roughly a century ago and Hurricane Sandy has left them prone to further storm damage.

The project will improve public safety, better ensure that area roadways remain open during emergencies, and greatly reduce the chance that falling trees result in power outages. In the spring we will replace the trees with a younger, more diverse mix of native evergreens, hardwood trees, and shrubs that will diversify the forest and stabilize the soil to help withstand future extreme storm events.

Finally, with the holiday season now upon us, I hope you all have an opportunity during the next week to spend some time with family and loved ones. It has been a great year here at DEP and I look forward to working with you all towards an exciting and productive 2013.



We also announced last week that we will convey title to an 815-acre property located in the Town of Windham to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Under our ownership the property has been open for recreation instead of development, as it was slated for prior to our acquisition in 2002 and 2005. DEC plans to designate the property as a "Detached Forest Preserve" and will maintain it in a manner that protects water quality while also providing additional recreational

Focus on the Field

In January 2011, **Tetyana Klymenko** was one of the first members of DEP's brand new Office of Green Infrastructure. Klymenko had worked in BWSO's Capital Drainage Section since 2004, and that experience prepared her to be an important part of DEP's sustainable and cost-effective green infrastructure program.

As the Program Director of Hydraulics and Design, Klymenko maps the tributary areas for each of the Green Infrastructure Plan watersheds, identifying the appropriate location, type, and number of stormwater best management practices. Using complex analytical tools, she and her team calculate how much stormwater the installations will capture and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows.

Klymenko is also a member of the DEP Panel for Sustainable Infrastructure, which includes representatives from multiple bureaus with the goal of achieving excellence in sustainable planning, design and construction in all DEP projects

"I enjoy meeting people from all over the field of sustainability and green technology," she said. But it's not all that easy. To map the watersheds and identify locations for future bioswales, Klymenko takes to the streets, no matter what the conditions. "It's hard to imagine how many miles we've walked throughout the city. Hot weather, cold weather, and pouring rain—we keep working no matter what."



The hard work is paying off, as the standard Right-of-Way Bioswale designs were unveiled last month and work is well underway on 250 bioswales in priority areas in Brooklyn and Queens.

"Tetyana's experience in BWSO's Capital Drainage Section provided her with a strong foundation for the critical hydraulic analysis she does for all GI practices included in green infrastructure projects," said Assistant Commissioner **Magdi Farag**. "She shares her extensive experience with our new engineers and they became confident to conduct their own hydraulic analysis, mapping, site selections and field investigations. In summary, Tetyana is an invaluable and utterly reliable member of the Office of Green Infrastructure."

When Klymenko's not working, she enjoys travelling to far off places and making short movies about her family history.

Holiday Celebration



Last week's DEP holiday party was a festive way to wind down the past year. The 3rd Floor Cafeteria at Lefrak was transformed into a holiday wonderland for this annual event. Two hundred and eighty-one tickets were sold to the year-end gala that was catered by Dallas BBQ. Along with delicious food, party goers were treated to a great selection of music provided by DJ Louie, and 20 DEP employees were the recipients of door prizes to one of several establishments including Macy's, JC Penney, Bed, Bath and Beyond, and Century 21. Thanks to everyone who worked on making this event the best ever.

Toy Drive Results



The Gift Card and Toy Drive Collections were a huge success! Fourteen Gift Cards totaling \$340 and 269 toys were collected in all. The toys are being donated to 'Kids in Distressed Situations' and the gift cards are being distributed to DEP employees affected by Hurricane Sandy. Thank you to all who participated.

(2012: It's a Holiday Wrap... continued)

Weir Gate House, which was constructed between 1909 and 1911 and controls flow from the reservoir's west basin into the east. DEP also greatly expanded recreational opportunities in the Watershed, opening 108,000 acres of city-owned land for recreation and this year, for the first time, DEP hosted the U.S. Adventure Racing Association's National Championships on the Pepacton Reservoir.

In the city, DEP expanded its sustainable approach to stormwater management by implementing components of the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan, which calls for \$2.4 billion in green investments over the next 20 years. DEP partnered with Queens College to complete a project that will direct nearly one million gallons of stormwater annually to three newly constructed rain gardens and permeable pavers. In addition, DEP awarded \$600,000 to the Brooklyn Grange to construct a 43,000 square foot working farm that will divert more than one million gallons of rainwater annually and announced \$6 million will be available for the 2013 grant application cycle.

DEP also made of a number of grey infrastructure investments to improve harbor water quality and to better inform ourselves and the public about combined sewer overflows. Over the summer, DEP completed a two-year interceptor sewer cleaning project aimed at increasing flow capacity and reducing combined sewer overflows. DEP cleaned roughly 26 miles of pipe, removing 29 million pounds of debris. The cleaned sewers have reduced CSOs by nearly 100 million gallons annually. DEP also installed remote sensors to monitor overflows in real time at five outfall locations, allowing DEP to calculate the CSO volumes released at the outfalls. In addition, DEP and

the Office of Emergency Management joined forces to issue water quality advisories through the city's Notify NYC system.

Those are not the only examples of how DEP is harnessing technology to improve our operations. In 2012, DEP installed monitoring sensors on 21 manhole covers in the city to detect elevated flows in sewers and allow staff to perform inspections and maintenance. DEP highlighted this program in its first annual State of the Sewers report, which found that DEP's inspection, analysis, and cleaning program has produced tangible improvements to sewer performance city-wide. DEP also continued to improve the operation of the water distribution system, leading to a record low number of water main breaks in 2012.

DEP also took a number of steps to better serve its customers, including installation of wireless water meter readers. This has virtually eliminated estimated billing and enabled DEP to provide precise consumption information to customers every day. It has also allowed for the successful leak notification program that saved DEP customers \$26 million in 2012.

These are just a few examples of DEP's accomplishments in 2012. In 2013, DEP has set an ambitious agenda that includes the launch of programs to develop renewable energy sources, plan for climate change and population growth in NYC, expand green infrastructure installations in priority watersheds, implement water efficiency programs, and continue to improve customer service, just to name a few.

To learn more about DEP's accomplishments over the last year and to follow the agency's work in the coming year, visit www.nyc.gov/dep.

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