

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Anastasios Georgelis
Deputy Commissioner
Water and Sewer Operations

DEP is an international leader when it comes to rethinking how big cities can capture and retain stormwater before it ever enters the sewer system, and we are well on our way to reaching our ambitious 2030 goal of nearly 1.7 billion gallons of stormwater man-

aged each year. To meet this goal, DEP has been hard at work transforming our concrete jungle into a greener, more permeable city through the installation of Green Infrastructure. To date, we have constructed more than 4,000 rain gardens citywide, with thousands more in the planning, design, and construction stages. As our Green Infrastructure program has expanded, so has the need for skilled staff responsible for main-



taining these vital links in our infrastructure network.

As part of our Green Infrastructure Maintenance staff development, DEP has collaborated with the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) to develop a two-week intensive training program for qualified City Park Workers and Level 1 Gardeners. The training program was offered to staffers who have demonstrated leadership abilities and shown an interest in enhancing their skills. This August, participants had the rare opportunity to learn more about soil science, botany, drafting, estimating, propagation, maintenance techniques, and plant identification from esteemed industry professionals on staff at NYBG's School of Professional Horticulture. Upon successful completion of

the course, employees received a certificate in Gardening, which provides an opportunity to take on future leadership roles in BWSO's Green Infrastructure Maintenance unit. This year's participants included **Keury Melendez, Donnell White, Tasha Bussey, Josuel Fernandez, Thomas Geraci, Jeremy James, Carlos Dale, Miguel Gonzales, Carmen Duran, and Frank Hollman.**

The lessons learned throughout the course will guide our staff in ensuring the City's rain gardens remain both functional and beautiful. Many thanks to Deputy Chief **James Rossi**, Chief **Dean Cavallaro**, and Administrative Horticulturalist **Jeremy Fitzgerald** for going above and beyond to organize this invaluable staff development training.

Spotlight on Safety

Paper Recycling = Conservation

Did you know once paper is contaminated with food, grease, or chemicals, it can no longer be recycled and must be placed in the trash? Often, people will inadvertently toss a used napkin into the paper-recycling bin. Napkins, wax paper, gum wrappers, hard-cover, and spiral bound books (unless the binding is removed) are also not recyclable. Non-recyclable paper items can cause an entire batch of paper

to be rejected by recyclers and sent to the landfill!

How can you help? By following the DEP Recycling Program guidelines, which includes following receptacle label instructions and reducing unnecessary paper consumption.

For more information, please see the [DEP Recycling Program](#), [DEP Recycling and Pollution Prevention Policy](#) and [DSNY Recycling](#).

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.



In the News



Photo Credit: Karsten Moran at The New York Times

Commissioner Sapienza was recently featured in a [New York Times article](#) discussing wastewater management and what's safe to flush down the toilet or wash down the drain, and what's not.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 27 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Damiano G. Cammarata and **Rodney Curtis** with BCS; **Tanya Y. Fajardo** and **Atani M. Tchessi** with BEC; **Maryam Morshedi**, **Perry L. Scardigno**, and **Yair Vazquez Levy** with BEDC; **Ronell Bridgemohan**, **Henry R. Kernizan**, **Benjamin Mendez**, **Michael A. Morakinyo**, and **Francia D. Ortiz** with BWS; **Marlon R. Burgos**, **Sara M. Cahill**, **Dominick D'Andrea**, **Daniel C. David**, **Haruka Kido**, **Yufeng Li**, **Christopher T. Loney**, **Adil Majid**, **Robin R. Ramasami**, **Andrey Ryepkin**, and **Thanuja Singh** with BWSO; **Dimitrios Katehis** and **Prosenjit Kumar Mandal** with BWT; **Adam M. Benditsky** with Sustainability; and **Craig E. Patterson** with Police & Security.

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

NYC Water Nabs First in Taste Test



The City's tap water was awarded the top prize in New York State's Regional Metro Tap Water Taste Test competition. The contest was held Aug. 21 at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, and pitted New York City's tap water against drinking water from Westchester, Orange, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. Museum visitors sampled tap water from the five suppliers and ranked them by taste, with New York City's tap water judged the best. After winning the Regional Taste Contest competition, New York City tap water will next compete in a statewide contest to be held at the Great New York State Fair in Syracuse, N.Y. on Thursday, Aug. 30. The annual taste test competition, which takes place in county, regional, and statewide contests, is organized by the New York State Water and Wastewater Education and Outreach Committee. Thanks to **Flake Gjonbalaj**, **Kelly Cahalan** and **Michael Liu** from BWS DWQO for their help with this successful event.

Reservoir Inspections Completed



At DEP, we take safety and regular maintenance extremely seriously. We are responsible for a tremendous amount of infrastructure, and regular preventative maintenance helps the agency save money and avoid serious interruptions in service. Last week, we conducted routine depth surveys and visual diving inspections of Central Park Reservoir and Silver Lake Reservoir, which is on Staten Island. During the bathymetric surveys, two surveyors (a captain and a hydrographer) operated a 12-foot aluminum skiff outfitted with GPS and hydrographic surveying software. The divers visually evaluated the structural integrity of the dam and reservoir walls, the amount of sediment that has settled at the bottom, and if the capacity of the reservoir has changed at all. All of the information gathered during these surveys will help us in planning for future capital upgrades of the reservoirs. For more photos, [click here](#).