



FOUNTAIN LOCATION		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	HOURS
MANHATTAN	Battery Park City								8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
	City Hall Park								9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
	Columbus Circle								10:30 AM - 6:30 PM
	Union Square								9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
	Washington Square Park								10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
BROOKLYN	Brooklyn Bridge Park								10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
	Coney Island								11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
	Grand Army Plaza								10:30 AM - 6:30 PM
	Williamsburg								9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
BRONX	Bronx Borough Hall								10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
QUEENS	Astoria Park								11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
STATEN ISLAND	Staten Island Borough Hall								11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Summer officially starts this Friday, June 21, and to celebrate, DEP is launching an enhanced NYC Water On-the-Go campaign to hydrate the city. The goal is to attract more than one million drinkers this season (double that of last year). Fountains will be more visible, locations more consistent, and the overall experience more appealing. Staff will be in all five boroughs engaging the public and spreading the word about delicious New York City tap water. And to track actual gallons used (and estimated disposable plastic bottles conserved),

this year all fountains have meters and Automated Meter Reading devices.

The program officially launches in Manhattan at City Hall Park on Friday, June 21, at noon. There will be plenty of free giveaways—water bottles, pens, bracelets, stickers, and more.

And for instant access to this season's fountain locations and hours of operation, [download](#) the redesigned mobile app today. If you have last season's version, be sure to refresh the app for current information and new features.

Spotlight on Safety

Emergency Preparedness

According to a 2010 New York City Office of Emergency Management Survey, 40 percent of New Yorkers said they felt unprepared for an emergency and, in a recent DEP survey, 38 percent of respondents ranked emergency preparedness as one of their primary concerns. For those reasons, this week's National Safety Month theme is Emergency Preparedness.

Preparing for an emergency means that employees know where to go, how to keep themselves safe, and have the necessary personal protec-

tion equipment. DEP employees attend mandatory Emergency Action Plan training when they are hired, on an annual basis, and if their job or work location changes. During this training, employees become familiar with the means for reporting an emergency, evacuation procedures, and the systems to account for all employees after an evacuation.

Emergencies can happen at any time or any place, know your responsibility, and know the Emergency Action Plan. Visit [Pipeline](#), or OSHA's website for additional information.

Commissioner's Corner

Last week I discussed the recommendations to protect New York City's drinking water supply against climate change that are outlined in the recently released report, "A Stronger, More Resilient New York," the City's Long-Term Plan to Further Prepare for the Impacts of a Changing Climate. This week, I want to focus on steps we can take to make DEP's wastewater treatment infrastructure more resilient to the effects of climate change, including heavier rains, storm surge and rising sea levels.

All of the city's 14 wastewater treatment plants and many of our 96 pumping stations are located along the waterfront, or at relatively low elevations. Waterfront locations make it easier for flow to arrive by gravity and provide nearby waterways to discharge effluent, thereby significantly reducing the cost and environmental impact of treating wastewater. Building plants on the waterfront also allows sludge to be transported efficiently by boat to DEP facilities for additional treatment and disposal.

However, being located on the water leaves the plants vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge. Hurricane Sandy's historic surge damaged 10 of the city's 14 treatment plants and more than 40 of our pumping stations. Most of the damage involved electrical systems and equipment including substations, motors, control panels, and other instrumentation being inundated by sea water.

Fortunately, the billions of dollars DEP has invested in upgrading our plants and a heroic response by our bureaus of Wastewater Treatment, Water and Sewer Operations, and Engineering, Design and Construction helped New York City avoid an environmental disaster. Despite millions of dollars in damage to our plants, DEP was treating 99 percent of wastewater within four days and 100 percent within two weeks.

DEP began implementing climate change resiliency measures in 2008 with the release of the Climate Change Assessment and Action Plan. Even before Sandy, we were in the process of performing a detailed climate change study for representative treatment plants, pump stations, and drainage areas

to determine the likelihood and severity of several risks, including storm surge. After Sandy, DEP expanded the study to include all of our wastewater infrastructure.

Through site visits, engineering analysis, and interviews with employees, DEP has undertaken a detailed, asset-by-asset risk assessment at each facility and identified the wastewater infrastructure that is, and will be, most likely at risk of failure during a range of extreme weather events. According to the study, all 14 wastewater treatment plants have assets that are at some level of risk. In fact, of the almost 47,700 total assets at our treatment plants, nearly 4,000 assets that are necessary for primary treatment and 10,600 needed for other operations are shown to be vulnerable.

To determine which proactive measures will make wastewater infrastructure more resilient, we looked at a number of strategies, including flood-proofing buildings with watertight windows and doors, elevating equipment with watertight casings, making pumps submersible, constructing external flood barriers, installing temporary sandbags during storms, and providing back-up generation to our pumping stations (DEP's treatment plants currently have back-up generation).

The Mayor's recently released report also makes specific commitments to make our infrastructure more resilient. They include rethinking the way we design our plants, hardening our existing infrastructure, and developing cogeneration facilities to make the plants less dependent on utility power. The report also recommends improving the way we manage stormwater by expanding our green infrastructure program to soften the city and a commitment of \$20 million to accelerate the build-out of DEP's award winning Bluebelt program.

Preparing for climate change is crucial to ensuring that we continue to protect public health and improve our waterways and environment. As always, I welcome your feedback about ways you think DEP can make our facilities and operations even more resilient.

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.

Focus on the Field



Alan Cohn was born in South Africa and came to the United States with his family when he was five years old. Cohn attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, with the thought that he would become an engineer. However, he found the study of meteorology more interesting and earned a bachelors degree in Atmospheric Science. With a desire to be closer to Washington D.C. and the policy-making decisions being made there, he then enrolled for graduate studies at the University of Maryland, where he later received a masters degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science.

With his studies complete, Cohn joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington D.C., first as an intern and then full time, where he worked to develop the science to support greenhouse gas regulations. He also managed a report on sea level rise and its potential impacts on the mid-Atlantic coast. However, after three years in the nation's capital, Cohn was ready for a new challenge and, when he noticed a posting for a position at DEP, he jumped at the opportunity.

"I had always wanted to live in New York City and had been impressed with *PlaNYC* and DEP's Climate Change Assessment and Action Plan," said Cohn. "It was clear that this Administration was committed to sustainability and I wanted the opportunity to be a part of it."

In 2009, Cohn joined DEP's Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis as the Director of Climate Change, where he was charged with coordinating the department's climate resiliency programs as well as stormwater management and harbor water quality projects. As he took on added responsibilities, his

title was changed to Director of Climate and Water Quality and he helped to develop the Water Quality section of the NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan.

Over the last few years, Cohn has been managing a study that focuses on how climate change and population growth will affect the city's sewer and wastewater systems. As DEP's treatment plants are located along the shoreline they are vulnerable to changes in sea level and all of DEP's infrastructure will be affected by increased levels of precipitation. As part of the study, each facility was put through a cost-benefit analysis to evaluate if, for instance, it may be less costly to flood-proof a facility rather than raise critical equipment by several feet. And then, Hurricane Sandy hit the region.

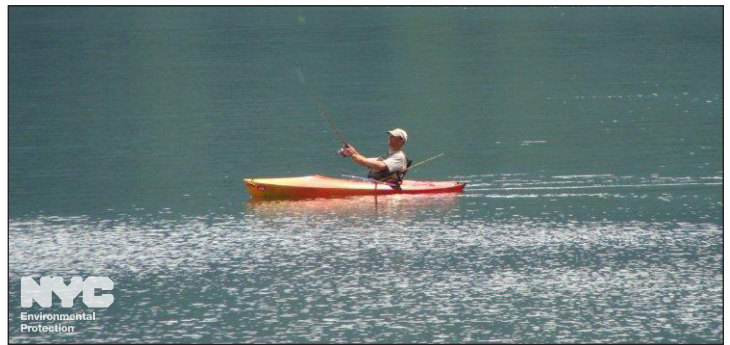
"Hurricane Sandy demonstrated, in often sad and painful ways, that the scenarios we have been anticipating and planning for are becoming a reality," said Cohn. "There is now a strong consensus among the public and government that we need to start implementing these resiliency measures and that will require a significant shift in thinking from just day to day operations to longer term, and a significant investment of time and money."

Since January, Cohn has been working with a City Hall team on the Mayor's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency and they recently released their findings in the report, "[*A Stronger, More Resilient New York.*](#)"

"Alan deserves much acclaim for his leadership on DEP's Climate Resiliency Program and recently for his appointment to the Mayor's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency Team," said **Angela Licata**, Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability. "Alan has successfully integrated planning and adaptation strategies into DEP's Programs."

During his spare time, Cohn enjoys outdoor activities including hiking, biking, and photography. He also loves travelling to other areas of the United States and abroad. He recently had the opportunity to visit Machu Picchu in Peru and the beaches of South Africa.

The Watershed Experience



JOIN DEP AT BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK ON SATURDAY: DEP invites you to The Watershed Experience, a unique event that will be held this Saturday at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier One Promenade. Home of the New York City water supply, the picturesque Catskill/Delaware watersheds offer a wealth of recreational activities. There's something for everyone! Hiking, biking, fishing, boating, skiing, farm tours, wineries, bed and breakfasts, and more. Located just a couple hours north of the city, the watershed makes for a great family trip or weekend getaway. It's going to be a beautiful day on the pier, so come out to learn more about all the watershed has to offer, as well as activities, demonstrations, giveaways, raffles, and unlimited refreshing New York City tap water. This free event is from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Bring the kids and pets!

Green Roofs Protect the East River



Last week, Commissioner **Carter Strickland** and Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability **Angela Licata** joined the staff of the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House to announce the completion of three green roofs on their facility on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. The project was funded in part through DEP's Green Infrastructure Grant Program and will absorb more than 4,500 gallons of stormwater each time it rains, keeping it out of the combined sewer system and helping to make the East River and New York Harbor healthier. The Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is one of 29 different partners DEP has awarded funding to since the Grant Program launched in 2011. In total, DEP has awarded more than \$11 million to its Grant Program partners who, in turn, have contributed \$5.3 million in matching funds. Go here [to view the NY1 story.](#)

**NOTHING TO WEAR?
THERE'S LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.**

DEP EMPLOYEE STORE COMING SOON

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