

Commissioner's Corner



Back on Oct. 28, I had the pleasure of joining with fellow DEP colleagues, representatives from other city agencies, landscape architects, elected officials and environmental groups to celebrate the addition of green infrastructure to the Gowanus Canal Watershed. Green infrastructure captures stormwater and allows it to be naturally absorbed into the ground. By keeping stormwater out of the neighborhood's combined sewer system, green infrastructure helps reduce sewer overflows into the Gowanus Canal. Completed projects include a Sponge Park™ at 2nd Street on the

west side of the Canal and 70 curbside rain gardens throughout the watershed. Partaking in the day's event were DLANDSTUDIO, principal designer of the Sponge Park™, Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, City Council Member Brad Lander, the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, NYS Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon, Community Board 6 and the Departments of Design and Construction (DDC) and Transportation (DOT).

The Sponge Park™ is located at the foot of 2nd Street where it dead ends on the west side of the Gowanus Ca-

nal. The 1,800 square foot park has been specially designed to capture and clean the stormwater that flows down 2nd Street before it reaches the Canal. It is estimated that the park will capture nearly 1 million gallons of stormwater annually. The roughly \$1.5 million park was developed through the grassroots efforts of DLANDSTUDIO and the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, with funding from the City Council. Grants administered by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission for design, construction, and environmental justice were obtained by DLANDSTUDIO, principal designer of the project. DEP provided engineering and construction administration services and DOT provided the land. The Gowanus Dredgers and Community Board 6 provided support throughout the process. The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation assisted in the development of a workforce training manual, funded by DEC, for long term maintenance of the project. The innovative design of the Sponge Park™ has been recognized by the New York City Public Design Commission, The American Institute of Architects and The American Society of Landscape Architects.

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Spotlight on Safety

Aluminum - Champ of the Recyclables!

The next time you decide to throw an aluminum can into the regular trash consider this: Aluminum is one of the only consumer waste streams that more than pays for its own recycling. Unlike some waste streams, such as paper and plastic, aluminum can be recycled indefinitely into new products. In addition, recycling aluminum requires only 5% of the energy in comparison to mined bauxite ore, which is used to produce aluminum.

DEP has a policy that specifies procedures for the proper

disposal of aluminum cans, food containers, foil, and pie pans into designated labeled recycling receptacles. Employees should pay attention to the information on the receptacle labels and follow the disposal directions.

Remember to rinse containers out first before disposing to prevent pest harborage.

For additional information please see the [DEP Recycling and Pollution Prevention Policy](#) and nyc.gov/recycle.

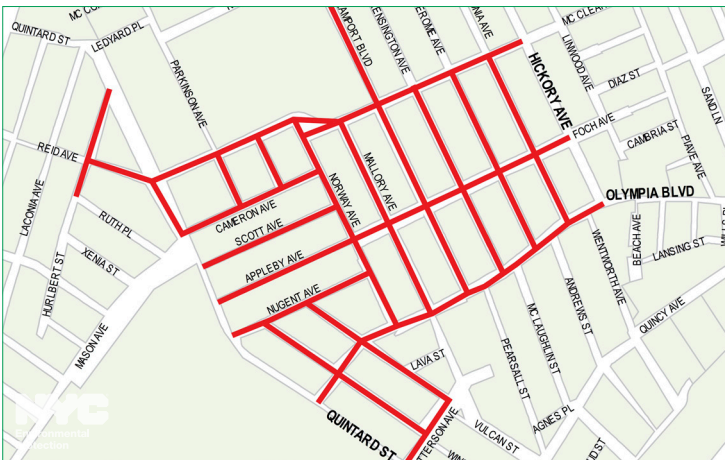
At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility 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.

Steel Liners for Bypass Tunnel Arrive



The first batch of 21 steel liners to be used in the construction of the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel were [successfully delivered](#) last Tuesday to a Hudson River port in Newburgh. Each liner was power-washed to remove any saltwater or debris before being stored. The heavy-duty haul had departed from Louisiana on a barge specially outfitted for the extra-large load. The 2.5-mile bypass tunnel, which is being constructed to address leaks in one of the two main aqueducts that supply drinking water to New York City and other upstate communities, will be encased in 9,200 feet of steel since the geology underneath the Hudson River includes faulted limestone, which is not supportive of tunneling. In total, 230 sections of steel liner, each section measuring 40 feet long, will be shipped north to the construction site. This will require another 10 barge deliveries to Newburgh in the coming months.

South Beach Construction Project Begins



DEP, the Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Design and Construction (DDC) joined last week with Staten Island Borough President James Oddo to announce that work will begin this month on a [\\$100 million infrastructure upgrade project](#) in the South Beach neighborhood of Staten Island. The work will include the removal of the existing cast iron water mains, which were originally constructed in the 1920s, and the installation of nearly 5 miles of new, stronger ductile iron water mains and 90 new fire hydrants. This will help to ensure a reliable supply of water for decades to come. In addition, 3.8 miles of sanitary sewers will be rebuilt and 225 new catch basins and 3.1 miles of new storm sewers will be constructed. This work will provide the area with a robust drainage system and mitigate flooding during heavy rain. Once the subsurface work is complete, the sidewalks, curbs and roadways will be rebuilt to ensure a safe, smooth surface for motorists and pedestrians, as well as ensuring the stormwater can drain properly into the catch basins and sewers. Additionally, 85 new street lights will be installed and over 400 trees will be planted. The project is being funded by DEP and DOT and the construction is being managed by DDC.

Students Learn All About Trout



DEP joined Trout Unlimited, Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium, and nearly 150 NYC school students this past Wednesday to witness the centuries-old process of egg stripping and fertilization using live brook trout at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant's Visitor Center. NYC school students in grades 5 through 12 participated from: Queens Alternative Learning Center at RF Wagner High School and Forest Hills High School in **Queens**; Fort Hamilton High School, PS 110, and MS 266 in **Brooklyn**; and AmPark Neighborhood School in the **Bronx**. During the presentations [students witnessed a fascinating aspect of aquaculture](#), as hatchery staff demonstrated a technique of fish breeding which involves taking and fertilizing trout eggs using hatchery-raised adult brook trout. Some of the schools took eggs back to their classrooms to raise, which will be released back into watershed streams in the spring. Trout serve as important indicator species that aid DEP scientists in monitoring the health of the streams that fill our reservoirs and supply drinking water for millions of New Yorkers.

Nets Host DEP Game Day

The Brooklyn Nets are hosting a DEP Game Day at the Barclays Center on November 20 when they take on the Portland Trailblazers. Tip-off is at 3:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$25 per seat for the 200 level and \$50 per seat for the 100 level. The deadline to [purchase tickets](#) is Nov. 16 at 11:59 p.m. For more information, contact **Adrian Allen**, at 718-595-4383 or AAllen@dep.nyc.gov.

Holiday Food Drives

DEP has begun its annual holiday food drives, both at Lefrak and at upstate facilities. In-city donations will go to support the [Food Bank for New York City](#). Upstate donations will go to the [Grahamsville and Ulster Heights United Methodist Churches](#) and [Ulster County Community Action](#). At Lefrak, food drop-off is in the Flocculator conference room on the 19th floor and donations will continue to be accepted until December 16. For more information, please contact **Joe Sokolowski** at ext. 6168 or **Sara Pecker** at ext. 5487. Please click here for specific information on the food drives being held at the various facilities. Thank you for making the holidays a little happier for your less fortunate neighbors.

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