

Commissioner's Corner



Vincent Sapienza
Commissioner

As the largest municipal water and wastewater utility in the country, DEP carries out an expansive environmental mission. We invest billions of dollars in new infrastructure, while pioneering advancements in environmental planning and analysis, sewer design and construction, and wastewater

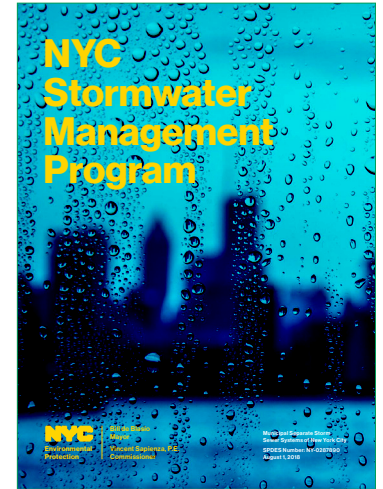
treatment. These efforts have had a profound impact on the health of our waterbodies and today New York City Harbor is cleaner than it has been in more than a century.

Continuing to reduce and prevent pollution while protecting the overall health of the harbor requires long-term investment, public and private partnerships, and strategic planning. [The NYC Stormwater Management Program Plan](#) (the Plan) is the City's

first comprehensive planning effort to target pollution generated in areas served by the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) which comprises nearly 40 percent of the city. The Plan is part of a comprehensive, integrated planning approach that builds upon DEP's Long Term Control Plan Program, which has committed over \$8 billion in recent years for gray and green infrastructure projects to improve water quality.

This work cannot be done alone, however. All New Yorkers who live, work, and play in MS4 areas or on these impaired waterways can play an important role in both the development and implementation of these programs.

Many of the initiatives described in the Plan build off existing DEP operations while proposing bold new steps and actions. We have incorporated feedback from a variety of environmental organizations, neighborhood associations, and the development community while holding technical workshops, releasing progress reports, and hosting community meetings. We will continue to coordinate and engage with all of these stakeholders as we carry out our most vital job: the pro-



tection of public health and the environment for nearly nine million New Yorkers.

I want to thank everyone involved with this endeavor, particularly: **Mikelle C. Adgate, Shameka S. Dorestant, Abdulai Fofanah, Lauren R. Hamid-Shapiro, Leslie Lipton, Sara B. Lupion, Margaret L. O'Connor, Antonia F. Pereira, Pinar Balci, Floren C. Poliseo, Manuel J. Quintela, Kristin A. Ricigliano** and **Melinda Sherer**. This dynamic team embodies the best aspects of DEP's mission and core values and I want to extend my gratitude for all their tireless efforts.

Spotlight on Safety

EHS Insights



Persis Luke
Assistant Commissioner
Environmental, Health
and Safety

Next week, Aug. 13–19, is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Safe + Sound Week, a nationwide event to raise awareness and understanding of the value of safety and health programs. The core elements of Safe + Sound Week are wholly consistent with DEP's core value of safety and our new Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Strategic Plan Initiatives. These elements include:

- **Worker participation:** A meaningful engagement of workers at all levels to establish, implement, evaluate, and improve safety and health in the workplace. DEP will continue establishing new platforms for safety engagement, which include improved communications (such as digital signage expansion), safety teams, education events, and hazard identification, and problem solving.
- **Finding and fixing hazards:** A systematic approach to a proactive, ongoing process to identify and control sources of potential injuries or illnesses. DEP has implemented a new EHS reporting procedure that integrates the identification of potential hazards and near misses. This gives employees an opportunity to actively identify and reduce risks within their own workplaces!
- **Management leadership:** A demonstrated commitment at the highest levels of an organization to safety and health. DEP is making leadership commitment a key component of our plan to further strengthen our safety culture. Be on the lookout for a new EHS Commitment Policy co-signed by our Commissioner and your Bureau Head.

For additional information, visit OSHA's [Safe + Sound](#) website.

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.



Paving the Way to Better Restorations



DEP is partnering with the Department of Transportation on a [new pilot program on Staten Island](#) that mandates interagency cooperation and coordination to prevent fresh asphalt being marred with so-called “street cuts.” Among the improvements, DEP will coordinate inspection and repair of its manholes and catch basins with DOT’s paving schedule, and DEP has hired seven additional supervisors to work with DOT on the restoration of City streets. To combat the challenge of aging and defective manhole covers, DEP has procured 5 manhole restoration contracts with DDC. These contracts are valued at a total of \$13.6 million, of which \$2.75 million is dedicated to Staten Island. Additional changes being implemented by DEP include using excavation markers to quickly identify DEP street cuts, saw cutting of excavations in Staten Island for a smoother restoration of streets, and maximizing in-house paving crews to address restorations. “DEP has had many productive talks with Staten Island Borough President **James Oddo** on street cuts and we are looking forward to coordinating with DOT and DDC on this pilot program to better repair our infrastructure so that any necessary work minimizes the impact on newly paved roadways,” said DEP Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**.

Delicious Produce from Corbin Hill

The Corbin Hill Farm Share is a weekly subscription program of fresh, high quality, locally grown affordable produce delivered directly to the DEP worksite. The current season runs every Thursday from 12–2pm in the 3rd floor Employee Lounge until Nov. 15. Shareholders can pay for the season up front, monthly, weekly or on a one-off basis and can put their account on hold at any time. They accept cash, check, credit, EBT/SNAP and Health Bucks. Each share is composed of 6–8 items while at least 1 item is a fruit and 1 is a green item. In order to sign-up, please [visit the website](#) to create an account and login. If you experience any issues with the sign-up process you can reach out to the Corbin Hill staff at 212-870- 2003. Please bring your own reusable and/or plastic bags for loose items. If you have any questions, you can reach **Renee M. Alfieri**, Director of Employee Engagement and Wellness Programs or **Helene Abiola**, WorkWell Coordinator at ewp@dep.nyc.gov.

Hydrant Patrol on the Prowl



New York City has experienced a recent heatwave with temperatures consistently above 90 degrees. During periods of consecutive hot weather, DEP typically sees an increase in illegal and dangerous hydrant use as local residents and children seek ways to cool off. BWSO has developed a protocol for Fire Hydrant Emergency (FHE) to ensure adequate staffing and water pressure is maintained throughout the city. FHE activations consist of monitoring flows from Hillview Reservoir, tracking the heat index, and logging and responding to citywide hydrant complaints. Field operations crews have been dispatched around the city to shut off any hydrants running at full blast and install sprinkler caps for safe use. A hydrant running at full blast can discharge approximately 1,000 gallons a minute. If left open for 24 hours, one hydrant can discharge 1.5 million gallons a day. This wasted water can severely affect pressure in the distribution system. It can also impede firefighting abilities should there be a fire nearby. Residents are asked to visit their local fire house to obtain a spray cap or call 311 for more information.

Register to Vote



August 19 is the last day to [register to vote](#) in the upcoming state-wide primary election, which will be held Sept. 13. You can register at Lefrak on Aug. 13 and 14, from 12pm–2pm in the 1st floor lobby of the low-rise.

Voter registration forms in multiple languages are available at the following locations:

- 1st floor, low-rise
- 9th floor, high-rise
- 13th floor, high-rise

For more information, contact **Eva Lynch** at ext. 3487 or **Jaunita James** at ext. 3508

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