

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Paul Rush, Deputy Commissioner for Water Supply, is a guest commentator this week.

I am pleased to announce that we recently released DEP's annual [Watershed Recreation Newsletter](#), which serves as a

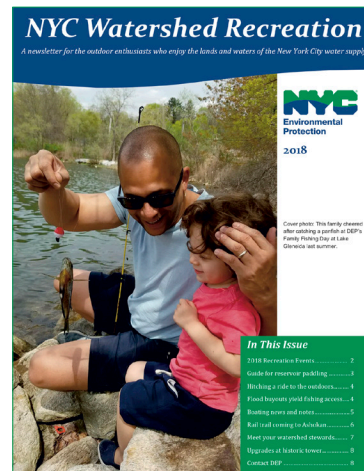
yearly source of information for local residents and visitors who enjoy outdoor activities on water-supply lands and reservoirs. The 2018 edition includes a preview of events such as family fishing days, guided hikes, and the department's annual Reservoir Cleanup Day. It also includes a step-by-step guide for renting a boat to paddle on four of the City's reservoirs, a guide for using New York City's public transportation systems to reach the great outdoors, and profiles of two outdoor enthusiasts who recreate in the watershed. Because

nearly 13,000 fishing boats are stored on the shores of our reservoirs, boaters will also find a page of helpful updates and reminders.

Recreation in the watershed is underscored each year by a number of public events hosted by DEP and its partners. Those events will kick off this year in April with Family Fishing Day at Ashokan Reservoir. Additional details on that event, and all others, will be posted throughout the year on [DEP's watershed Facebook page](#). Information about the events will also be included in a bi-monthly digital newsletter that is emailed to those who possess a free DEP Access Permit. To sign up for the digital newsletter, send an email to watershedevents@dep.nyc.gov.

There are now approximately 135,000 acres of water supply property open for recreation in the watershed. Of that, roughly 71,000 acres of land are in public access areas that are open to recreation without a DEP permit. For those areas that require a permit, the free-of-charge DEP Access Permit can be obtained online at nyc.gov/dep/accesspermit.

DEP has worked diligently with its partners to expand recre-



ational opportunities and make access easier for anyone who wants to fish, paddle, hike and more. The annual recreation newsletter is a great starting point for outdoor enthusiasts who want to explore the scenic beauty of our watershed and the City's reservoirs. I'd like to thank everyone in the Natural Resources Division of BWS for putting together this useful newsletter and for organizing our recreational outreach events. Additionally, I'd like to recognize the DEP Police for leading or assisting with many of the upcoming watershed events.

Spotlight on Safety

The Risk of E-Cigarettes

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices which simulate tobacco smoking by producing a heated vapor that resembles smoke. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, between January 2009 and December 2016, 195 separate incidents of explosion and fire involving an electronic cigarette were reported. Explosions have occurred during use, charging, or storage of the devices.

The explosions are caused by the overheating of the lithium-ion battery that powers these devices. Lithium batteries are also used in laptops and cell phones. While the risk for those devices to overheat exists as well, the cylindrical shape of e-cigarettes and other vaping devices allows the battery and/or the device itself to propel like a "rocket" during overheating. This increases the risk of explosion and the spread of fire.

Some of the common causes of these explosions include:

- using the wrong battery or charger with the device
- tampering with the device or battery to create higher voltage
- storing an exposed spare battery close to keys or coins
- exposing the battery to extreme temperatures (below 50, above 115 degrees)

Many of the users who experienced exploding e-cigarettes said it happened without any warning. Currently, manufacturers can make the devices with lower quality batteries or charging devices, and are also not required to provide customers with safety information or reports on any incidents. For more information, view the [U.S. Fire Administration](#) report.

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.



Green Features Added to New Parks



Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** joined last Tuesday with NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, FAICP, Council Member **Donovan Richards**, and students from Wave Prep Elementary School to [open Grassmere Playground](#) in Far Rockaway. The park, part of NYC Park's \$318-million Community Parks Initiative (CPI), was one of five renovated CPI sites opened across the city on the first day of Spring. To manage stormwater runoff, green infrastructure has been added throughout Grassmere Playground. Green features typically include rain gardens, underground storm chambers, and permeable concrete and flood-tolerant plants that capture tens of thousands of gallons of stormwater each year. DEP has committed more than \$50 million in funding for green infrastructure installations at CPI sites throughout the city, helping to reduce sewer overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall, improve air quality, and lower summertime temperatures.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday 17 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Marchee L. Bass, **Candace M. Jackson**, **Keith Lefferts**, **Mary M. Phillips**, **Devin Quinones**, **Jenny Saunders**, **Jocelyn M. Schantz** and **Amirah M. Williams** with BCS; **Jonathan E. Oelsner** and **Dima J. Petramale** with BWS; **Oleksandr Dmytruk**, **Amanda J. Dunne**, and **Michael Greene** with BWSO; **Maciej P. Deptula**, **Michael L. Moussa** and **Stephen T. Ryan** with BWT; and **Danielle Barrett** with Exec. Office.

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

Summer Internship Program



DEP is encouraging college students to apply for summer job opportunities through its [annual internship program](#). The program this year is offering 100 internships—the majority of them paid positions—in the fields of engineering, science, technology, planning, sustainability, law, community outreach, and more. The vast majority of the 10-week internships are located at DEP headquarters in Queens; three of the positions will be at DEP Archives in Manhattan; and 17 internships are based upstate in the New York City watershed. Information about all internships, including online applications, can be found on the [DEP website](#). Follow DEP on [LinkedIn](#) to receive the latest updates in all career opportunities. Prospective interns are encouraged to carefully read the qualifications for each job to determine whether they meet the enrollment, GPA, coursework, and other requirements. All applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 6.

Finding and Fixing Leaks



During national *Fix a Leak Week*, held March 19 through 25, DEP encouraged New Yorkers to identify and fix residential water leaks. DEP offers a full range of information on how to detect leaky pipes and toilets, including [leak detection tablets](#) and a [Home Water Savings Kit](#) that can help residents conduct a do-it-yourself water audit in less than an hour. DEP has also created a brief public service announcement about detecting leaky toilets that can be viewed on [YouTube](#). Over the last few years, DEP has introduced a number of customer service initiatives aimed at helping New Yorkers manage their water use and bills, and respond promptly to leaks. These programs include the completion of a network of Automated Meter Reading devices that ensure bills are based on actual consumption and that allow customers to access data about their water use in near real time. In addition, a leak notification system has already saved customers \$138 million and the leak forgiveness program has been expanded to include maintainable fixtures such as toilets and faucets to encourage homeowners to make timely repairs.