

Experience Summer in the Catskills



Although the unofficial summer season is quickly coming to a close, there are still a few weeks left to enjoy recreational boating on four NYC water supply reservoirs in the Catskills. Cannonsville, Pepacton, Neversink and Schoharie Reservoirs will be open for boating, paddling or sailing until Columbus Day. We encourage all of our neighbors in the watershed and in New York City to take advantage of this unique opportunity to connect with our water supply and experience the scenic beauty of the Catskill Mountains. For more information about recreation in the watersheds, click on the ["Watershed Recreation"](#) link on the DEP homepage.

Spotlight on Safety

Power Outages - Being Prepared

New Yorkers depend on electricity in every facet of their daily lives so a prolonged power outage is not only a nuisance—it is also a potentially hazardous scenario. Power outages in New York City most frequently occur during the summer months, when power consumption is at its peak.

During periods of intense heat and humidity, it is important to conserve as much energy as possible to avoid electrical disruptions. While diminishing your power usage may seem like an inconvenience, your cooperation will help to ensure that utilities can continue to provide uninterrupted electrical service.

If you do experience a power outage, it is important to inform your power provider immediately. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends being prepared for such an emergency by having an accessible disaster supply kit. The kit should include enough water, dried and canned food, and emergency supplies (flashlight, batteries, first-aid kit and prescription medicines) to last at least three days. For more information regarding safety during a power outage, visit the [CDC's recommendations for power outage safety](#) and [OEM's NYC Hazards: Power Outages](#).

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.

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Vincent Sapienza, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction, is a guest commentator this week.

DEP has one of the largest capital construction budgets in the region and, as our infrastructure is designed to operate for many decades, we have a rather unique opportunity and responsibility to ensure that our projects are truly sustainable. One avenue we have been exploring to ensure that we meet this objective is the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's (ISI) Envision® Rating System. It provides a holistic framework for evaluating and rating the community, environmental, and economic benefits of all types and sizes of infrastructure projects by grading and recognizing projects that use transformational, collaborative approaches to assess sustainability indicators over the course of a project's life cycle.

We began using Envision in 2012 and since then, nearly a quarter of our 300 engineers and architects have been trained as Envision Sustainability Professionals—and we've incorporated the decision making process into our capital project delivery program. In total, 37 DEP projects have been self-assessed through the Envision system, including bridges, dams, wastewater pump stations, ground water drinking stations and wastewater treatment plants.

Recently, we were pleased to learn that ISI had recognized the ongoing \$150 million upgrade of the 26th Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant with its Silver award. This is the first wastewater treatment plant project in the U.S. to receive an ISI

Envision rating system award and only the seventh Envision-verified infrastructure project overall in North America. As part of the \$150 million project to upgrade the plant to provide critical redundancies and ensure it remains in a state of good repair for decades to come, DEP will be adding a fifth preliminary treatment tank and installing new energy efficient and durable main sewage pumps, process air blowers and LED lighting. Additionally, a green roof will be added to the facility, large blowers will be put indoors to reduce noise pollution, and all materials will be reused and recycled whenever possible. As the facility is located adjacent to Hendrix Creek and Jamaica Bay, the design for all the new structures, as well as the location and installation of critical equipment, follows guidelines outlined in [DEP's Wastewater Resiliency Plan](#) and meets stringent and updated Federal Emergency Management Agency Advisory Base Flood Elevation regulations. The work is taking place pursuant to an agreement between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York City, and Greeley and Hansen is the design lead on the project. The main objective of the project is to provide primary treatment redundancy and uniform grit distribution at the preliminary settling tanks during wet weather events, along with associated structural, architectural, electrical and instrumentation upgrades.

By ensuring that the unprecedented investments DEP is making in New York City's water systems are truly sustainable, we will also ensure that they can reliably serve the 9 million residents who rely on them today, and the generations that will follow.

Cannonsville Progress Report



Our colleagues from the Bureau of Water Supply (BWS) are hitting the road again this week to discuss the ongoing, successful and nearly completed repairs downstream of Cannonsville Dam. Engineers have been working for weeks to repair boreholes that were drilled downstream of the dam to gather information for a hydroelectric facility planned for the site. The original boreholes tapped into a layer of pressurized groundwater and caused a cloudy discharge into the West Branch Delaware River in early July.

A series of relief wells stopped the cloudy discharge on August 1 by pumping water from that pressurized aquifer, which prevented it from mobilizing sediment. Since then, engineers and work crews have focused on sealing shut the original boreholes. This work involves injecting a high-pressure grout to fill the original holes and

any areas that might have been eroded while the groundwater actively carried sediment to the river. This second and final phase of the work is expected to be finished this week.

BWS will be sharing information about the repairs, ongoing monitoring, and other efforts at the dam during a series of public meetings. Meeting dates, times and locations are listed below:

- Tuesday, Aug. 25, 6 pm
The State Theater
148 Front St., Deposit, NY
- Thursday, Aug. 27, 6 pm
The Upper Delaware Council
211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY
- Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6 pm
The Best Western Hotel
US Route 6, Matamoras, PA
- Thursday, Sept. 3, 6 pm
The Nurture Nature Center,
518 Northampton St., Easton, PA



Meet the Water Dragons



DEP's dragon boat team, the Water Dragons, met with **Commissioner Lloyd** and **Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development and Human Resources Diana Jones Ritter** last week to commemorate their achievement at the 25th Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival. The teammates presented the Commissioner with the plaque that they received for their second runner-up placement in the 250-meter Municipal Invitational. The plaque will now reside in the trophy case of the 19th floor lobby in the Lefrak high-rise building. Congratulations to **Raymond Palmares, Miki Urisaka, and Kent Pan** (Sustainability); **Michael Shum and Helen Li** (OIT); **Cynthia Cortes and Domenick Dedominico** (BCS); **Alice Jung, Peter Lynch, and Tsun-Kuen Chan** (BWT); **Nymbat Juramt and Howard Jiang** (BWSO); **Svetlana Khomutova** (EHS); **Leah McWilliams** (BPA); and **Mary Lam** (FMC).

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 10 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from **Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources Zoe Ann Campbell**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Leon Bhajan, Ramel Dilligard, Leif Lambertson, Amir Mourkos, Anand Shrikishun with BWSO; **Jordan Gass, Rakesh Gelda, Nathaniel Hendricks** with BWS; **Robert Hwang** with OIT; and **Alexandra Levine** with Executive.

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