

Fishing at Pepacton



DEP hosted a [Family Fishing Day at Pepacton Reservoir](#) this past Saturday. The event, which was co-sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), is part of the "I Fish NY Program." The 5,730-acre Pepacton Reservoir is home to many species of fish, including brown trout, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, carp and panfish. DEP and DEC staff were on hand to teach participants how to fish and assist with fishing equipment.

Spotlight on Safety

Caring for Plants in the Office

Plants can create a peaceful atmosphere for many in their workplace. Plants can also absorb toxins through tiny openings in their leaves, and emit oxygen. Having the right number of plants in a room can also balance relative humidity by releasing moisture, which can decrease the accumulation of dust. This not only benefits people, but also computers and other electronic equipment by limiting the amount of dust collecting on circuit boards and clogging air vents.

The Clean Air Council recommends no more than one potted plant for each 100 square feet

of floor space. In order to enjoy plants in the office and prevent problems, it is important to practice proper housekeeping:

- choose low maintenance plants
- keep plants in a well ventilated area
- do not overwater plants, this can cause mold growth

If you notice any infested plant, immediately notify your bureau's facility coordinator or contact the Facilities Management and Construction (FMC) Complaint Line at (718) 595-4379.

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.

Commissioner's Corner



Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the nearly 6,000 DEP employees, our agency ranks #1 in customer satisfaction among water utilities in the Northeast Region. The recently released [J.D. Power 2017 Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study](#) measured satisfaction among residential customers of 87 water utilities each delivering water to a population of at least 400,000 people in four geographic regions: Midwest, Northeast, South and West.

Overall satisfaction was determined by closely examining six factors: delivery; price; conservation; billing and payment; communications; and customer service. DEP scored 732, based on a 1,000-point scale, and well above the Northeast average of 704. [The study](#) was based on more than 40,000 responses, representing more than 87 million residential customers. The continuous dedication and hard work that DEP employees demonstrate on a daily basis allow us to better serve New York City residents!

Congratulations!

Vincent Sapienza, Acting Commissioner

Green Playground Under Construction



DEP, The Trust for Public Land's **Carter Strickland** (former DEP Commissioner), New York Road Runners, Queens Borough President **Melinda Katz** and Council Member **Peter Koo**, broke ground last week on the asphalt lot at PS 120Q in Flushing. The construction project will see the [creation of a state-of-the-art green playground](#) the whole community can use, with features that were designed through a participatory design process led by the students. Students worked with landscape architects to incorporate their wish-list items into the final design. The playground will include green infrastructure elements such as specialized plantings and shade trees, porous pavement and permeable pavers. Also included is a new synthetic turf field of woven polyester filaments and a broken stone storage layer and perforated distribution pipes to promote infiltration. These features reduce storm runoff that can flood streets and overwhelm sewer systems, allowing untreated water to end up in local waterways.

Employee Assistance Program



Kaitlyn Maceira, LMHC, CA-SAC, DEP's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) representative, is now taking appointments at Lefrak on the last Wednesday of every month from 9am–3pm, on the 18th floor of the high-rise. If you are having trouble dealing with, or talking about something,

an EAP counselor is here for you. EAP offers DEP employees and their dependents a helping hand through the use of its professional and objective counselors. Counselors can help handle problems in areas such as:

- anxiety and depression
- alcoholism and substance abuse
- mental health problems, including stress
- family and job difficulties
- social service needs
- emotional and relationship issues
- childcare and eldercare
- financial counseling

To schedule an appointment at Lefrak, contact Kaitlyn at (212) 306-7660.

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

Work Begins on Pugsley Creek Cleanup



DEP and DDC have begun preliminary work on a [\\$95 million project to clean up Pugsley Creek](#) in the south Bronx. The focus of this infrastructure project is the construction of a nearly mile-long parallel sewer along White Plains Road that will direct more wastewater to the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant and reduce combined sewer overflows into Pugsley Creek. The project includes the construction of 9,020 linear feet of distribution ductile iron water mains, 4,365 linear feet of combined sewers and the addition of 26 new fire hydrants and 306 trees. In addition, more than 20,000 square feet of sidewalk will be rebuilt and more than 29,000 square yards of pavement will be resurfaced. Funding for the project is being provided by DEP while DDC is managing the construction, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020.

Employee Recognition Day

Employee Recognition Day ("ERD"), an annual recognition program run by the QWL CAT Committee, honors employees who are members of unions participating in the QWL program and managers for longevity, perfect attendance and heroic deeds. Plaques, certificates, awards, and/or pins are distributed to those employees who are being honored. This ceremony is held in the fall for employees being recognized for the preceding year.

Awards for longevity are given to employees who have 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 plus years of City service. To be eligible to receive a longevity award, an employee must have attained the requisite years of City service by December 31 of the year preceding the year of the ceremony. Time spent on leave without pay is not counted towards years of service. For example, to be honored for 25 years of service at ERD 2017, an employee must have achieved 25 years of City service by December 31, 2016. The following table lists the City start year for employees who will be honored for longevity at ERD 2017. It assumes that the employees had no periods of leave without pay or breaks in service.

| Start Year | Years of Service |
|------------|------------------|
| 2001 | 15 |
| 1996 | 20 |
| 1991 | 25 |
| 1986 | 30 |
| 1981 | 35 |
| 1976 | 40 |

Awards for perfect attendance are given to employees who have had no sick leave usage (excluding sick leave taken pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act) or unexcused lateness during the leave year preceding the ceremony. For example, to be honored for perfect attendance at ERD 2017, a represented employee must not have used any sick leave or come in late between May 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017 and a managerial employee must not have used any sick leave or come in late between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

Employees who are being honored at ERD 2017 will receive save the date notices by July 1, 2017. If you do not receive a save the date notice, and believe that you fit within the above described criteria for an award, you may contact your bureau administrator.