

Innovative Technique Used in Brooklyn



DEP is using an innovative process to revive older infrastructure and improve the water distribution system near McCaren Park in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The method, known as “slip lining,” threads new water mains through existing underground pipes with the use of adjustable sliders, saving time and money, and minimizing disruption to neighborhood streets. The **\$42 million project** spans 16 blocks along Leonard Street, from Driggs Avenue to Maujer Street, and includes the replacement of local water mains, as well as sanitary and combined sewers, curbs, sidewalks, street lighting, and traffic lights. Additionally, 56 catch basins will be installed to minimize flooding and 23 new fire hydrants will be placed along the span. The road will be fully reconstructed once work is completed in 2019.

Spotlight on Safety

Safe Driving in Parking Garages

According to a 2016 National Safety Council poll, drivers showed a much higher likelihood of using technology, such as cell phones, in parking lots than on the highway or surface streets. Parking lots were places where drivers felt they could “let their guards down.”

According to OSHA, if an employee has a recordable injury during work hours in the company parking area—whether driving, exiting or entering a vehicle or walking—the incident is considered work-related. Follow these DEP guidelines to help ensure safe driving in the Lefrak parking garage.

- Maintain the 5 mph speed limit in the garage and comply with all garage regulations.
- Keep headlights on while you are inside the garage.

- On the DEP parking deck, drive only in the direction indicated by the arrows painted on the pavement and use your turn signals.
- Be aware of cars backing out of parking spaces and be prepared to stop if necessary.
- Do not use communications devices, even hands-free, while driving in the parking garage and on the road. It is illegal and unsafe.

If you regularly drive a DEP vehicle, consult your supervisor or your Fleet Coordinator if you have additional questions regarding safe driving practices. DEP employees should report any issues to Fleet / BPS regarding parking, deliveries, dangerous situations or any problems that arise in the Lefrak complex.

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

Promoting water conservation remains a priority for DEP as we seek to reduce citywide water consumption in preparation for the shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct, which is currently planned for 2022. To aid in those efforts, we recently announced that up to \$1 million in funding is available for low-income and senior property owners citywide to upgrade their plumbing with new, high-efficiency models. This expansion of the Toilet Replacement Program, which provides \$125 vouchers, will encourage property owners to replace their older toilets with high-efficiency models, saving approximately 40 gallons of water per toilet each day.

This program is targeted at approximately 4,300 3- and 4-family property owners citywide. These property owners are already enrolled in DEP's Home Water Assistance Program, which provides a \$115.89 bill credit annually to low-income, senior, and disabled households. DEP has begun mailing Toilet Replacement Program information to eligible properties and the initiative will continue through May 2019, or while funding lasts.

The highly successful Toilet Replacement Program first launched in 2014 and aims to replace inefficient toilets in select residential properties across the five boroughs, targeting between 7,000 and 10,000 building owners who participate in DEP's Multifamily Conservation Program. To date, more than 12,400 toilets have been

replaced citywide through the Toilet Replacement Program, saving a total of about 500,000 gallons of water each day.

This initiative builds on the success of a similar program that ran from 1994 to 1997 and replaced 1.3 million toilets, reducing citywide water consumption by 90 million gallons per day. Older, inefficient toilets can use anywhere from 3.5 to 5 gallons of water per flush while modern high-efficiency WaterSense® certified models consume only 1.28 gallons of water per flush, or less. An impressive result of these toilet replacement programs, as well as other water conservation efforts, is that overall water use in the city has declined from more than 1.5 billion gallons a day in 1980 to roughly 1 billion gallons a day at present. This significant reduction occurred while the city's population grew from just over 7.1 million to 8.5 million in the same period.

Water conservation efforts not only help to ensure an adequate supply of healthy drinking water, they also reduce the amount of electricity, chemicals, and other costs associated with operating the water system. A five percent reduction in water demand in New York City will decrease carbon emissions from the wastewater treatment process by more than 15,500 metric tons per year, the equivalent of removing 3,300 cars from the road or planting more than 400,000 trees and letting them grow for ten years.

This initiative is the result of inter-bureau collaboration with the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Customer Services, **Nancy Cianflone**, and her staff, **Mike Moran** and **Gloria Kim**, and the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis, **Pinar Balci**, and her staff, **Alan Cohn**, **Erin Morey** and **Nigel Williams**. I thank them for their efforts in leading the expansion of the Toilet Replacement Program, which will surely help DEP reach its ambitious citywide water conservation goals.

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.

New Blood Pressure Kiosk Debuts



Commissioner Sapienza cuts the ribbon on the new blood pressure kiosk, with assistance from Renee Alfieri and Helene Abiola.

Be sure to measure your blood pressure at DEP's new blood pressure kiosk on the 3rd floor next to the vending machines. Nearly half of all Americans have high blood pressure with many completely unaware. Measuring your blood pressure regularly is the only sure way to know if it is high. Blood pressure of 120/80 or above is considered elevated, 130/80 to 139/89 is considered Stage 1 hypertension, and 140/90 or above is considered Stage 2 hypertension. If an individual's blood pressure reaches 180/120 or higher it is considered a hypertensive crisis which requires immediate treatment or hospitalization. In a situation where your blood pressure measures high, you should schedule a visit with a healthcare provider as medication may be necessary.

School Visits Newtown Creek



Students from the Children's Workshop School in Manhattan recently visited the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Commissioner Sapienza kicked off the Jan. 30 event speaking with the first- and second-graders about the history of the water supply, the complexity of wastewater treatment, and the importance of water conservation. The 90 students, accompanied by 40 chaperones, then broke into smaller groups for activities that included writing poetry, creating water mobiles, learning about the water cycle, and taking brief tours of the facility. Many thanks to BPAC Director of Education **Kim Estes-Fradis** and her team, including **Robin Sanchez**, who coordinated the entire program, **LaToya Anderson**, **Lakeisha Bradshaw**, and **Helene Amato**, as well as **Shanaz Hussain** from intergovernmental affairs, for their efforts.

Shandaken Tunnel Shutdown



The tunnel that carries water from Schoharie Reservoir to the Esopus Creek and Ashokan Reservoir will **shut down** from March 1–April 30 to allow divers to safely enter the intake chamber at Schoharie Reservoir and take detailed measurements to support a \$47 million upgrade of its waterworks. The work this spring will support design and construction for the full-scale rehabilitation of the Shandaken Tunnel Intake Chamber. That facility controls the flow of drinking water from Schoharie Reservoir into the Shandaken Tunnel, which travels 18 miles through the Catskill Mountains. That tunnel discharges into the Esopus Creek to help refill Ashokan Reservoir throughout the year.

DEP Staff Serve On NYWEA Board



Three DEP staffers have been elected to serve on the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) Metropolitan Chapter Board: **Elio Paradis** (Scholarship + Rules of Conduct Committee), **Howard Robinson** (Operators Committee), and **Arthur Spangel** (Vice Chair). NYWEA was founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a non-profit, educational organization. Association members helped lead the way toward existing state and national clean water programs. The Association has more than 2,500 members representing diverse backgrounds and specialties, all concerned and involved with protecting and enhancing our precious water resources.

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