

Removing Old Water Towers



Over the past several months, contractors under the management of BWSO have been dismantling out-of-service elevated water tanks and standpipes in Southeast Queens that were once part of the Jamaica Water Supply. The five structures were all built in the early 1900s and the tallest stands at almost 185 feet. Upgrades to the drinking water distribution system, including the installation of large-scale trunk mains, have eliminated the need for the water tanks and standpipes. Three standpipes have already been taken down and two elevated water tanks (one in Richmond Hill, the other in Kew Gardens) are in the process of being demolished.

The demolition is anticipated to be completed by the end of November. Special thanks to **Tammy Rong Yuan**, **Jenna DiFalco**, **Mazda Riazi**, **Larron Win**, and **Jacqueline Hincapié-Gioia** for all their hard work on this project. For more photos of the demolition, click [here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

PITs and Warehouse Safety

Many DEP facilities have warehouses and other areas in which powered industrial trucks (PITs), like forklifts, are operated. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), there are more than 61,000 non-serious accidents involving forklifts each year, with nearly 35,000 accidents resulting in serious injury, and approximately 85 in fatal accidents.

The common hazards associated with PITs consist of falls from elevated loading docks, slips due to slippery surfaces, and injury to pedestrians located in the work area. Other hazards include the danger of tip-over while operating PITs on ramps or inclines, carbon monoxide poisoning if working in enclosed

areas, falling objects, and low clearance limits.

The following precautions can help prevent incidents in areas where PITs are used:

- have only trained employees operate PITs
- paint the edges of loading docks to improve visibility
- drive slowly, yield to pedestrians, and use backup alarms
- ensure traffic and speed limit signs are posted
- wear reflective vests
- never turn on a ramp or incline or walk under elevated loads

For more information, visit [OSHA's PIT page](#) and [eTool](#).

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
Sustainability

The Bureau of Sustainability is excited to announce that we have launched the New York City Water Challenge to Universities. This is the fourth of New York City's sector specific Challenges, and builds off the success of previous Challenges to hotels, restaurants and hospitals. As part of the Challenge, the six participating universities—Fordham University, Long Island University: Brooklyn Campus, Pace University, St. John's University, The New School, and Weill Cornell Medical—will work to reduce their campus-wide average water consumption by five percent, which would be a savings of approximately 1.3 million gallons of water per month.

We will host workshops to help the universities identify appropriate strategies for water conservation, including water auditing, upgrading domestic use water fixtures, and smart metering. In addition to fixture retrofits, the universities will also be initiating student water conservation campaigns. The challenge will last two years and conclude in August 2020. The lessons learned from the New York City Water Challenge to Universities will be utilized by DEP to develop a best practices guide for water management in higher education buildings.

Encouraging water-usage reductions in universities is just one part of DEP's efforts to conserve water as part of a \$1.5 billion initiative to ensure clean, reliable, and safe drinking water for more than nine million New Yorkers for decades to come. We are working to reduce citywide water consumption by five percent prior to the approximately six-month shutdown in October 2022 of the leaking Delaware Aqueduct, which conveys roughly half of the city's drinking water. The [\\$1 billion project](#) will repair two areas of leakage within the 85-mile Delaware Aqueduct, the longest tunnel in the world. The primary

leak will be eliminated through the construction of a 2.5-mile bypass tunnel, which will be drilled 600 feet below the Hudson River from Newburgh to Wappinger.

In preparation for the shutdown, DEP has partnered with private property owners including businesses, hotels, restaurants, and hospitals, and has developed a combination of conservation programs, such as the Toilet Replacement Program, Leak Notification Program, and Water Reuse Grant Pilot Program, to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water. DEP's Municipal Water Efficiency Program identifies opportunities to conserve water at City-owned properties and facilities. As part of this program, we have already completed a partnership with NYC Parks to install activation buttons on spray showers at 400 playgrounds around the City that are saving 1.1 million gallons of water a day. More than 40,000 bathroom fixtures in 400 public school buildings were also being updated which will conserve approximately 4 million gallons of water each school day. To learn more about New York City's Water Demand Management Program, visit DEP's [interactive online map](#) highlighting the completed demand management projects across the city and our [2018 Water Demand Management Plan](#).

As a result of multiple sustained water conservation programs, overall water use in the city has declined from over 1.5 billion gallons a day in 1980 to roughly 1 billion gallons a day at present, while the City's population grew from just over 7.1 million to 8.6 million in the same period.

I want to thank these six schools for participating in the New York City Water Challenge and making a commitment to become more sustainable members of our community. I'd also like to recognize **Alan Cohn**, **Erin Morey**, **Benjamin Huff**, and **Hannah Doherty** for all their excellent work on this initiative, as well as the other water challenges.

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.

2018 Coastal Storm Initiative

DEP and NYC Emergency Management have been long-term partners and this partnership is especially vital during Hurricane Season, when the threat for high winds, heavy rain, and coastal flooding increases. Hurricane Season runs June through November, with hurricanes most likely to form in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. While hurricanes can strike at any time during the season, New York City's peak is between August and October.

The Coastal Storm Plan (CSP) Sheltering Program has been designed to accommodate the evacuation and sheltering of more than 600,000 potential evacuees in New York City who would seek emergency shelter. The emergency shelter system is complex, requiring nearly 600 different facilities in all five boroughs, and 34,000 people to staff shelters and serve the sheltered population.

Employees of many City agencies, including DEP, have already signed up to assist in operating these emergency shelters, but many more are needed.

If you are not already part of the CSP, we encourage you to sign up:

- No experience is necessary—training will be provided at the center or shelter that you report to.
- In advance of an evacuation (usually 72–96 hours), participants who have signed up will be notified by phone or email about their deployment.
- First shift teams will report to a facility eight hours before the first announcement is made for public evacuation so that the facility can be set up to receive evacuees.
- Participants are encouraged to be ready for duty at any given time including outside of their normal work schedule.
- All participating employees will be compensated in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement covering their title or the Mayor's Personnel Order for Original Jurisdiction employees.

To sign up for the 2018 CSP and learn more about training and evacuation zones, please go [here](#). If you have any additional questions, call **Herb Roth** at 718-595-3377 or email org_dev@dep.nyc.gov.

Upcoming Reservoir Cleanup Day



DEP will once again team up with school groups, business leaders, environmental advocates, local nonprofits and watershed citizens to remove litter and recyclables from public recreation areas at nine water supply reservoirs in the Catskills and Hudson Valley. Hundreds of volunteers are expected to participate in DEP's fifth [Reservoir Cleanup Day](#) on Sunday, Sept. 30. The volunteers will remove debris from areas that are generally used for fishing and boating ac-

cess. This year's cleanup follows a record-setting effort in 2017, during which 418 volunteers removed more than 300 bags of debris and recyclables from reservoir shorelines. The haul weighed more than 4,500 pounds. Reservoir Cleanup Day is made possible with support from the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

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

New East Flatbush Green Playground



Commissioner Sapienza joined Lieutenant Governor **Kathy Hochul**, New York State Parks, The Trust for Public Land, New York Road Runners and I.S. 598 Principal **Jameela Horton-Ball** to cut the ribbon Monday on a new student-designed community playground on the Winthrop School campus in East Flatbush, Brooklyn. The former asphalt schoolyard now incorporates green infrastructure, including a synthetic turf field with a subsurface storage system, permeable pavers, and trees, in addition to a new basketball court, outdoor classroom space, fitness equipment, and running track. The [\\$1.7 million playground](#) now brings more than 30,000 residents within a 10-minute walk of a park and will help to capture one million gallons of stormwater annually to mitigate flooding and improve the health of Jamaica Bay. This project was also made possible through the Governor's Vital Brooklyn initiative, set to transform eight playgrounds, renovate 22 community gardens, and improve four recreation centers in Brooklyn by 2020.

Douglaston Infrastructure Upgrade



Earlier this summer, DEP completed a \$9.3 million infrastructure upgrade in the Douglaston section of Queens. As part of the project, more than 2,600 linear feet of new storm sewers were installed along a one mile stretch of Shore Road, from 36th Ave to West Drive. The addition of 63 newly constructed catch basins will help drain precipitation from the roadways and alleviate localized flooding. Also, five new outfalls were built extending from the street out into Little Neck Bay, with large stones placed around the outfalls to mitigate surges from the Bay onto the shoreline. While the roadway was open to construct the sewers, approximately 5,000 linear feet of new ductile iron water mains were added to replace older cast iron pipes. This will improve water distribution in the area while 19 new hydrants will ensure firefighters have ready access to the City's water supply. Upon completion, the roadways were resurfaced with new asphalt and, since the area is a landmarked district, the curbs were repaired with granite cobblestone and the sidewalks were poured with specialized concrete that stylistically matches neighboring curbs and sidewalks. Additionally, a steel-backed timber guardrail was also installed along the roadway's edge. Thanks to **John Duncombe**, **Derek Hawkes** and **Peter Gordon** for their efforts and coordination with DDC on this upgrade.