

## Valentine's Day Digester Egg Tour



On Saturday, more than 300 people took part in the 4th annual Valentine's Day tour of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Newtown Creek is the City's largest wastewater treatment facility and is in the final stages of a \$5 billion upgrade that has helped make New York City's waterways healthier than they have been in a century. Since 2012, hundreds of couples and others celebrating Valentine's Day have visited the plant to learn about New York City's water supply and wastewater systems, while enjoying scenic views of the New York skyline from atop Newtown Creek's iconic stainless steel digester eggs. During the tour, plant operators provided an engaging overview of the wastewater treatment process, including details about how the Newtown Creek Plant will soon be the first in the nation to purify biogas into renewable natural gas which will heat nearly 5,200 homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 90,000 metric tons each year- the equivalent of removing nearly 19,000 cars from the road. To view photos from the event click [here](#).

## Spotlight on Safety

### See Tracks? Think Train

Recently, six people tragically lost their lives when a train collided with a vehicle in Valhalla, NY - not far from a DEP facility. It is important to exercise extreme caution when crossing railroad tracks.

Remember these tips when approaching a designated railroad crossing:

- Look both ways and cross the tracks quickly, without stopping
- Cross only if you know you can completely clear the tracks – a train is 3 feet wider than the tracks on both sides

- Never drive around lowered gates
- Never race a train to the crossing, a freight train moving at 55 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied
- If your vehicle stalls on a track with a train coming, get out immediately and move quickly away from the tracks; be sure to run in the opposite direction the train is moving

For more information and safety tips, visit [SeeTracksThinktrain.org](http://SeeTracksThinktrain.org).

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

**Paul Rush**, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water Supply, is a guest commentator this week.

protection at sites where a 2006 flood washed out roadways and drainage structures.

Earlier today, DEP and our partners in Delaware County announced the completion of seven projects that have improved and restored streams in the towns of Walton, Hamden, Middletown and Halcott. These towns are located on the northwestern reaches of our watershed.

Extreme storms throughout the years had caused significant damage to many of the streams, creeks and small rivers that meander through the hills upstream of New York City's reservoirs. Fixing these streams benefits our neighbors in watershed communities, the city's water supply, and the natural environment of the Catskills. The projects achieve many goals. They shore up streambanks and slopes that are failing, they help reduce the impacts of future flooding by reconnecting streams with their natural flood plains, and they help reduce the transport of sediment into our reservoirs.

The latest round of projects in Delaware County included restoration work along lower Third Brook in the Town of Walton that stabilized the bases of four failing slopes destabilized during floods over the past decade. Stabilizing them with a combination of low stone walls and tree and shrub plantings will help minimize the potential for landslide-induced debris jams and downstream flooding.

In addition, work along a 200-foot section of Chambers Hollow in the Town of Hamden included the construction of new stone protection at the base of a failing slope and grade control to prevent stream bed erosion. The project will prevent bank erosion and help keep debris from falling into the stream where it can form jams.

Improvements were also made to Beers Brook in the Town of Walton, and included similar hill slope stabilization and stream bed



Projects such as these will continue in the years ahead. Right now, several locally-appointed commissions in watershed counties are developing their own flood analyses, funded by DEP, which will identify projects to improve streams and floodplains with the overall goal of reducing the potential for floods in the future. This highly technical work also helps protect our water supply by combating erosion in the streams that feed our vast reservoir system. I want to thank Beth Reichheld, who leads our stream management program, and Phil Eskeli, who oversees our stream projects in Delaware County, for their work on these projects and planning efforts.

You can see the incredible difference these projects are making through before and after photos by clicking [here](#). More information about these efforts is available at [CatskillStreams.org](http://CatskillStreams.org).

## Some 'Green' for Going Green



DEP has announced that six community-based stormwater management projects have been chosen to receive more than \$3 million in funding through the Green Infrastructure Grant program, which will be augmented by nearly \$1 million in matching funds from the recipients. Once completed, the projects will prevent more than 6 million gallons of stormwater from entering the combined sewer system each year, thereby helping to reduce sewer overflows into local waterways. The projects are located in the Morrisania and Norwood sections of the Bronx, the Gowanus, Sunset Park and Fort Greene neighborhoods of Brooklyn, and the Ozone Park area of Queens. Since 2011, DEP has committed more than \$13 million to 33 different partners for Green Infrastructure projects across the city. More information and renderings are available [here](#).



## Press Box

Last week, legislation was introduced in the New York City Council that would ban the advertising and labeling of moist personal wipes as "flushable". The wipes do not break down in the sewer system, as conventional toilet paper does, and the removal of the wipes and damage to equipment costs DEP millions of dollars every year.

See coverage in the [Daily News](#), [WCBS](#) and [WABC](#).

## Catskill Inspiration



Catskill Mountainkeeper has produced a terrific video about the unique beauty of the Catskills, including the critical role the region plays in supplying New York City with about 1 billion gallons of high quality drinking water every day.

View the video [here](#).

## Professional Development



Designed for emerging leaders throughout the City workforce and experienced managers who are relatively new to City government, the recruitment period for the 2015 Management Academy has begun. The Academy curriculum focuses on areas that are essential to management success and the classes are led by subject matter experts. For additional information, candidate qualification requirements, and program timeframes, please refer to the application posted on the [Employee Resource Center](#).

Please remember Agency Head review and approval is required for candidates to be considered. The bureau will be assessed a fee of \$3,000 for each candidate selected to participate in the Academy. Completed applications should be forwarded to [Workforce Development & Training](#) by next Monday, February 23, 2015.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**