

NYC Educators Visit Water Supply



More than 40 educators from New York City visited the Catskills last Thursday to learn about the City's water supply system and local partnership programs related to forests, farms and streams. The daylong tour included stops at Rondout Reservoir, the Time and the Valleys Museum, the Frost Valley YMCA Model Forest, and Thunder View Farms. The annual tour provides information and exercises to educate thousands of people in New York City about their high-quality drinking water and the invaluable role the Catskill region plays in preserving it. The educators come from a wide range of museums, nonprofit groups and government agencies within the City, including the American Museum of Natural History, National Wildlife Federation, Bronx Children's Museum, Children's Museum of Manhattan, and the New York Harbor Foundation. The annual tour is made possible by a grant from the Watershed Agricultural Council. Photos from the tour can be viewed on [DEP's Flickr page](#).

Spotlight On Safety

Working Safely in the Heat

The start of warmer weather can have a significant effect on workers, since our bodies need to gradually adjust to once again working in hot temperatures. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) suggests that climate change is also creating an increased risk of heat-related illness for workers, particularly those that work outdoors. NIOSH recently updated its criteria for [Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments](#), which includes updated information and recommendations for effects of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) on heat exchange. While certain PPE can contribute to increased body temperature,

you should not remove PPE that is meant to protect you from hazards. Instead, when working in the heat remember: water, rest, shade. Drink plenty of water and take breaks in a cooler area while working. DEP has an [Exposure to Extreme Heat and Cold Guidance](#) which explains how to recognize and prevent heat illness.

The Department of Labor is also actively engaged in the coordinated federal efforts to enhance climate change preparedness and resilience. Visit [OSHA's Occupational Heat Exposure website](#) for more information, including the Heat Safety Tool Smartphone app.

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

As you all know, **Commissioner Emily Lloyd** retired from City service last week and **First Deputy Commissioner Steven Lawitts** will also be leaving DEP this month. Both Emily and Steve provided extraordinary stewardship during some truly historic times for our agency.

Emily has been a dedicated and well-respected public servant for the majority of her 40-year career, serving as the Commissioner of the Department of Sanitation during the Dinkins Administration, and twice leading DEP. During her tenure at DEP she has overseen the \$5 billion upgrade of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, helped to secure our first Filtration Avoidance Determination, activated the Croton Water Filtration Plant and helped to modernize the customer services bureau. Steve has served the City of New York for more than 23 years, including as Executive Vice President at the School Construction Authority and Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Sanitation. At DEP he has served as Chief Financial Officer, First Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner. Steve has adeptly managed our \$3.7 billion annual budget and helped to improve our bond rating to among the highest in the industry, helping to save New Yorkers tens of millions of dollars. We wish both Emily and Steve continued success in their post-DEP lives.

Mayor de Blasio has asked me to serve as acting commissioner while his administration recruits



new DEP leadership. Given the remarkable talent at all levels within the agency and our vital missions, it is an honor to serve on an interim basis. I look forward to working with all of you on the many challenges we have before us, including regulatory mandates, service delivery, the capital program, workplace safety, and staff development.

I would also like to inform you of some provisional organizational changes, to help us through this interim period. **Assistant Commissioner Joseph Murin** will serve as acting Chief Financial Officer, overseeing budget, procurement and contract administration, as well as Customer Service and OIT. **Deputy Commissioner David Cohen**, in addition to his current duties, will also oversee OEHS and OD&HR. **Assistant Commissioner Jim Mueller** will act as Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction.

Working together, I'm confident that we can continue to progress our critical missions during this interim period.



Kudos Corner



Bureau of Public Affairs and Communications (BPAC) employee **Eleftheria Ardizzone** was honored by the Bronx Times newspaper as a community leader during its 7th annual *25 Bronx Influential Women Awards Ceremony* held June 28 at Scavello's on the Island. Ardizzone works in BPAC as the Bronx community affairs coordinator. Each year since 2010, the Bronx Times has honored a group of extraordinary women who have dedicated their lives to making the Bronx a better place.

Summer in the City

A note from **Kaitlyn Maceira**, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program

Though it ranked seventh in CNN's recently reported top 10 most expensive cities to live in, New York has a surprisingly large amount of free and low cost programs available to all NYC residents, especially NYC employees. NYC Parks Department's *Shape Up NYC* program provides free, drop-in fitness classes with locations throughout the city, targeting people at all levels of athletic ability. After working up a sweat, and an appetite, New Yorkers can contact *GrowNYC*, a program focused on making New Yorkers healthier, one fresh food bag at a time. With pickup locations in all five boroughs, on different days, New Yorkers can get a shopping bag chock-full of farm fresh vegetables for only \$12.00. Included with the bag is information on the farm where the fruits and vegetables were picked and easy, healthy recipes to make with each

ingredient. All locations accept cash, credit/debit, SNAP food stamps and Greenmarket Bucks. As the epidemic of childhood hunger continues to grow in New York City, *School Food NYC* aims to find a way to help. Starting June 29, 2016, School Food NYC began providing free summer meals for everyone 18 years old and under. All meals can be picked up at participating schools, pools, parks, libraries and New York City Housing Authority locations in each of the five boroughs. With fresh food options and free workout classes around the city, it's hard to find an excuse not to adopt these healthy habits this summer. More information on any of the programs listed can be found at [School Food NYC's Free Summer Meals](#), [Grow NYC's Fresh Food Box](#) and [NYC Parks' Shape Up NYC](#). If you or a loved one is seeking help, information and/or support, NYC EAP can be reached by phone at (212) 306-7660 or by email at eap@olr.nyc.gov.

New Brown Bag Video

A new video from the June 21 brown bag lunch event, "Preventing a Water Crisis," has been posted on <http://portal/Pages/media.aspx> by OIT SharePoint. The talk features New York Times best-selling author and entrepreneur Seth M. Siegel.

Sewer Upgrade for Middle Village



DEP will break ground this month on a \$22 million construction project along Penelope Avenue in the Middle Village neighborhood that will help to reduce street flooding and sewer backups. The work will take place on Penelope Avenue, as well as streets to the north and south, from 71st Street to 77th Street. Construction will include the installation of 70 new catch basins and nearly a mile of new, larger sewer lines to drain stormwater from the roadways in the area. Also, more than 1.1 miles of existing water mains will be replaced with new ductile iron pipes that will improve the reliability of the drinking water delivery system. The project also includes the construction of 4,681 linear feet of sewers, up to 78-inches in diameter, and 70 catch basins to improve drainage and alleviate sewer back-ups. Work will also include the installation of 20 new fire hydrants, 39 manholes and the reconstruction of 17,700 square feet of sidewalks and the planting of 45 new trees. For more information on this project, [click here](#).

842 New Rain Gardens in Brooklyn

DEP has completed the construction of approximately 842 specially designed rain gardens in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Ocean Hill and Brownsville. Each rain garden has the capacity to collect and absorb up to 2,500 gallons of stormwater when it rains. Modeling shows that the 842 rain gardens will capture an estimated 113 million gallons of stormwater each year, subsequently reducing sewer overflows into local waterways, including Paerdegat Basin, Fresh Creek, Hendrix Creek and Betts Creek, and thereby improving the health of the Jamaica Bay watershed. In addition to the rain gardens, 15 stormwater greenstreets were built to better utilize underused roadway areas to absorb stormwater. This area of the city, which has been identified by the Department of Parks and Recreation as a Trees for Public Health Neighborhood due to less than average street tree counts and higher than average rates of asthma among young people, will also benefit from the addition of the 586 new trees. DEP funded the \$35.9 million project and the construction was managed by EDC. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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