

Water-Savings at Fire Academy



VINCENT SAPIENZA
DEP COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Sapienza was [featured on NY1](#) discussing the recently installed upgrades at FDNY's Training Academy and a dozen fire houses across the City that have resulted in a savings of more than 35,000 gallons of water per day. With funding provided by DEP, a [water recovery facility was constructed at the Academy](#) on Randall's Island, which includes a 40,000 gallon underground tank used for calibrating equipment on FDNY pumper trucks. Fixtures were also upgraded at 12 of the City's largest firehouses as part of the initiative. DEP is funding water demand reduction projects across the City in preparation for the shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct in 2022.

Spotlight on Safety

Latest in Trench Safety

U.S. Secretary of Labor R. Alexander Acosta recorded new Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to address the increase in preventable trenching-related fatalities. The PSAs highlight effective ways to stay safe when working around excavations or trenches. OSHA has also revised their "Protect Workers in Trenches" poster, providing a quick reminder of the three ways to prevent dangerous trench collapses:

- **Slope:** bench the sides of the excavation walls
- **Shore:** support the sides of the excavation

- **Shield:** place a shield between the side of the excavation and the work area

Last month, a Trench Safety Stand-Down Week supported by OSHA was held in Kansas City, MO. This Stand Down focused on trench and excavation hazards and reinforced the importance of using trench protective systems.

DEP has an [Excavation and Trenching Policy](#) in place to protect workers from trenching hazards. For more information on trench safety, to learn about the stand-down and to access the new PSAs and trench safety poster, visit [OSHA's Trenching and Excavation website](#).

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



Last week, I had the pleasure of joining with Council Member **James Van Bramer**, leading New York City environmental groups including the Newtown Creek Alliance, Riverkeeper, and Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM), and educators and students from LaGuardia Community College to celebrate the [installation of tidal wetlands in Newtown Creek](#) at Dutch Kills. The wetlands will help to improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and a more natural aesthetic area for the community. This is the first time Newtown Creek has had substantial wetlands in more than 100 years.

Through this project, the Dutch Kills western terminus site has received placement of 1,400 cubic yards of sand to establish proper elevations to support the

growth of 1,455 square feet of *Spartina alterniflora* plugs. The scope of work for a 2015 pilot study in Dutch Kills previously consisted of the placement of 500 cubic yards of sand in a 0.09 acre area along the bulkhead.

At the Hunters Point Avenue Bridge, 3,300 cubic yards of sand have been added on the bridge's western and eastern sides to establish the proper elevations to support the growth of 6,900 square feet of *Spartina alterniflora* plugs.

Wetlands, which are transitional lands between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, provide a wide variety of beneficial functions. They attenuate flooding, help maintain stream flow, improve water quality, absorb nutrients and carbon, and provide plant and wildlife habitat. Nearly half the nation's threatened and endangered species rely on wetlands to survive.

Wetlands play a critical role in our ecosystem and they help to improve the health of waterbodies, which is why we are building them wherever we can in the five boroughs. Thanks to **John McLaughlin, Mikelle Adgate, Ron Weissbard, Dabeiba Marulanda, Jackie Chen and Sarah Bray** for their work in bringing back these wonderful wetlands.



Kudos Corner



Congratulations to the three DEP teams that competed last month in the statewide Operations Challenge competition held in Lake George, NY. The Jamaica Sludge Hustlers—consisting of **Ray Antenucci** (team captain), **Robert Ferland**, **Anthony Petrone**, **Yu-Tung Chan**, and **Joe Atkins** (coach)—once again emerged victorious and brought the 1st place trophy back to NYC. Coming in 3rd place overall after some fierce events were the Bowery Bay Coyotes, composed of **Chris Reyes** (team captain), **Anthony Quadrino**, **Anthony Cervone**, **Yue Yue Guo**, and **Eugene Buckley** (coach). Rounding out the DEP competitors were the Watershed Warriors from upstate, with members **Erik Coddington** (coach), **Matthew Burd**, **Kenneth Taylor** (team captain), **Bruce Decker**, **Eric Albano**, and **Daniel Byrne** all putting forth a strong effort. All three teams will participate at WEFTEC in the national competition to be held from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3 in New Orleans. Thanks to **Howie Robinson** for coordinating the teams' participation, and **Bill Sedutto**, **Kevin McCormick**, **Joseph Atkins**, and **Marty Bunce** for coordinating the state events. Congrats to all involved and best of luck moving forward! For more pics, [click here](#).

Cleans Streets = Clean Beaches



Commissioner Sapienza, Sanitation Commissioner **Kathryn Garcia**, NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, FAICP, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 Administrator **Pete Lopez** on Monday launched “[Clean Streets = Clean Beaches](#),” a public information campaign and beach clean-up program aimed at reducing littering and improving the cleanliness and aesthetics of New York City beaches. When it rains, trash and debris discarded on city streets and sidewalks can be washed down storm drains and end up on beaches. This summer, “Clean Streets = Clean Beaches” posters will be displayed at area beaches and on approximately 5,000 Sanitation vehicles city-wide. The program was launched at MCU Park in Coney Island, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones.

The Big Park Reopens on Staten Island



DEP recently joined NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, FA-ICP, New York State Assembly Member **Michael Cusick**, New York City Council Member **Debi Rose**, Staten Island Deputy Borough President **Ed Burke**, representatives from Community Board 1, and community members to cut the ribbon on [the newly reconstructed The Big Park](#). The Big Park is the fifth Community Parks Initiative (CPI) site to open on Staten Island after undergoing a \$5.6 million reconstruction; with \$3.3 million in funding from **Mayor Bill de Blasio**, \$1.3 million from DEP, and \$1 million from Council Member Rose. Seven newly constructed rain gardens will contribute to a runoff reduction and annual stormwater capture of more than 1.5 million gallons. This green infrastructure investment will also help to improve the health of New York Harbor, make this community space more beautiful, and will help to clean the air.

DEP Opens New Land for Recreation



DEP has created [two new day-use areas in the watershed](#) for recreation, providing local residents and visitors with additional locations for enjoying the outdoors and local history. Both areas are located near Pepacton Reservoir in Delaware County and include the site of a former bridge and Pepacton Cemetery. With the addition of these two sites, DEP has now designated six day-use areas on water supply lands, including public walkways at Ashokan, Cross River, and Kensico reservoirs, and the 53-acre Devasego Park in Greene County, which also features a boat launch and picnic areas. Day-use areas are park-like settings that can be used by the public for a variety of low-impact activities without the need for a DEP Access Permit. To learn more about how you and your family can take advantage of these areas, visit DEP's website at nyc.gov/dep/recreation.

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