

Diversity Day



The 4th annual [Diversity Day Celebration](#) opened today with remarks from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** and BEDC Acting Deputy Commissioner **James Mueller**.

A photo exhibit, “Chronicles of Change: Diversity at DEP,” was showcased in the hallway opposite the new 3rd Floor Employee Lounge at Lefrak. The gallery highlights DEP’s workforce diversity through a historical perspective. It consists of five image categories: Wastewater Treatment, Construction of Tunnels and Infrastructure, Water Supply and Distribution, Enforcement, and Water and Sewer Operations. Gallery viewings will also be taking place at the following locations: **Newtown Creek Support Building**, 2nd floor, Nov. 2, 7–9am; **Valhalla**, Nov. 9, 12–1pm; and **Remsen Avenue Maintenance Facility**, Nov. 15, time to be determined.

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Spotlight on Safety

Good Housekeeping for Office Spaces

Did you know that an effective housekeeping program can help to prevent accidents, fires, occupational diseases and create an overall more pleasant working environment? OSHA rules state that “all places of employment, passageways, storerooms and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition”, and it is the supervisor’s task to ensure employees comply.

Some common steps to take to ensure good housekeeping are:

- Avoid clutter that blocks stairways, doorways, aisles, emergency exits, electrical panels, sprinklers and vents
- Store heavy objects on lower shelves and keep equipment away from the edges of desks to prevent falling

- In pantry areas, wipe up spills and rinse out containers before recycling
- Employees should also keep their own workstations free of clutter

Good housekeeping also helps control property damage, reflects a well-run organization, and minimizes unnecessary janitorial work. If you do come across issues such as overflowing trash bins, unclean restrooms, leaks, and other safety hazards, report them to Facilities Management or your Bureau EHS representative.

For more information, please read the Facilities Management and Construction’s memo on [Keeping Work Spaces Clean and Safe](#).

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



River and Flushing Bay will be reduced by nearly 50 million gallons annually, thereby improving the health of the waterways.

As part of the work, three new stormwater outfalls will be constructed. Many considerations, aside from just engineering specifications, go into any decision to build an outfall, including environmental and community impacts. As such, DEP coordinated with the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure that the new outfall to be built on the north side of Hermon A. MacNeil Park will avoid conflicts with a proposed kayak launch in the same area.

DEP continues to invest billions of dollars annually to upgrade New York City’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, which, in turn, serves as an investment in local communities and the health of our environment. Recently, we joined with the Department of Design and Construction to announce that work is under way on a [\\$132 million project in the College Point neighborhood of Queens](#) that will reduce street flooding and improve the health of the Upper East River and Flushing Bay.

The work will include the construction of more than 400 new catch basins, nearly 12 miles of new sewers and nearly 10 miles of new water mains. Construction of new storm sewers will allow for the decommissioning of three existing combined sewer outfalls. During heavy rain storms, untreated sewage mixed with stormwater from roadways can be discharged from combined sewer outfalls. By closing these three outfalls, it is estimated that combined sewer overflows into the Upper East

In total, the project will see the addition of 404 new catch basins, 33,839 feet of storm sewers, 29,177 feet of sanitary sewers and 51,624 feet of distribution water mains. Once the subsurface construction is completed, all affected roadways will be resurfaced. In addition, existing wetlands along Flushing Bay and the Upper East River will be expanded through the planting of roughly 10,000 square feet of additional salt marsh cordgrass, which will also help to improve water quality.

This project will improve the quality of life in College Point, making it a more sustainable and resilient neighborhood. The work will reduce roadway flooding, ensure a reliable supply of drinking water and improve the health of the Upper East River and Flushing Bay.



Students Help With Bluebelt Clean-Up



DEP joined with students from the Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning High School on Staten Island last week to [clean up Wolfe's Pond Bluebelt](#) in the Prince's Bay neighborhood. The collaborative community service project is in its fourth year and prepares students to become environmental stewards for the Island's Bluebelts. The Wolfe's Pond Bluebelt collects stormwater from a drainage area of approximately 589 acres. The Bluebelt consists of two constructed holding basins and a weir to control the stormwater. The Bluebelt also serves as an important open space and habitat for the Island's diverse wildlife.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 11 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** and Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Maria Cuenca with BEDC; **Krystal Devalle** and **Sherese Nelson** with BWS; **Michael Musto**, **Bhim Neupane** and **Daimon Timal** with BWSO; **Gaetano Campisi** with BWT; **Aminah Moody** and **Kenneth Wong** with CFO/OIT; **Shaniqua Mason** with OD&HR; and **Lynnette Caldwell** with PS.

Remote Operated Vehicle Investigates



DEP [launched a remote operated vehicle](#) last week to pinpoint suspected leaks in a portion of the Catskill Aqueduct that runs several hundred feet below the Rondout Creek in Ulster County. The vehicle uses high-definition video cameras, acoustic equipment and other instrumentation to examine the interior of the aqueduct, known as the Rondout Pressure Tunnel. Data gathered through that analysis will be used to design any necessary repairs.

'Conservationist of the Year'



DEP's [Paul Lenz](#) has been honored as "Conservationist of the Year" by the New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC). Lenz has worked at DEP since 2002, and currently serves as deputy chief of the Natural Resources Division in the Bureau of Water Supply. Lenz was recognized by the council for guiding the City's efforts to open more water supply lands for recreation, organizing fishing clinics for families, sharpening the City's focus on invasive species prevention, and demonstrating that hunting programs could compliment forest management projects in the watershed. Lenz was honored, along with other sportsmen and professional conservationists, at the council's fall convention in Utica. His duties at DEP include overseeing the department's watershed recreation programs, management of City-owned properties, conservation easement stewardship, and land-use permits. In the photo, Lenz is congratulated by the council's **Bill Connors**, Region 3 Director, and **Raymond Merlotto**, Director-At-Large.

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