

DEP & NYCHA Discuss Green Infrastructure



DEP is proud to present the first in a series of events for the public, focusing on today's pressing environmental issues. Please join us on May 11 as we kick-off the series with an in-depth presentation about "Green Infrastructure and Planning for the Future: A Conversation with DEP and NYCHA." Our panel of experts will address the following topics: Green Infrastructure in NYCHA Developments; Designing for Climate Change: New York City's Cloudburst Stormwater Management Pilot; Resilient City Planning: Strategies for Protecting NYC; and NYCHA Youth and the Environment: How young residents are changing the face of developments. Attendance is by registration only. Registration will open on [Eventbrite](#) at 12 pm on Wednesday, May 1. We look forward to seeing you all on May 11 at the Visitors Center at Newtown Creek.

Spotlight on Safety

Staying Safe in Construction

Next week, May 6–10, is Construction Safety Week as well as OSHA's National Safety Stand-Down To Prevent Falls in Construction. Each year, DEP's Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction hosts a table at NYC's "Build Safe/Live Safe" Conference to discuss industry trends and highlight safe construction operations. To prevent fall fatalities and injuries, OSHA requires:

- fall protection at elevations of 4-feet in general industry workplaces and 6-feet in the construction industry

- fall protection when working over dangerous equipment and machinery, regardless of the fall distance
- informing employees about fall hazards, the importance of fall prevention, protective methods, and bureau policies.

If you have a concern regarding potential fall hazards take the opportunity to speak to your supervisor or bureau EHS representative. To learn more, visit [OSHA's National Fall Prevention Stand-Down website](#) and [Construction Safety Week's 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 Wednesday, I joined with DDC Commissioner **Lorraine Grillo** and Council Member **Donovan Richards** to break ground on an \$84 million project that has begun in Brookville, Queens to upgrade infrastructure, improve street conditions, and alleviate flooding. The project is being funded by DEP, managed by DDC, and is scheduled to be completed in summer 2021.

The project is part of a \$1.9 billion investment by the de Blasio Administration to build a comprehensive drainage system and alleviate flooding in neighborhoods throughout southeast Queens. The program, the largest of its kind, consists of 45 projects overall, including 10 that are substantially completed and 11 that are in active construction.

Work will take place on 21 blocks near Idlewild Park. More than two miles of water mains, some dating to before World War II, will be replaced. Twenty-five fire hydrants will be replaced, and fire protec-

tion will be enhanced with 11 additional fire hydrants installed at new locations.

There will be 8,200 feet of new storm sewers and 3,700 feet of new combined sewers added to the neighborhood. A total of 96 new catch basins will also be installed to capture stormwater and direct it to the new storm sewers. Additionally, the existing sanitary sewers will also be replaced with 7,600 feet of new pipe.

With shovels in the ground in Brookville, we are one step closer to a comprehensive drainage system for the entire southeast Queens area. I want to thank Council Member Richards for his tireless advocacy, his constituents for their continued patience, **Deputy Commissioner Georgelis**, Executive Director of Engineering **Thomas Wynn** and Engineer in Charge-Infrastructure Southeast Queens **Sol Posada**, and our partners at DDC for their professional management of this critical work.



Focus on the Field: Value Ambassadors for Sustainability

This month, Weekly Pipeline celebrated DEP's core value of Sustainability with the Value Ambassador program. As part of the program, we are highlighting four DEP employees nominated by their peers who, through their work, best represent Sustainability at DEP. Over the next few months, Weekly Pipeline will continue to showcase DEP's core values.



November: Innovation



December: Support



January: Diversity



February: Service



March: Integrity



April: Sustainability



May: Transparency



June: Safety

MELISSA ENOCH has been with DEP for 4 years and is Program Manager, Private Incentives, for BEPA. Melissa has been pivotal in growing DEP's Green Infrastructure (GI) program into the largest green infrastructure investment and program in the United States. Melissa has made exceptional contributions to the GI Program, none more significant and impressive than developing a strategy and RFP to encourage stormwater management on private property. Beyond Melissa's technical and planning skills, she fosters a creative and engaging culture within



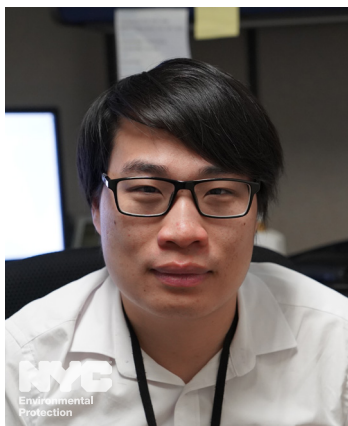
the GI team, and is a true asset not just to the Bureau, but to all of DEP. Melissa was nominated by **Pinar Balci** and **Angela Licata**.

JENNIFER MCDONNELL has been with DEP since December 2017 as the Resource Recovery Program Manager in the Energy office. She works tirelessly to plan sustainable uses for our biosolids and other treatment residuals, with the goal of turning them from wastes to usable products. She also manages DEP's codigestion study at Newtown Creek, which aims to convert part of the City's food waste stream into renewable digester gas that will heat homes and businesses in the neighborhood. Jennifer also embodies sustainability around the office, and in her personal life by eliminating single use products, such as plastic bags,



utensils, packaging, and paper towels, and she chooses reusable options whenever possible. Jennifer was nominated by **Jane Gajwani**.

CHRISTOFER TANG has been with DEP for 5 years, working in BWSO as Assistant Mechanical Engineer. Christofer is responsible for reducing BWSO's carbon footprint in order to align DEP with the City's goal to reduce emissions 80 percent by 2050. Christofer was successful in obtaining funding from DCAS under the Expenses for Conservation and Efficiency Leadership ("Excel") Program, and was able to apply those funds to retrofit the lighting in BWSO's pumping stations from metal halides and other high-energy-consuming lights to new LED lights. The conversion saved about \$35,000 per year in utility bills while eliminating about 219,000 kwh of otherwise wasted energy, and reducing DEP's carbon footprint by 155 metric tons.



Because of this success Christofer is now researching the replacement of other high consuming light fixtures in BWSO's other facilities. Christofer was nominated by **Andy Kuchynsky**.

ERIKA JOZWIAK has been with DEP for 4 years and is currently the Sustainability Analyst in BEDC. Erika is an essential part of capital project design teams, and helps to implement the triple-bottom-line into the design phase of a project by including climate change mitigation, waste management or energy reduction. Her most recent contribution is in helping to implement solar panels within the Kensico Eastview Connection design. Erika also runs the composting program from the 3rd floor employee lounge, bikes to work on a regular basis (even during the winter!), helps to coordinate Earth Week events, Meatless Mondays, voluntarily collects BEDC's com-



post every week, and is also an active environmental activist within her community. Erika was nominated by **Maria Cuenca**, **Flor Ruiz**, **Dylan Adler**, and **Natalia Perez**.

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