

Stay Cool New York



DEP's Water-On-the-Go Team has been busy providing free drinking water at events around the city. In just the last week they have staffed fountains at the ticker tape parade celebrating the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team's World Cup victory, the Disability Pride Parade and the 150th Anniversary of the New York City Fire Department. Thanks to our colleagues in the Bureaus of Public Affairs, Water and Sewer Operations and the 20 summer interns who coordinate the program and ensure that the fountains are operating properly. To see more photos click [here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Understanding the Risks of Lightning

Did you know that if you can hear thunder, or see an oncoming storm, this means that lightning is close enough to strike? Workers who are outdoors, on or near tall objects, and who work with or near metal scaffolding, metal equipment or machinery, utility lines, water, water pipes, and plumbing are at greater risk of exposure to lightning strike hazards.

It is important to stay aware of daily forecasts. If you see high winds, dark clouds, or distant thunder or lightning, do not start any task you cannot stop quickly. Do not touch or use conductive equipment, and avoid high structures such as scaffolding or ladders.

The safest areas in a lightning storm are in a building or a hard-topped vehicle with the windows up. If none of these are easily accessible, then an area that is at a lower elevation than your surroundings and away from tall, isolated objects such as trees or flagpoles will suffice.

Remember, lightning victims DO NOT carry an electrical charge and are safe to touch. If a coworker is struck by lightning they need urgent medical attention; call 911 immediately.

For more information please visit [CDC's website on Lightning](#).

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

Eric Landau, DEP's Associate Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs, is a guest commentator this week.

Yesterday, I joined Sanitation Commissioner (DSNY) **Kathryn Garcia**, Parks Commissioner **Mitchell Silver** and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 Clean Water Director **Joan Leary Matthews** to launch 2015's "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches", a public information campaign and beach clean-up program aimed at improving the cleanliness and aesthetics of New York City beaches by reducing littering. When it rains, trash and debris discarded on city streets and sidewalks washes down storm drains and can end up on beaches. This summer, "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" posters will be displayed at area beaches and on approximately 2,000 Sanitation vehicles citywide. In addition, DEP will join with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to clean trash and debris from waterfront properties throughout the five boroughs. The program was launched at MCU Park in Coney Island, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, where staff distributed "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" flyer toys to approximately 5,000 children attending the Cyclones game from area day camps and the City's Summer Youth Employment Program.

The "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" campaign began in the early 1990s to highlight the link between litter on the streets and trash found on area beaches. The 2015 program will utilize an informational poster for display at area beaches as well as on Department of Sanitation fleet vehicles, which include approximately 400 mechanical brooms that sweep litter from more



than 6,000 miles of streets per day. Additionally, the Department services more than 25,000 litter baskets daily.

DEP inspects and cleans approximately 148,000 catch basins city-wide, which trap litter before it can make its way into the sewer line. In addition, a fleet of five skimmer boats, along with booms surrounding 23 major sewer outfalls throughout the city, are used to capture any debris that makes it through the catch basins before it reaches local waterways, including wood, plastic, metal, rubber, and glass. DEP has also built three litter control devices located within sewer outfalls along the Bronx River, and one at the head of the Gowanus Canal, that use hydraulic bar screens and nylon netting systems to capture litter before it can reach the river.

This week also marks the launch of the Summer 2015 Waterfront Clean-Up program where DEP partners with DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program to hire nearly 200 young New Yorkers who will spend approximately 25 hours a week removing litter and debris from waterfront properties across the city. The program helps to promote environmental stewardship and provide valuable work experience.

Additional photos of yesterday's event are available on DEP's [Flickr Page](#).



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.

Release Works at Gilboa Dam



Last week, DEP announced that construction will begin this month on a \$142 million project to build new release works at Schoharie Reservoir. The project includes construction of an intake structure at the bottom of Reservoir, more than 2,000 feet of subsurface tunnels, and a valve chamber along Schoharie Creek. Once completed, the tunnel and valves will provide DEP with the ability to release water from the reservoir into Schoharie Creek to perform dam maintenance, respond to potential emergencies, mitigate flood risk for downstream communities, and enhance downstream habitat for fish and wildlife.

Gilboa Dam was built between 1919 and 1927 and impounds Schoharie Reservoir, the northernmost reservoir in the City's water supply system. Schoharie Reservoir can store up to 19.6 billion gallons of water, and it accounts for roughly 15 percent of the drinking water delivered to New York City each day.

The release works are part of a larger \$400 million program aimed at strengthening the 88-year-old Gilboa Dam and ensuring that

Schoharie Reservoir continues to provide reliable, high-quality drinking water to New York City for many decades to come. The program began with the full-scale rehabilitation of Gilboa Dam that was completed in 2014.

The release works comprise several facilities, including an intake structure, a valve chamber, and two sections of tunnel that will total 2,118 feet long and run as deep as 185 feet below the surface. The 9-foot-diameter tunnel will be drilled by a micro-tunnel boring machine. Once workers bore into the bottom of the reservoir, a specialized dive team will remove the micro-tunnel boring machine from the 135-foot-deep water and install the intake structure.

The valve chamber—which acts as the portal that releases water into the creek—will include two valves capable of releasing about 65-1550 million gallons of water each day. A third, smaller valve will be capable of smaller releases up to 65 million gallons per day.

Diagrams, renderings and photos are available on DEP's [Clickr Page](#).

Mark Your Calendars

July 18 – The City of Water Day Festival is a free day-long celebration of the world-class potential of the water that surrounds us and brings us together. More information can be found [here](#).

July 16–18 – The Bronx River Alliance is hosting a number of events that may be of interest to DEP employees, including a tour of green infrastructure in Soundview Park and a bike ride from Van Cortlandt Park to Kensico Dam. More information can be found [here](#).

NYC Homeowners Conserve Water



This past weekend, DEP joined New York State Assembly Members **Helene Weinstein** and **David Weprin** to provide free Rain Barrels to nearly 350 homeowners in East Flatbush and Queens Village. DEP has now given away more than 1,000 rain barrels this summer, with more events planned for the coming weeks. The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner's downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. To see more photos click [here](#) and [here](#).



Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 20 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Miguel Caceres, Monica L. Dorson, Steven Gilio, Alex Guerra Bussi, Martin J. Joyce, Ted M. Ricketts and Eddy Reynoso with BEC; **Iftakher Ahmed, Premnath Ajodha, Sarah Guadalupe, Steven F. Pagan and Robert B. Wright** with BWSO; **Christine Jenkins, Lizhen Liao and Yvette Velez** with BCS; **Russell S. Betters and Melissa Corigliano** with BWS; **Anna Hellman** with Sustainability; **Kenneth J. Rozsahegyi** with OIT; and **Tatiana Sanchez Cortez** with BEDC.

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