

## Clear Sailing Ahead



**D**EP has invested more than \$10 billion over the last decade to upgrade wastewater treatment plants and improve harbor water quality and our regular testing confirms that the water is cleaner and healthier than it has been in the last century. Earlier this month, this investment was recognized when the America's Cup World Series races were held in New York Harbor. This is the first time New York City has hosted the America's Cup since 1920.

## Spotlight On Safety

### Climate Change: A New Concern for Safety Managers

The effects of climate change has become a global concern, especially the effect it will have on future generations. In a new report recently issued by the Obama Administration, it states that "every American is vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change." But did you know that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) suggests that even for present-day workers, particularly outdoor workers, climate change is creating new safety concerns?

Climate-related health threats for outdoor workers include increased heat stress and heat-related illness, degraded air quality, extreme weather, vector-borne diseases, longer allergy

seasons and changes in the built environment. Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and natural disasters mean workers may be exposed to adverse occupational and climate-related conditions that the general public may altogether avoid. For indoor workers, those who work in older buildings may be exposed to increased indoor air pollutants and mold, stagnant airflow, or high indoor temperatures.

In a future article, we will discuss the preventative measures necessary to protect DEP workers from the effects of climate change while working outdoors this summer. For more information on climate change, visit [GlobalChange.gov](http://GlobalChange.gov).

## Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

**Angela Licata**, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

Continuing the build-out of green infrastructure on city-owned property is an essential part of our plan to mitigate combined sewer overflows into local waterways. While DEP's portfolio of green infrastructure assets continues to expand rapidly, we are also looking for private property owners to manage the stormwater that falls on their lots. In fact, private properties make up about 50 percent of all land area within the five boroughs and therefore are an important component of our efforts to improve water quality. To encourage property owners to build green infrastructure, we are continuing our Grant Program, which provides funding for the construction of rain gardens, permeable pavements, and green roofs on private property. DEP staff will host a workshop on May 25 at Civic Hall, located at 156 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Manhattan, to explain the eligibility requirements and the application process. Over the last several years, DEP has committed more than \$13 million to fund 31 different projects with private property owners, who have contributed nearly \$6 million in matching funds.

All private property owners served by combined sewers in New York City are eligible to apply for a green infrastructure grant. Grant funding is provided for the design and construction of the projects that reduce or

manage approximately one inch of stormwater that falls on the selected properties. If selected, DEP will reimburse each Grantee for the design and construction costs for the green infrastructure project. Preference will be given to projects that are located in [priority watersheds](#), are cost-effective, provide matching funds or other contributions, and include ancillary environmental and community benefits such as public access, increased awareness about stormwater management, and green jobs development. DEP will also accept requests for pre-application meetings with developers, professional designers, project teams or other organizations representing constituencies in real estate, business groups, or other large groups. To arrange a meeting with DEP engineers to discuss proposal specifics in advance of submitting an application, email [gigrant@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:gigrant@dep.nyc.gov).

DEP hosts quarterly workshops at Civic Hall, located at 156 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Manhattan, to explain the eligibility requirements and the application process. The next workshop will be held on May 25, at 3pm. To RSVP for the workshop, or to see dates and times of future workshops, go to the [DEP website](#). The [on-line application is available](#) for anyone to review and it can be submitted to DEP at any time, year-round.

I'd like to thank the entire Green Infrastructure team for all of their tireless efforts to help protect the health of local waterways.



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.



## Eel Count



Last Wednesday, DEP and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) hosted students from the Saint Clare School and Cub Scouts from Pack 25 for the annual count of juvenile glass eels at Staten Island's Richmond Creek Bluebelt. As part of ongoing research, volunteers and students have been using a ten-foot cone-shaped net specifically designed to catch the eels and then count and release them back into the water. The 2016 eel monitoring program began in March and will continue until the end of the eels' migratory period. Staten Island is one of ten sites, ranging from New York City to Albany, where counts are taken as part of DEC's Hudson River Eel Project. Thus far in 2016, more than 6,000 glass eels have been counted in Richmond Creek. Deputy Commissioner **Eric Landau** explained to the students how eel populations are an important indicator of water quality. He was joined by staff from DEP's Bluebelt division and Chris Bowser, an education coordinator with the DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program. For more information, [click here](#).

## Kudos Corner



The Department of Citywide Administrative Services and the New York Blood Center recently recognized DEP for the number of donations made by employees. **Tarlisha Coleman** (center), Director of Employee Benefits, accepted the awards on behalf of the department. Over the last 15 years, DEP has made 20,895 blood donations and we're not stopping there. We've set a "Milestone" goal of 23,000 donations by the end of 2016, and with all of your help we can do it! And don't forget—if you donate at a location/facility other than a DEP sponsored blood drive, include the agency code on the donation form—826.

## Boater Safety



DEP Police Officers hosted a boater safety workshop at Pepacton Reservoir on Sunday. The session was held at the Shavertown Bridge boat launch, just off State Route 30 on the north side of the reservoir. DEP Police Officers reviewed rules and regulations that govern access to the City's reservoirs; state fishing regulations that apply for anglers who use the reservoir; state navigation laws and the equipment required for boating, and information about DEP's recreational programs. An officer also donned a wetsuit to demonstrate various water self-rescue scenarios, including how to survive a capsized rowboat, kayak or canoe. A second session will be held May 22 from 10–11am, at New Croton Reservoir. For more information, [click here](#).

## Honor Guard



Members of the DEP Police's Honor Guard participated on May 10 in the annual New York State Police Officers Memorial Remembrance Ceremony in Albany. This event honors those killed in the line of duty and takes place at the Empire State Plaza. Law enforcement agencies from across the state are invited to participate in the ceremony that is attended by family members and dignitaries. DEP Police's Honor Guard was part of the procession honoring fallen comrades.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**