

Season's Greetings!

As we celebrate the holiday season, I'd like to take this opportunity to also celebrate each and every one of you for the continuous dedication and hard work that you demonstrate on a daily basis to better serve New York City residents and help protect the environment and public health.

Looking ahead to 2018, it is my sincere hope that everyone enjoys peace, happiness, health, and prosperity throughout the year. On behalf of myself and the extended DEP family, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Vincent Sapienza, Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Spotlight on Safety

2017 BEDC EHS Forum

On Dec. 1, the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction (BEDC) held its second EHS Forum and Award Ceremony at the Newtown Creek Visitor Center. In attendance were BEDC's senior management, EHS staff, designers, contractors and consultants. This year, Acting Deputy Commissioner **Jim Mueller** kicked-off the

event with a talk about BEDC's Mission, Vision and RI2 program, which recognizes performing projects and provides support on projects not yet achieving BEDC's mission.

David Olton, Director of EHS Performance Measurement and Strategic Planning, spoke on behalf of the Agency (EHS) and

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



After years of remediation and capping work by DEP, I am pleased to announce that the former Brookfield Landfill on Staten Island has been transferred to NYC Parks and is officially open to the public. I recently celebrated the completed landfill-to-park transformation with NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, Staten Island Borough President James Oddo, State Senator Andrew Lanza, NYC Council Member Joseph Borelli, Council Member Steven Matteo and members of Community Board 3. With the opening of Brookfield Park, the City's total parkland will eclipse 30,000 acres.

This \$256.4 million transformation began in 2010, with \$156.4 million from DEP and \$100 million from NYS DEC. The park includes 258 acres of meadows, wetlands, woodlands, marshes, streams and ponds, with walking trails throughout. More than 17,000 trees

were planted by DEP during remediation work along with 76,000 plants to help preserve 16 acres of tidal and freshwater wetlands. The Brookfield Park site is a former New York City municipal solid waste facility that operated from 1966 until 1980.

Since the outset of the remediation project, a number of community participation activities were conducted to inform and educate the public about the site, and the potential remedial alternatives. These public information sessions continued as the project moved from design through construction.

Through this close collaboration with the community, DEP was able to successfully cap and close a former landfill and transform it into a beautiful open space by restoring its wetlands and returning the land to a more natural state.

I'd like to thank **John McLaughlin**, **Roy Tysvaer**, and **Rafael Betemit** who have overseen all of the remediation work. Also, many thanks to the team that worked to transfer this land to NYC Parks—**Marcella Eckels**, **Christy Bitet**, and **Alison Gilgore**. This site will now serve as a great new amenity for Staten Islanders and a destination for all New Yorkers who enjoy the great outdoors.



(Spotlight on Safety... continued)

discussed OEHS's Vision and Mission, and how the Agency and BEDC are aligned with a focus on EHS planning, performance and building a strong EHS culture.

Neil Feldscher, BEDC Chief of Training and Program Development, spoke about BEDC's performance metrics, results and provided program updates. This includes a new contractor evaluation process in the updated Contractor Selection and Management Policy. He also presented the new DEP Incident Reporting and Investigation Policy.

Heather Belovin, BEDC EHS Director, spoke about recent incidents and near misses, how we can learn from them and collaborate on preventive

measures that are captured in future contracts.

BEDC's project incident rates continue to be well below industry averages and has expanded measurement of leading indicators. Leading indicators measure positive activities that result in prevention. These include development of high quality Job Hazard Analysis (JHA's), training, stormwater protection and site visits/inspections. In the past year, BEDC designers, contractors and consultants have incorporated over 50 best management practices on projects

The event ended with an Award Ceremony to recognize the best performance of BEDC designers, contractors and consultant firms. [Click here](#) to see the winners.

Recreational Boating Program Grows



A total of 1,646 boats were used in 2017 through [DEP's recreational boating program](#) in the Catskills, including 968 canoes and kayaks that were rented from local businesses—the most of any year since rentals began in 2014. Rental boats made up the majority of boats used on the four reservoirs for the second consecutive year, underscoring the program's support of local tourism and outdoor recreation businesses. The rental program, administered in partnership with the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC), began in 2013 to provide easier boating access for visitors to the Catskills and for local residents who don't own a boat. It has also helped support local businesses by providing a new source of revenue. The recreational boating program at Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie reservoirs complements the traditional use of metal rowboats for fishing, which has been permitted for decades on all New York City reservoirs.

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

Court Upholds \$183 Water Board Credit



Commissioner Sapienza joined last Wednesday with Mayor Bill de Blasio to applaud the New York Court of Appeals decision to [uphold the Water Board's issuance of credits to homeowners](#). Due to this decision, 664,000 homeowners can receive a credit of \$183 on an upcoming water bill. In 2016 the City proposed, and the Water Board approved, the \$183 credit as part of the Board's fiscal year 2017 budget. Later that year a legal challenge was filed and the New York County Supreme Court invalidated the Water Board's resolution, including the \$183 credit. The Water Board appealed the decision which was subsequently upheld by the Appellate Division's First Department. Upon further appeal to the New York State Court of Appeals, the Court upheld the Board's authority to issue the credit at issue and its broad discretion in setting water rates. The \$183 credit represents a nearly 17 percent savings on the annual water and sewer bills for a typical single-family homeowner. For approximately 150,000 homeowners, many of whom are seniors, who use less than 95 gallons of water per day and pay the minimum charge, the credit represents a nearly 40 percent savings on their annual water and sewer bills. The \$183 credit will be applied to all one to three-family homes across the city.

DEP In the News



[NY1 News](#) recently joined with Commissioner Sapienza and Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush, Bureau of Water Supply, for an exclusive look at the \$1 billion project to repair the Delaware Aqueduct. The complex undertaking comprises the largest repair in the 175-year history of the NYC water supply system. An advanced tunnel boring machine (TBM) will be used to build a 14-foot diameter, 2.5-mile long bypass tunnel alongside the leaking section of the aqueduct located 600 feet below the Hudson River, from Newburgh to Wappinger. The TBM was named "Nora" in honor of a groundbreaking engineer and suffragist who, from 1906–1908, worked as a draftsman for the New York City Board of Water Supply as it developed the first parts of the Catskill Water Supply System.