

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Michael DeLoach
Deputy Commissioner
Public Affairs and Communications

New York State has officially recognized the efficacy and merit in DEP's educational programming! DEP is now a Continuing Teacher & Leader Education (CTLE) sponsor, as approved by the Commissioner of the New York State Education Department, Office of Teaching Initiatives. Becoming a CTLE sponsor is thanks to the wonderful work by Director of Education **Kim Estes-Fradis**, Deputy Director **Robin Sanchez**, and their amazing team. CTLE sponsors provide formal, professional development opportunities for New York State certified Professional Classroom Teachers, School Leaders and Level III Teaching Assistants. One hundred professional development hours, called Continuing Teacher & Leader Education hours, must be

completed during a five-year period through a New York State Education Department-approved sponsor, such as DEP.

The term of approval is five years, ending March 21, 2024, and DEP's future pre-K through 12th grade CTLE activities will include professional learning opportunities focused on STEM, the arts and humanities themes. Topics will include the history and present-day New York City water supply system, watershed protection, drinking water quality, water conservation, wastewater treatment, harbor water quality, climate change, stormwater management and green infrastructure, stewardship, air quality, and sound and noise.

CTLE activities will be designed and implemented following the success of DEP's ongoing professional learning opportunities that already reach thousands of educators. Currently, professional learning



opportunities are often conducted with DEP experts from other bureaus working in many different fields. CTLE activities will now be able to provide additional teachers and leaders with CTLE hours to help advance their teaching skills and their careers. Some recent activities include:

- taking bus tours of the New York City watershed to explore water, forestry, and education connections;
- setting sail aboard the Hudson River Sloop, Clearwater, and the South Street Seaport Museum's Pioneer to learn about watershed management and harbor water quality;
- holding a three-day STEM workshop focusing on sound and noise in the environment for the New York City Department of Education;
- offering systems-thinking trainings about the New York City water resources water cycle for teachers involved in the Trout in the Classroom Program;
- teaching harbor water quality and monitoring techniques workshops for teachers involved in the annual Day in the Life of the Hudson River and Estuary;
- sharing water conservation initiatives for New York City Department of Education Sustainability Coordinators;
- hosting a three-day workshop about New York City's water resources for Math for America teachers;

- understanding stormwater management and green infrastructure with the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Brooklyn Grange, and other partners, and
- studying waste reduction with Sims Municipal Recycling Plant, NYC's Zero Waste Initiative, and the NY Aquarium.

DEP's guiding principles for CTLE activities include content that is clearly connected to student achievement of the NYS Learning Standards and closely aligned to goals for student performance. CTLE enables teachers to deepen their knowledge and remain current in their content area by providing rigorous, developmentally appropriate instructional strategies.

CTLE results in a demonstrated increase in knowledge, understanding, and skillfulness, and educators and leaders are provided with opportunities to analyze, apply, and engage in research. CTLE sponsors identify additional, effective resources to support teaching and learning, including opportunities to engage and collaborate with parents, families, and other community members as active partners.

I want to commend Kim and Robin and their team for offering educators such exciting opportunities to learn about DEP and our mission, and for becoming a state-approved Continuing Teacher & Leader Education sponsor.

Spotlight on Safety

Slow Down! Be Alert! Safe Driving in Work Zones

April 8–12 is [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#). Federal Highway Administration data reveals that in the last five years, more than 4,400 persons died, and an additional 200,000 persons sustained injuries in work zone collision accidents. Causes include negligent acts by drivers such as speeding, not following the directions of signs or workers directing traffic, improper passing, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI), texting or other types of distracted driving, and driving in closed lanes. A typical work zone setup includes posting necessary signs to warn drivers about work zones, lane closures, traffic congestion, or

other possible obstacles, and directing traffic when necessary on one-lane roads. Therefore, we should be mindful of these precautionary measures when driving near work zones. Some tips for safe driving in work zones:

- expect the unexpected when approaching a work zone
- slow down, be alert, and pay attention to signs, including flaggers
- keep a safe distance

For more information, please see the [Federal Highway Administration Work Zone Safety for Drivers](#) and [DOT 10 Tips for Safe Driving in Work Zones](#).

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. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Trout Fishing Season Begins



To mark the start of trout-fishing season, DEP is encouraging anglers to [enjoy world-class fishing](#) on its upstate reservoirs and dozens of properties through the Catskills and Hudson Valley that include frontage along creeks and streams. For 2019, DEP has issued an updated [fishing brochure](#) that provides anglers with helpful information about permitting, fishing locations and more. Anglers can also find fishing areas by using the [RecMapper](#), an interactive map created by DEP to help outdoor enthusiasts pinpoint access at more than 400 recreation units across the watershed. [Angler maps](#) that show the water depths within each reservoir, as well as other recreation information, are also available at nyc.gov/dep/recreation. Fishing on all city-owned reservoirs and lakes, along with some recreation units along streams and creeks, requires a free DEP Access Permit. An access permit can be obtained through DEP's [online permitting system](#). Those with questions about permitting may also email recreation@dep.nyc.gov or call (800) 575-LAND.

Bald Eagles Thriving at Reservoirs



A visit to New York City's watershed on a cold, sunny day in January found 77 bald eagles hanging out on reservoirs in the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton Systems. The count was part of the 2019 National Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, a nationwide undertaking that started in 1979 and is an effort to understand trends in wintering eagle populations. For more than a decade, DEP scientists and employees on the designated survey day have eyeballed the City's 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes for wintering eagles. The City's watershed is appealing to both wintering eagles and nesting eagles. Reservoir spillways and releases provide open water where the birds can find fish during cold weather, and reservoir lands are generally undeveloped and provide quiet places to build a nest. The survey team on Jan. 11 counted 29 birds spread along Cannonsville Reservoir. On Feb. 22 when the entire region was iced over, 70 bald eagles congregated around the Cannonsville release. DEP's bald eagle count is done from the air and BWS teamed up with DEP Police for a daylong flyover in the police helicopter. Together, the police and biologists flew from New Croton Reservoir north and then west to the tip of Cannonsville Reservoir. Kensico and Schoharie reservoirs were surveyed from the ground.

Mid-Island Bluebelt Phase II Underway



DEP has begun working on the \$39 million Phase II of the New Creek Bluebelt on Staten Island. Located in the Dongan Hills and Grant City neighborhoods, where roadway flooding often occurs during heavy rainstorms, the project includes two—of what will eventually be 19—Bluebelt wetlands that will receive and naturally filter the stormwater that falls in the area. The work will also include the construction of more than three miles of new sewers and nearly two miles of water mains, as well as the addition of more than 80 catch basins and 35 fire hydrants. The project is being jointly funded by DEP and an \$11 million federal grant, which was secured by Senator Charles Schumer. DDC is managing the construction, which is anticipated to be completed in 2021.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 15 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Sally Kamel with ACCO; **Nekiesha M. Cornelius**, **Vanessa T. Deleon**, **Katherine A. Gomez**, **Christopher Rai**, **Sohan Singh**, **Michael E. Whaley** and **Ayisha S. Wint** with BCS; **David Lee** and **Jiayu Liu** with BEPA; **Bryan Birjandi** with BPS; **Erika M. Andujar** and **Eduard Kaylokov** with BWSO; **Reed A. Koenig** with Legal Affairs; and **Philip E. Akpan** with OACE.



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of sustainability. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by April 23 to values@dep.nyc.gov, and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.

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