

Commissioner's Corner



Since 2003, DEP has tripled the amount of City-owned water supply properties that are open for recreation to more than 125,500 acres. Of those acres open to recreation, 92,000 are land and 33,000 are water. Nearly half of the lands are considered public

access areas that are open to low-impact recreation without a DEP access permit. This year alone, the City opened access to 19 new parcels of watershed property totaling 4,180 acres, where outdoor enthusiasts can hike, fish, hunt and participate in other low-impact recreation.

To help support the tourism industry and local economies in the Catskills, DEP also offers a recreational boating program on four reservoirs during the warmer months. 2014 marked the third year of the expanded recreational boating program, which followed a three-year pilot that began in 2009 at Cannonsville Reservoir. This season, 1,182 visitors took advantage of the recreational boating program—an all-time high.

Last year, in partnership with the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC), DEP launched a program to provide easier boating access for visitors to the Catskills. CWC funded the acquisition of 30 storage racks and partnered with six different businesses to provide rental boats to visitors at 10 launch sites alongside the four reservoirs. The rental program has been a success and helps support local businesses by injecting thousands of dollars in new revenue into the economy.

During the fall and winter months, DEP lands attract thousands of visitors for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, and hiking. Earlier this year, DEP announced the opening of two new hiking trails: the Diverting Reservoir Trail, in Putnam County, and the Palmer



Hill Hiking Trail in Delaware County. Six other hiking trails, opened on water supply lands, are located in the Catskills. These include two hiking paths near Pepacton Reservoir in Delaware County, a nature trail alongside a school in Conesville in Schoharie County, and a walking and cross-country skiing trail near Windham in Greene County. All were built through partnerships with local nonprofit groups that focus on land conservation, hiking, and outdoor recreation.

If you would like to learn more about all of the recreational opportunities in New York City's watersheds, visit the [Watershed Recreation](#) section of DEP's website or check out the [2014 Watershed Recreation newsletter](#). A complete list of recreation units is also available [here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Scaffold Safety

According to the National Safety Council, protecting workers from scaffold-related accidents would prevent 4,500 injuries and 50 deaths every year. Most workers that are injured while using a scaffold attribute the accident to either the support giving way, or to the employee slipping or being struck by a falling object. A two-point suspended scaffold is the most common type of suspended work platform, typically used for window cleaning and restoration work. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that each employee on a two-point adjustable suspension scaffold must be

protected by both guardrail and personal fall arrest systems.

The following are important guidelines for safely using suspended scaffolds:

- The scaffold must be securely anchored to a structure that supports the weight of the scaffold and the workers.
- Workers must wear a full-body harness that is attached to a vertical lifeline, a horizontal lifeline, or a scaffold structural member.

View DEP's [Scaffolding and Aerial Lifts Policy](#) and [OSHA's Scaffolding eTool](#) for additional information.



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.

Something Fishy...



Each spring, for the past 12 years, DEP has joined students from schools in the City and the watersheds to release juvenile trout into watershed streams as part of the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. But, the TIC program actually kicks off in the fall, when DEP's Education staff holds workshops for teachers on how to guide their students through the process of raising the trout from eggs to fingerlings. Last week, DEP hosted a biologist from the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery, who demonstrated to groups of NYC students and teachers how the eggs are fertilized. The students took 100 fertilized brook trout eggs back to their classrooms and, throughout the school year, they will monitor and test the water to ensure the survival of the trout. This environmental education program serves as an interactive lesson about the importance of a community helping to protect and maintain NYC's unique water supply system. See more photos [here](#).

Free Flu Vaccine



The Mayor's Office, in collaboration with the Office of Labor Relations, has launched a Flu Vaccination Campaign. The following opportunities have been established for New York City employees to obtain a free flu vaccination:

- at a participating [pharmacy](#);
- from a doctor under your own health benefits plan;
- at an [Advantage Care Physician Facility](#).

Extra, Extra!



As part of a citywide water conservation initiative that aims to reduce consumption by five percent by 2018, DEP has developed the Municipal Water Efficiency Program to identify conservation opportunities at City-owned properties and facilities. Click the photo to see a video about the effort to install high-efficiency bathroom fixtures in 500 public schools across the city that will save 4 million gallons of water each school day. For those wishing to view the video outside of the office, you can watch it on our [YouTube channel](#).

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 17 new apprentice construction laborers 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!

Joseph Barillaro, Ian Brasche, Ronald Fitzpatrick, Darrin Henry, Kellis Huggins, Sherlan Isidore, Eric Jenkins, Jelani Khepera, Jeremy Mercado, Rafael Morato, Narendra Narine, Brian Ortega, Jimmy Payano, Lenny Rodriguez, Daniel Saunders, Andrew Shepherd and Keith Spellman, all with BWSO.

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