

## Dear Colleagues

*In honor of Administrative Professionals' day, observed on April 25, I'd like to pass along my gratitude to the many Administrative Professionals at DEP who provide essential services each day that keep the organization running smoothly. Our Administrative Professionals are typically behind the scenes, keeping the agency afloat and providing the critical support required to meet our mission. Their hard work and dedication make them the unsung heroes of our agency.*

*As I've said before, our City literally couldn't exist without the work we do and the Administrative Professionals of DEP are fundamental to delivering our vital services.*

*It is with sincere gratitude that I say thank you to all of our Administrative Professionals for a job well done!*

Best,



Vinny.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Recognizing Workers' Memorial Day

Each year, April 28 is observed as Workers' Memorial Day to honor those who have lost their lives or have been injured on the job and to renew the commitment to protect the safety and health of all workers. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 5,190 workers were killed on the job in 2016.

In 1970, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Since then, the average number of workplace fatalities and injuries that occur in the U.S. has been significantly reduced. DEP is committed to ensuring all employees remain safe on the job by implementing applicable safety regulations and policies, and providing resources for employees to report unsafe conditions. This includes the [Workplace Violence Prevention Program](#). DEP employees have the right—and are

encouraged—to report incidents or concerns about workplace violence without fear of retaliation.

The agency's [Employee Concerns Procedure \(ECP\)](#) is another option for employees to report unsafe conditions. DEP's ECP ensures that concerns reported by DEP employees or contractors are promptly reviewed and resolved. Directly report a concern or an EHS violation to your supervisor, Bureau EHS Safety Officer, or the **Employee Concerns Hotline (800) 897-9677** anytime. If you are a DEP contract employee, please call **(718) 595-4700**.

This week, please take the time to remember those we have lost and who have sustained injuries while on the job. Also, let us do our part to highlight safety concerns, work safely, and promote a safe working environment.

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.

## Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



**Angela Licata**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Sustainability

DEP is encouraging property owners to go green by [releasing a stream-lined green roof funding schedule](#) for its Green Infrastructure Grant Program. The funding schedule and project guidelines provide applicants with an upfront understanding of DEP's cost-effectiveness criteria for green roof projects, and eliminates uncertainty over how much funding may be available. By providing this information to applicants in advance, DEP is able to fast track green roof grant applications, with anticipated design approval within 90 days from the submittal date. The highest funding rate of \$30 per square foot (SF) is available for projects that include 3,500-20,000 SF of planted area and that have 4 inches of growing media depth, with reduced rates available for projects with shallower depths. For those projects meeting the requirements for \$30/SF, this is the highest green roof incentive in the nation.

### Reimbursement Rates (\$/SF) for Green Roof Projects

Soil Depth (in.)	3,500–20,000 (SF)*
1.5–1.99	\$10
2.0–2.99	\$15
3.0–3.99	\$25
4.0 +	\$30

\* The reimbursement rate for SF of planted area over 20,000 SF is calculated using 50% of the rate shown above

Projects with greater than 20,000 SF of planted area are also eligible

for funding, per the table above. The reduced \$/SF rate for planted area beyond 20,000 SF takes into account economies of scale that larger projects benefit from. Setting the funding schedule in this manner helps the agency maximize the cost-effectiveness of funding committed to green roof projects.

To date, DEP has committed more than \$14.5 million to 35 projects through the Green Infrastructure Grant Program. Not-for-profit organizations, private property owners, and businesses are eligible for funding for projects that use green infrastructure to reduce or manage stormwater on private property. Interested applicants can find more details at [nyc.gov/dep/grantprogram](http://nyc.gov/dep/grantprogram), or email [gigrant@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:gigrant@dep.nyc.gov) with questions.

Green roofs are an important part of achieving reductions in stormwater runoff, as rooftops account for a sizable portion of impervious area in New York City. We anticipate additional property owners will see the value to a green roof and will help us achieve our shared goal of a healthy environment. Thanks to **Pinar Balci, Margot Walker, Melissa Enoch, John McLaughlin, Eliot Nagele, and Miki Urisaka** for their efforts in streamlining this process. We would also like to thank members of our Green Infrastructure Research & Development consultant team, Arcadis and eDesign Dynamics, and academic partner Brooklyn College, for their work on this effort.





## Talking Rain Gardens in Bushwick



In recognition of Earth Day, members of Green Infrastructure Maintenance, BWSO, last Friday provided a demonstration of how rain gardens work to children from PS 75, Brooklyn. Approximately 20 students from the school's Sustainability Club visited the rain garden, which is adjacent to the school, and partook in the presentation. The children learned how storm water enters and infiltrates the rain gardens, what tools are used to maintain them, and how they improve the health of Newtown Creek. Representing DEP were **Ben Basalla-Taxis**, **Sammy Caban**, **Josuel Fernandez**, **Jeromy James** and **Tasha Bussey**. More photos and a video can be viewed on [Flickr](#).

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 11 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, Recruitment Coordinator **Briana Lomax-Day**, and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Jignesh Patel** and **Eduardo Pinzon Arias** with BEDC; **Himal Patel**, **Rashaan T. Ryan** and **Owen L. Sandord** with BWS; **Carol Alves**, **Joseph A. Crupi** and **Sherajul Haque** with BWSO; **Ramesh K. Shamasasthy** and **Jiranya Sriparkhao** with CFO; and **Denis T. Brogan** with Labor Relations & Discipline.

## Green Playground for Flushing



DEP and The Trust for Public Land recently broke ground on the construction of a new, state-of-the-art green playground at I.S. 250Q - The Robert F. Kennedy Community School, which will serve both the school and surrounding community, and bring nearly 17,000 residents within a 10-minute walk of a park. Once completed, the [\\$1.2 million playground](#) will incorporate new green infrastructure elements including a rain garden, turf field, trees and permeable pavement, in addition to a running track, basketball practice hoops, tennis courts, outdoor classroom space, game tables, and new fitness equipment.

## Newtown Creek Hosts Earth Day



Approximately 300 people enjoyed the Earth Day Digester Egg Tours held this past Saturday at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant is home to eight futuristic stainless steel-clad digesters that play a critical role in New York City's wastewater treatment process. The tour included an overview of the wastewater treatment process and a visit to the observation deck atop the eggs, which offer unobstructed views of the iconic Manhattan skyline.

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