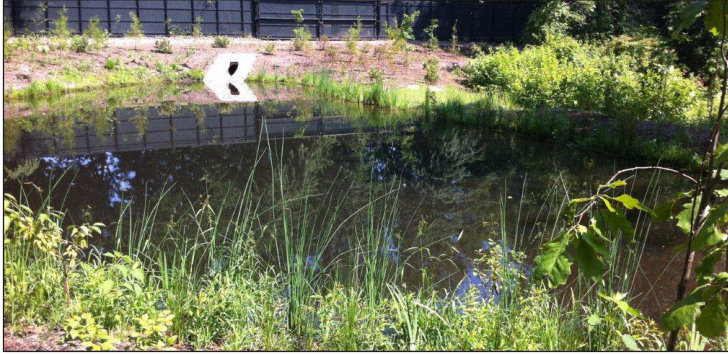


## Southern Boulevard Bluebelt Now Ready for Its Closeup



**D**EP's award winning, ecologically sound, and cost-effective Bluebelt stormwater management system has made its debut in the Bronx. The engineered wetland, completed earlier this year at the New York Botanical Garden, uses green infrastructure principles to prevent flooding on Southern Boulevard and helps clean stormwater before it ends up in New York harbor.

Four new catch basins along Southern Boulevard convey

stormwater into a stilling basin at the deepest section of the new wetland. Suspended solids and other debris settle in the basin and are collected. The basin provides a pre-treatment of sorts and helps improve the quality of any water that overflows into the Garden's Upper Twin Lake. The wetland has the capacity to hold roughly 82,000 gallons of stormwater. In addition to storing stormwater, more than 3,000

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### Reduce Stress - Take an email vacation

A recent study by the University of California, Irvine and United States Army researchers found that being cut off from email can significantly reduce stress and allow employees to focus better. Of the employees studied, those who had no email reported feeling "better able to do their jobs and stay on task, with fewer stressful and time-wasting interruptions."

Although abandoning email completely is not an option, employees can take small steps to help reduce the stresses caused by overreliance and over atten-

tion to email communications.

- Schedule email log-in times, or batch messages by sending them four or five times a day, rather than continually.
- Look for alternative ways to communicate your message. Use the telephone or get up and speak to the person face to face, if he or she is located in a nearby cubicle.

For more information and other tips to reduce email related stress, visit Science Daily [🔗](#) and the New York Times [🔗](#).

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

DEP's top priority is providing clean, fresh, great tasting water to more than nine million New Yorkers every day, and we must ensure that we conserve the precious resource of NYC Water wherever we can. As we prepare to temporarily shut down the Delaware Aqueduct for repair in late 2020, we have set discrete conservation goals that can be accomplished citywide through multi-faceted strategies and interagency cooperation.

Last Thursday, Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner **Adrian Benepe** joined me at Glendale playground to announce installation of timers on playground sprinklers to ensure they are turned on only when in use, reducing wasteful water consumption [🔗](#). These automatic shut-off timers will aid in our effort to reduce consumption by 5% citywide as part of the Water for the Future program. The timers—the first of 400 scheduled for completion by 2017—have been installed as a pilot program at Maple and Glendale playgrounds in Queens. Without timers and reactivation buttons, the playground showers at Glendale playground use approximately 7,000 gallons of water per day, and the timers will reduce that consumption by 80%, saving 5,600 gallons per day. Projected across the 400 playgrounds in the program, the effort will reduce citywide consumption by 1.5 million gallons per day. Reducing consumption creates extra capacity in our local sewer systems, which will help prevent flooding during heavy rain and ease pressure on the city's wastewater treatment plants. These retrofits are an example of how we are working with our partner agencies to conserve NYC Water—one of our most precious resources.

Every summer, DEP welcomes a fresh crop of interns to our ranks for ten weeks, and last Thursday they made presentations about their projects to DEP employees, including senior staff. We didn't waste their time, and ours, on projects that would languish in the files, but rather had them work on meaningful, actionable projects that advance the agency's strategic goals. For example,



interns in BWT helped design a rooftop walkway for the upcoming solar panel installation at Port Richmond WWTP. Architecture interns helped remodel the 3rd floor cafeteria at Lefrak City headquarters, while EHS interns developed a new assistance tool for computer-based training. Interns across the agency worked on a number of DEP initiatives, including: Water for the Future; City Water Tunnel No. 3; environmental health and safety compliance; Croton Water Filtration Plant startup; Asset Management; and green infrastructure. Thanks to everyone at DEP for providing our summer interns with a welcoming and productive environment, and best of luck to our new colleagues as their summer concludes and they continue their education.

On Sunday, DEP honored another great summer tradition by helping to clean some of our local beaches. Events were held at Gerritsen, Kaiser Park and Plumb beaches in Brooklyn, Pugsley Creek Park beach in the Bronx, Conference House Beach in Staten Island, and Rockaway Beach in Queens. Clean beaches mean clean water, and that's always our number one goal.



## Focus on the Field

During his 20 years at DEP, landscape architect **Dean Cavallaro** has directed many stormwater management projects where form meets function, and engineering meets art. Currently, Cavallaro is the Deputy Chief of the Staten Island Bluebelt, a large-scale system of stormwater management practices designed to lessen runoff by utilizing wetlands. The system combines traditional piping with man-made wetlands to preserve and enhance natural drainage corridors, including streams, ponds, marshes, and other wetland areas. Taken together these systems have proven better able to convey, store and filter the area's stormwater.



its many landmarked buildings, Cavallaro knew that DEP's work had to be done with great sensitivity. Working with museum staff, they enlarged Mill Pond for stormwater detention, tunneled under Richmond Creek to install sanitary sewers and laid storm sewer pipes that, taken as a whole, improved stream habitat while effectively handling the stormwater. Acknowledging the historic nature of the facility, Cavallaro and his team incorporated authentic 1800's detailing on all site features and preserved Staten Island's oldest stone arch bridge, built in 1845.

Cavallaro's leadership relies on collaboration. He notes, "I work with creative, motivated professionals who take great pride in constructing stormwater detention systems that prevent flooding while preserving the natural habitat. The finished product is a testament to the creativity and problem-solving skills of the entire team."

The team's work at Historic Richmond Town, a museum that re-enacts rural life on Staten Island in the 1800's, is one such example. With a drainage corridor running through the center of the museum's grounds, and

In addition to spending time with his wife and daughters, Cavallaro enjoys swimming, kayaking, hiking and gardening. He also leads a Bible study group and mentors men with substance and alcohol abuse issues.

## Kudos Corner



On Sunday, August 12, DEP staff helped coordinate cleanups at six local beach and shoreline areas, including Pugsley Creek Park in the Bronx, Conference House in Staten Island, Rockaway Beach in Queens, and Gerritsen Beach, Plumb Beach, and Kaiser Park in Brooklyn. Thanks to BCIA's **Effie Ardizzone, Karen Ellis, Denise Hubbard, Fred Edmond, Lillie Farrell, and Lakeisha Bradshaw** for coordinating and managing successful cleanups at their respective locations, and to clean-up volunteers **Charles Sturcken, John McLaughlin, Barbara Raffo, Dean Walcott, Philip Panicker, and James Carman.**

## Kodak Moment



Water-On-the-Go now has a first of its kind.

(Southern Boulevard Bluebelt Now Ready for Its Closeup... continued)

native plants, shrubs and trees were planted to help clean the water and create a habitat for animals such as ducks, turtles and frogs.



In addition to the new wetlands, DEP installed a new storm sewer system with improved catch basins and raised curbing along Southern Boulevard. The catch basins have smaller openings than traditional ones, which prevents debris from entering the system and being transported into the stormwater wetland, adjacent Upper Twin Lake, and eventually into the Bronx River.

\$2.5 million capital improvement project restored and repaired the park's perimeters, lake, ravines and side slopes. Thousands of new trees were planted and storm sewers were installed near the park to better control runoff and prevent erosion.

The Bluebelt program has been used successfully to manage and clean stormwater for decades on Staten Island. For as much as one third of Staten Island, stormwater is channeled into natural drainage corridors including streams, ponds and other wetland areas, instead of into storm sewers.

The Bluebelt Program preserves wetland areas to perform their natural functions of conveying, storing, and filtering stormwater. It is a sustainable and cost-effective way to manage stormwater and has the added benefit of providing important community spaces and a habitat for wildlife.

Last year, The Bluebelt principles were applied to alleviate a persistent flooding problem around Oakland Lake in Queens. The

## Press Box

"In Queens it was all business as community volunteers cleaned up the shore...." from Channel 4 coverage of the city's August 12 beach cleanup at Rockaway Beach

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