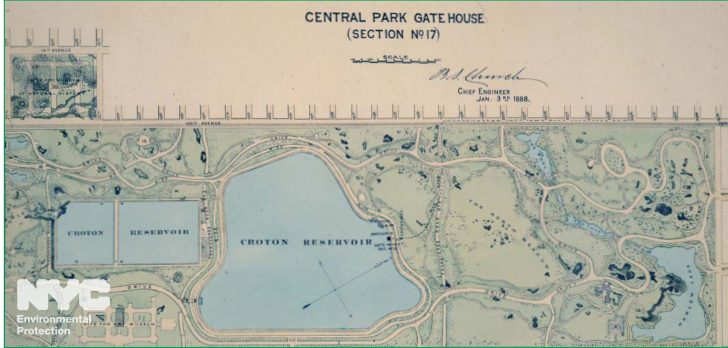


## Old Croton Aqueduct Turns 175



This month marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first flow of water from the Old Croton Aqueduct into New York City's water distribution system. The arrival of pristine water from Westchester County's Croton River on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1842 was one of the most significant events in the city's history, with more than 25,000 people gathering to witness the opening of the gates that released the water from the aqueduct into the receiving reservoir at 86<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. [Click here](#) to read more about this major engineering achievement and momentous occasion. Although the Old Croton Aqueduct stopped delivering water to New York City in the 1950s, its watershed and the reservoirs in it continue to be a critical component of the city's current day water supply.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Conserving Energy in Summer Months

Using lights is something that we all do every day, usually without considering how much energy is being exhausted. According to a Tufts University study, approximately 25% of generated electricity in the United States is consumed by lighting functions. In addition, overuse of air conditioners in hot weather demand a lot of power, which can lead to power surges, brown outs and black outs. Power surges can damage appliances and create hazardous situations, while power outages can lead to public health emergencies.

There are simple ways to reduce the amount of energy we use in our homes and workplace:

- turn off lights when leaving rooms or workspaces

- if you work in an office, arrange an "Earth Hour" where lights are turned off
- cover windows with drapes or shades to keep sun out and make rooms cooler
- use energy efficient appliances and light bulbs
- on non-workdays, consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities, to reduce your use of air conditioners

By reducing the amount of electricity used for lighting and air conditioners, you can help lower energy costs, reduce your carbon footprint and prevent power outages. For more information, visit [Con Edison's website](#).

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

**Tasos Georgelis**, DEP's Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations, is a guest commentator this week.

Last week **Mayor de Blasio** announced that DEP will begin a new groundwater feasibility study in southeast Queens. As residents of the area can attest, the groundwater table has steadily risen over the last two decades and there are a number of properties that report water rising up through their basement foundations. Many property owners have installed pumping systems that discharge the water into the sewer system, thereby reducing the capacity of the drainage system and exacerbating roadway flooding. To better understand how to best address basement flooding in southeast Queens, we will be undertaking a new feasibility study for a groundwater drainage project. The study will measure how high the groundwater table has risen, how much it must be lowered in order to mitigate the basement flooding, and the feasibility of a radial collection plan.

Prior to development, much of southeast Queens was composed of wetlands and streams that drained into Jamaica Bay. In order to construct John F. Kennedy Airport and the buildings that make up the neighborhood today, the wetlands and streams were filled with soil. Today those drainage corridors still exist, however now they run beneath streets and homes. Overlaying a map of reports of basement flooding with the location of these historical drainage corridors shows there is a significant correlation. If the study shows favorable conditions, We would like to construct a radial collection system, or perforated buried pipes, along these historical areas to drain the groundwater to a local waterbody. Any plan would require approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

I'd like to thank all of the staff in BWSO who are working hard to address these issues that directly affect the quality of life for residents of southeast Queens.



## *Sewer Extensions in Southeast Queens*



The Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations recently completed several construction projects that were part of a [\\$2.5 million infrastructure investment in southeast Queens](#) designed to improve drainage and help alleviate localized flooding. Projects included installation of new catch basins and sewer extensions throughout the neighborhoods of St. Albans, Jamaica, South Jamaica, Laurelton and Rosedale. This work is part of Mayor de Blasio's \$1.7 billion capital commitment to address flooding in southeast Queens.

## *Pets Love NYC Water Too!*



DEP will be distributing 2,000 new [reusable, collapsible water bowls for pets](#) this summer at select [Water-On-the-Go](#) fountains. These bright blue NYC Water bowls will provide pet owners with a healthy, environmentally friendly way for their animal companions to beat the heat and lap up some of New York City's award winning tap water. The bowls were given out for the first time last week at Queens Borough Hall and will next be available on a first-come, first-served basis at select portable NYC Water drinking fountains set up during the New York City Department of Transportation's [Summer Streets](#) events. Both owner and pet must be present in order to receive a collapsible NYC Water bowl.

## *Helping Improve the Streams Upstate*



This past April, members of New York City Trout Unlimited contributed time, muscle, equipment and seedlings to improve an area of stream along the Muscote River, just downstream of Amawalk Reservoir. With support from national Trout Unlimited, the NYC chapter planted nearly 150 native trees and shrubs that were purchased through an Arbor Day Foundation grant. These riparian plantings improve water quality, fish habitat and the stability of stream banks. DEP is fortunate to partner with so many organizations that help us protect and improve our natural resources.

## *Farm Fresh Food Available at Lefrak*



The Bureau of OD&HR and DEP's Quality of Work Life Committee have partnered with WorkWellNYC and the Corbin Hill Food Project to launch a Farm Share Pilot Program at Lefrak. If this pilot is successful, the program will be instituted agency-wide! Individuals who wish to participate can purchase SHARES [here](#) and can pick up their SHARE in Lefrak's 3rd Floor Employee Lounge every Monday between 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. beginning now through November 13. If you have any further questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to **Renee M. Alfieri**, Director of Employee Engagement & Wellness Programs, at x5827. Additionally, Renee can always use assistance with distribution on Monday's. Please contact her if you are available to help out.

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