

Commissioner's Corner



I joined yesterday with **Mayor Bill de Blasio** and NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver** to announce that 11 parks are being added to the Community Parks Initiative portfolio. With 67 total parks

now a part of the [Community Parks Initiative \(CPI\)](#), the city will be making a major parks equity investment of \$318 million to revitalize everyday community parks that have received less than \$250,000 over the

past 20 years. CPI receives capital program support for many of these sites from DEP, which has committed \$50 million in funding for the construction of green infrastructure installations. In addition, CPI parks also receive support from city and state elected officials, sister agencies including HPD, as well as Parks-related conservancies and private developers

Launched by Mayor de Blasio in October 2014, CPI is a multi-faceted investment in the neighborhood/local parks that are located in New York City's densely populated and growing neighborhoods where there are higher-than-average concentrations of poverty. CPI is one of the largest data-driven park equity programs in the nation, with 500,000 New Yorkers within a short walk of one of the parks. CPI is NYC Parks' first major equity initiative and part of the Mayors OneNYC: The Plan for a Strong and Just City.

In July, DEP attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the [Henry M. Jackson Playground](#) on the Lower East Side, the first neighborhood playground in Manhattan to be fully reconstructed under the Community Parks Initiative (CPI). The improvements were funded by a \$1.9 million allocation through Mayor de Blasio's Community Parks Initiative, along with funding from NYC Parks' Parks Without Borders initiative, and nearly \$400,000 from DEP for green infrastructure improvements to absorb stormwater and improve the health of the East River. At this particular site, DEP coordinated the installation of new green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff, including a storm chamber, permeable pavements and planting beds



with shrubs, small trees and perennials, that are able to capture up to 45,000 gallons of stormwater with each rainfall.

Each CPI park boasts some element of green infrastructure to help manage the precipitation that falls on the parks, and some of the surrounding streets, keeping it out of the combined sewer system and helping to reduce combined sewer overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall. New York City has the most ambitious and aggressive green infrastructure program in the nation, with thousands of installations currently under construction across the city. In addition to managing stormwater, green infrastructure helps to improve air quality while also providing shade and lowering summertime temperatures.

The Community Parks Initiative enables DEP to effectively partner with other City agencies so that New Yorkers get the biggest bang for their buck. DEP is proud to fund the construction of green infrastructure within each CPI park, which will help to improve the health of local waterways and provide vital recreational amenities to communities that need them the most.

Spotlight on Safety

Lead Acid Battery Safety

Lead acid batteries are used extensively in cars, emergency power backup systems, trucks, electric forklifts, and various other motorized equipment. When servicing a lead acid battery, contact with sulfuric acid solution can cause irritation or burns to eyes and skin, and fumes can cause irritation to the upper respiratory system.

Batteries also have a potential electrical shock hazard, especially when connected in a series such as emergency power backup systems. Batteries also have the risk of explosion under adverse conditions such as improper electrical connections.

The following steps can help to minimize hazards associated with servicing and changing lead acid batteries:

- wear appropriate personal protective equipment such as goggles, face shield, and chemical resistant apron

- use insulated tools
- remove metallic items such as jewelry from hands, wrists and neck, as these may cause short circuits
- ensure there is adequate ventilation in the area
- charge batteries with flame-arresting caps in place if provided and do not pry caps off sealed batteries
- ensure a portable or fixed eye-wash station is available in the vicinity

All lead acid batteries must be properly recycled, and never put in regular trash. Personal car batteries can normally be returned to automotive service facilities. DEP facilities must dispose of batteries utilizing the procedures highlighted in the [DEP Universal and Electronic Waste Management Policy](#).

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.



Far Rockaway Infrastructure Upgrade



The New York City Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Design and Construction (DDC) recently completed a [\\$25 million infrastructure upgrade](#) project in Far Rockaway, Queens. As part of the project, 5,230 linear feet of storm sewers, 7,978 linear feet of sanitary sewers and 7,168 linear feet of new, stronger ductile iron water mains were installed. Funding for the project was provided by DEP, and DDC managed the construction.

The 411 on the EAP for DEP

A note from **Kaitlyn Maceira**, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program.

With summer over and everyone falling back into their normal routine, I wanted to use this month's Pipeline as a refresher of EAP services and our commitment to DEP. The New York City Employee Assistance Program (NYC EAP) is a confidential, problem-solving program available to all DEP employees and their family members. The NYC EAP offers non-discriminatory counseling, information, and referrals to help resolve both personal and professional problems. NYC EAP counselors have referral sources to address the needs of children, young adults, adults and elders suffering from mental illness, physical illness, substance abuse and other social service needs. With NYC EAP, clients receive a full assessment, a treatment plan is explored and developed with the employee at time of assessment and all referral services are arranged for non-working hours. The NYC EAP offers consultations to supervisors and agency management in addition

tion to supervisory, wellness and effective communication trainings. The EAP connects and interacts with an agency's EEO and disciplinary units when needed to advocate for an employee and EAP will respond and offer support, on site, to traumatic events at the workplace. Employees will speak directly with a counselor when they call the office to set up an appointment and your time with us is covered as an excused absence in City Time. The NYC EAP office is located in Downtown Manhattan at 250 Broadway and as a way to make ourselves more available to DEP employees, the NYC EAP has office hours at various DEP sites throughout the month. On the first and third Wednesday of every month I will be at Sutton Park in Valhalla, on the second Wednesday of every month I will be in Kingston and on the last Wednesday of every month I will be at LeFrak. At any other time, EAP services are available over the phone or via WebEx. All appointments can be made by calling 212-306-7660 or emailing eap@olr.nyc.gov.

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

Fourth Annual Reservoir Cleanup Day

Hundreds of volunteers are expected to participate in DEP's [fourth Reservoir Cleanup Day](#) this upcoming Sunday, Oct. 1. Cleanups this year will happen at Ashokan, Cannonsville and Pepacton reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains, and at East Branch, Kensico, Lake Gleneida, Muscoot and New Croton reservoirs in the Hudson Valley. To help reach volunteers, DEP has worked with local nonprofits, schools and community groups for the cleanup effort at each reservoir. Those who wish to volunteer can also reach out to DEP by calling 800-575-LAND or by emailing watershedevents@dep.nyc.gov. Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Registration links for each cleanup can be found by visiting [DEP's watershed Facebook page](#).

DEP at National Operators Challenge



The Jamaica Sludge Hustlers will compete in the National Operations Challenge being held next Monday and Tuesday at the Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) in Chicago. The team will go up against other operators from across the country and around the globe in five events—collection systems, laboratory, process control, maintenance and safety. The team has already notched first place wins at both the local and state competitions held earlier this summer. Please join us in wishing the best of luck to our team: **Ettore Antenucci, Robert Ferland, Anthony Petrone, and Yu-Tung Chan**, along with coaches **Joe Atkins** and **Howard Robinson**.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 28 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development and Human Resources **Diana Jones Ritter**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Jasmine Narang with ACCO; **Scott Dimino**, **Omesh Mangra**, **Rohan Rolle**, **Michael Ross**, **Edward Rutledge** and **Edwin Torres** with BCS; **Chinyere Nwabeke** with BEDC; **Saidan Qj** and **Erika Scelfo** with BEPA; **Marina Levy** with BPAC; **Eugene S. Kruchowy** and **Chantal Lizzi** with BWS; **Mark Cortez**, **Brett L. Edwards**, **Richard J. Lakatos**, **Joyce D. Novak**, **Patrick Sorger** and **Raymond Stiles** with BWSO; **Sunny Aggarwal**, **Bilal Key** and **Mitchell Seminario** with BWT; **Antonio Marra** with CFO/FMC; **Jonathan Cojuangco** with FDC; **Irina Yadgarova** with Legal Affairs; **Helene A. Abiola** and **Debra Arnold** with OD&HR; and **Kirill I. Kostyanovsky** with Sustainability.