

Commissioner's Corner

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to testify before the City Council's Finance and Environmental Protection Committees concerning the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Executive Budget. Our budget outlines the department's priorities for the next several years, and I wanted to share the same information with all of you. Our expense budget for FY18 includes \$534 million to pay the salaries of our nearly 6,000 employees, \$166 million for taxes on upstate lands that protect water quality, \$93 million for energy costs and \$107 million for chemicals and biosolids. Our Ten-Year Capital Plan budget for FY18-27 is \$18.1 billion, including:

City Water Tunnel No. 3

In 2013, we activated the final leg of the Manhattan portion of the tunnel and laid the groundwork to get water flowing into the Brooklyn-Queens leg of the tunnel. The tunnel and most of the infrastructure shafts that support it are com-

plete—just two shafts remain to be designed and constructed.

As part of this year's Preliminary Capital Budget submission, the Mayor allocated an additional \$300 million needed for the installation of mechanical and electrical equipment for the two shafts. This funding keeps us on schedule to begin construction of the shafts in 2020.

Catskill Aqueduct Reconstruction Kensico to Hillview

This summer will mark the 100-year anniversary of the opening of the Catskill Aqueduct. Many of the components of the aqueduct are nearing the end of their useful life and require repair, reconstruction, or replacement. The capital plan includes \$126 million (all added prior to this Executive Budget) to fund the structural reconstruction, replacement of mechanical equipment, and building reconstruction of the Lower Catskill Aqueduct.



Southeast Queens

Alleviating flooding in Southeast Queens is a major priority for Mayor de Blasio and DEP. In 2015, the Mayor announced a \$1.5 billion program to substantially accelerate relief in Southeast Queens by pairing traditional sewer construction with green infrastructure throughout the region. To date, DEP has committed \$229 million to this work. So, this Ten-Year Plan has \$1.6 billion funded, bringing the total expected commitments for Southeast Queens to \$1.8 billion.

Wastewater Treatment

DEP plans to invest \$6.7 billion in wastewater treatment projects, \$3.9 billion of which is for the reconstruction or replacement of components of the wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations.

This Plan includes \$33 million for the construction of a new cogeneration system at the North River plant.

The remaining \$2.8 billion investment will be used to mitigate combined sewer overflows, with \$946 million for green infrastructure and the remainder for gray infrastructure.

A significant part of our wastewater treatment budget is \$1.8 billion in funding to cover planned consent-order work related to the Long-Term Control Plans (LTCPs) for combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and storm-water control.

Reservoirs, Dams, Treatment Facilities and Water Mains

Over the next 10 years, DEP proposes to invest \$4.1 billion to pro-

tect the quality of our reservoirs and the integrity of our dams, provide for treatment where necessary, and maintain and repair the water main system conveying potable water to all New Yorkers. We have budgeted \$1 billion for the reconstruction of dams in our three watersheds—Catskill, Delaware, and Croton.

The Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair

The Delaware Aqueduct conveys more than half of New York City's high-quality drinking water every day from reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains and repairing it is the central component of the \$1.5 billion program, \$1.0 billion of which is for construction, which aims to ensure clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. Although this project extends even beyond the current Plan, the Executive Budget provides \$201 million for projects associated with its repair related to conservation and providing supplemental sources of water during the Delaware Aqueduct shutdown. Increasing the capacity of the Catskill Aqueduct—a project distinct from pressurization—accounts for \$155 million of the above total.

Sewers

The Executive FY18-27 Capital Plan projects \$4.3 billion of spending on sewers including:

- \$1.9 billion for replacement of sewers (storm, sanitary or combined);
- \$2.1 billion for new sewers (of all types) of which;
 - Storm sewers account for \$1.7 billion of projected spending, of which \$114 million is for high-level storm sewers; and
 - \$394 million of the total is for both the conventional sewers and the lands necessary to create Bluebelt systems

All of us here at DEP play an important role in protecting public health and the environment in New York City and I'd like to thank everyone at the agency for your hard work and dedication to our critical mission. The entire budget testimony can be viewed [here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

National Fall Prevention Stand-Down Week

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) observes National Fall Prevention Stand-Down week from May 8th –12th to raise fall hazard awareness. Fall prevention is not only the most violated OSHA standard, but also the leading cause of deaths in the construction industry. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 37% of the construction fatalities in 2015 were related to falls from elevation.

Fall fatalities are preventable. Therefore, to stop fall fatalities and injuries, OSHA requires:

- Fall protection at elevations of 4 feet in general industry

workplaces and 6 feet in the construction industry

- Fall protection when working over dangerous equipment and machinery, regardless of the fall distance
- Informing employees about fall hazards, the importance of fall prevention, protective methods, and bureau policies.

If you have a concern regarding potential fall hazards take the opportunity to speak to your supervisor or bureau EHS representative. To learn more about the event, visit OSHA websites on [National Fall Prevention Stand-Down](#) and [Fall Protection](#).

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.

Upgrade Tests at New Croton Dam



The \$13.4 million project to [upgrade the release works at New Croton Dam](#) is entering its final phase as DEP will be testing the release valves and gates during four days from May 15–18. While the new release works are tested, the flow of water within the Croton River will increase and fluctuate throughout the day. To ensure public safety, DEP has shared information about the test with local elected officials, police and emergency responders, local journalists, angling and boating groups, and members of the public through social media and other outlets. DEP will also post signs at parks, beaches and other points of public access along the Croton River before the valve testing begins. The project, which began in 2013, included the replacement of hand-operated gates and valves that were installed at the dam when it was constructed in the late 1890s and early 1900s. The dam was completed in 1905. The new release works include three steel gates that can be lifted and lowered by new operators to release water into the river below the dam. Each of the gates is 6 feet tall. The flow of water through those gates is further controlled by nine new valves—ranging in size from 12 inches to 48 inches—that were installed within the dam.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 17 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources and Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell**, Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** and HR Specialist **Grace France**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Dylan Adler and **Fatima Shahzad** with BEDC; **Andrew Bell**, **Cody Brueckner**, **Jon-Thomas Ferraro**, **Karen E. Marron**, **David A. McCutcheon**, **Gregory Mudge** and **Connor Wrixon** with BWS; **Meredith Mandel** with BWSO; **Ahadov Mustafokul** with BWT; **Janeen Barnwell**, **Enes Dervisevic**, **Ariana Fodera**, **Erica Wade** and **Tyronne Zamminer** with CDBG; and **Brian P. Malone** with Sustainability.

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

NYC Schoolkids Release Trout



DEP has once again partnered with Trout Unlimited, a national grassroots non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds, to teach young New Yorkers, ranging from pre-K to grade 12, about the connections between trout and the New York City water supply system. This year, more than 3,000 students from schools in New York City and the upstate watersheds incubated trout eggs in their classrooms and raised them into juvenile trout, which are also called fingerlings. The 8-month long program culminates with students taking part in a field day, where they release the fingerlings into New York City watershed streams April through June. On May 1, pre-K students from PS 251 in Brooklyn released nearly 50 fingerlings into the Cross River where it passes through the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Westchester County on its way to the Cross River Reservoir and then to NYC. Later in the week, on May 5, that same location was visited by sixth grade students from Academy of Medical Technology Middle School in Far Rockaway, Queens, who released nearly 20 fingerlings into the Cross River.

Indian Delegation Visits Watershed



A group of 10 environment, forest and climate change experts from India toured the Catskill-Delaware watershed in April to learn about the partnership programs that DEP sponsors to protect drinking water at its source. The group met with officials from the Bureau of Water Supply, Catskill Watershed Corporation, Watershed Agricultural Council, and the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. Their visit was arranged through USAID with help from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Open Weekend at Jerome Park Reservoir

The grounds of Jerome Park Reservoir in the Bronx will be open for special limited access recreation on the weekend of May 20 and 21 from 10am until 2pm. Members of the public will have the opportunity to walk or jog around the 2-mile perimeter of the Reservoir. Phones, bags and cameras will not be permitted on the Reservoir grounds. There will be an opportunity to check phones, but visitors should not bring bags or cameras. Access to the Reservoir Grounds will be through an entrance adjacent to the Gatehouse located on the west side of Goulden Avenue, just south of 205th Street. A similar event held the weekend of Nov. 19 and 20 was a big success with the community, as a total of 210 people, including local families, politicians, birdwatchers, and runners all enjoyed a chance to visit the 93-acre Reservoir.