

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

This morning I had the pleasure of joining Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, Brooklyn Borough President **Eric Adams** and Council Member **Rafael Espinal** at Thomas Boyland Park in Bushwick to break ground on the first Community Parks Initiative (CPI) upgrade. CPI is a citywide program that will improve historically underfunded parks in densely populated and growing neighborhoods with higher-than-average concentrations of poverty. In total, CPI will invest \$285 million in capital funding through 2019 to improve neighborhoods' quality of life by revitalizing 67 community parks that have not undergone significant improvements in decades. CPI is part of OneNYC, the mayor's plan for a just and strong New York City.

DEP supports CPI because it provides us with a terrific opportunity to expand our portfolio of green infrastructure installations. To this end, we have pledged approximately \$36 million to fund the construction of green infrastructure within the selected

parks. The green infrastructure will manage at least the first inch of rain that falls on each park, and we are also working to direct stormwater from adjacent streets to the green infrastructure within the parks. By keeping the stormwater out of the sewer system, we will help to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows and improve the health of local waterways. The new green infrastructure at Thomas Boyland Park will help to reduce pollution in Newtown Creek. The ancillary benefits of green infrastructure, including increased shade, lower summertime temperatures and cleaner air will also be welcome additions to these neighborhoods.

In addition to CPI, we are working with the Department of Education and the Trust for Public Land to build green infrastructure in school playgrounds, and we are also partnering with the New York City Housing Authority to add green infrastructure at their properties. This work complements our ongoing construction of thousands of curbside rain gardens, as well as the grant program that provides funding to private property owners to build green infrastructure.



Over the past 12 months, under the leadership and vision of **John McLaughlin** and in partnership with the Parks Department, **Thewodros 'Teddy' Geberemariam** has worked almost single-handedly to review 29 CPI stormwater sites, from conceptual designs to 100 percent construction documents. These reviews have led to the implementation of improved design features that are more cost-

effective, sustainable and can be replicated in other locations around the city. I would also like to give a warm welcome to the newest members of the CPI engineering design and construction oversight team including **Paul E. Wojtal**, **Kent Pan** and **Phillip J. Wong**. I know that Teddy will guide these newest members as we advance our mission of improving the health of New York Harbor.

Spotlight on Safety

It's Still Mosquito Season: Report Standing Water!

Since the last Spotlight on Safety column on Zika virus, there have been several cases of local transmission reported in Florida. Health experts in New York do not expect local transmission of Zika to become a reality in the Northeast, but even so, NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene has implemented additional testing, treatment, surveillance, and education measures. However, it is important to remember that West Nile transmission remains a risk in our area. Mosquitos lay their eggs in standing or slow moving water, which can accumulate in unused tires, cans, clogged gutters, debris, and potholes. DEP facilities can do their part to reduce the mosquito population by identifying and addressing overgrown

weeds and other areas where rainwater regularly collects.

Facilities should monitor the presence of standing water that persists past a few days after a rain event and take action to remove the water and/or unclog associated drains. For areas that present difficulties in removal, facilities should contact their exterminator to apply a larvicide or reach out to **Sheranne Wickham** in FMC for guidance. For large or more complex standing water conditions, please notify **Persis Luke**. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will then be contacted for additional assistance. Employees should report standing water to their supervisor, facilities coordinator, or EHS Officer. If out in public areas, call 311.



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.

Not Baaaa-d Work If You Can Get It



DEP has deployed 14 sheep to a grassy field downstream of Neversink Dam in Sullivan County as part of a [pilot program](#) to maintain the 50-acre field by rotational grazing instead of mechanical mowing. The pilot—which is consistent with the City’s goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cut its use of fossil fuels—will continue for the next year, and it could be expanded to maintain other water supply properties if the trial is successful. The Icelandic sheep will graze within an approximately 1,000-square-foot, movable fence that includes a portable shelter for shade and protection from storms. A source of clean drinking water will also move with the sheep as they graze. The portable fence and sheep will be moved every two days to maintain the entire 50-acre area through October. Studies have shown that rotational grazing limits the use of heavy machinery, fuel, and chemicals; reduces greenhouse gas emissions; suppresses invasive plants and increases biodiversity; and allows manpower to be used for other projects.

Bring Your Fishing Pole to Pepacton

DEP will host [Family Fishing Day](#) at Pepacton Reservoir on Sunday, August 14. The event is being co-sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which will supply fishing poles and bait to those who do not have their own. Participants can get their free DEP Access Permit and print it from home by visiting: nyc.gov/dep/accesspermit.

Let’s Hit the Trails



DEP and the Catskill Mountain Club were joined by more than three dozen hikers on July 29 to celebrate the opening of a [new trail](#) to the summit of Bramley Mountain in Delhi. The 4-mile loop trail, located off Glen Burnie Road, traverses thick forests, a former bluestone quarry, and grassy fields. Hikers who reach the summit can see portions of the Catskill High Peaks and surrounding farmland.

Take the Kids to Dynamic H₂O



The engaging and interactive ‘[Dynamic H₂O](#)’ outdoor water exhibit now featured at the Children’s Museum of Manhattan continues to garner great press, most recently from the [New York Times](#). The impressive installation teaches children about New York City’s complex water supply system and was made possible with support from DEP and the Catskill Watershed Corporation. The exhibit is open through September and the museum is located at 212 West 83rd Street.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday 19 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** and Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources and Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Marcello Rios with ACCO; **Melvin Patterson** with BCS; **Matthew Litman** and **Jeanine Prud’homme** with BEDC; **Tara Deighan** with BPAC; **David Lai** with BPS; **Matthew Kohut** with BWS; **Syed Abbas**, **Alex DeCoteau**, **Natalia Edwards** and **Sharon Ezell** with BWSO; **Zacchaeus Akinleye** with BWT; **Alicia Silverstein**, **Izabella Vais** and **Niurka Morilla** with CDBG; **Lauren Klein** and **Hilary Semel** with Commissioner’s Office/OLTPS; **Sean Williams** with Commissioner’s Office/OER; and **Emily Berg** with Sustainability.

Donations Sought for NYC Gives

The Bureau of Organizational Development and Human Resources is asking DEP employees to consider making a donation to the [2016 NYC Gives Charitable Campaign](#). Through NYC Gives, City employees have raised more than \$33 million dollars since 2000 for charitable foundations, organizations and groups. NYC Gives connects City employees, via convenient payroll deductions, with charitable organizations that work on a local, national and global scale.

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