

## Commissioner's Corner

Yesterday, I joined with Brooklyn and Queens elected officials, community leaders, and environmental advocates to announce a \$400 million plan to further improve the ecological health of Jamaica Bay. The plan includes an array of waterbody improvement projects including 50 acres of wetland restoration, seven acres of ribbed mussel installations, and environmental dredging—all of which will result in a healthier Jamaica Bay. The projects will also deliver economic, social, and ancillary environmental benefits, including healthier air and lower summer temperatures due to the addition of a significant number of new trees and plants. The plan was submitted Monday

to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and if approved, planning and design could begin as soon as 2019.

In order to continue restoring essential functions to Jamaica Bay, DEP is proposing significant investments in the restoration of wetlands and salt marshes. Ribbed mussels have also proven to be particularly effective at filtering impurities from the water and the plan calls for substantial installations in several of the Jamaica Bay tributaries. In addition, DEP will continue to expand the successful Green Infrastructure program to the communities surrounding the Bay.

The Plan calls for:

- **Jamaica Bay (including Northern Channel, Inner-Bay and Rockaway Shore):** 16 acres of wetland restoration
- **Thurston Basin:** 147 acres of green infrastructure expansion; 3 acres of ribbed mussel installations
- **Bergen Basin:** 323 acres of green infrastructure expansion; 232 greened acres within the watershed; 50,000 cubic yards of sediment removed through environmental dredging; 4 acres of ribbed mussel installations
- **Spring Creek:** 13 acres of wetland restoration
- **Hendrix Creek:** 3 acres of wetland restoration
- **Fresh Creek:** 14 acres of wetland restoration
- **Paerdegat Basin:** 4 acres of wetland restoration

I'd like to recognize a few of the individuals who stood with me in making this important announcement, including:

Council Member **Costa Constantinides**, Chair of the City Council Committee of Environmental Protection; Council Member **Donovan Richards**; Council Member **Eric Ulrich**;



Council Member **Adrienne Adams**; Council Member **Jimmy Van Bramer**; Assembly Member **Stacey Pheffer Amato**; **Dan Mundy**, Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers; **Don Riepe**, Director, NE Chapter, American Littoral Society; **Alex Zablocki**, Executive Director, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy; and **Dan Hendrick**, Jamaica Bay historian and the filmmaker behind the award-winning documentary *Saving Jamaica Bay*. Within DEP, I'd like to recognize staff in BEDC, BWT, BWSO and BLA for their efforts in putting this ambitious plan together. I particularly want to single out **Jim Mueller**, **Pam Elardo**, **Angela Licata**, **Michael DeLoach**, **Pinar Balci**, **Margot Walker**, **Melissa Enoch**, **Keith Mahoney**, **Nick Cholewka**, **Mikelle Adgate**, and **John McLaughlin** for their dedication to revitalizing Jamaica Bay.

## Spotlight on Safety

### EHS Insights



**Persis Luke**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Environmental Health  
and Safety

Be extra careful while working outdoors as we move into the peak of the heatwave season. In our area, a heatwave is defined as 3 or more consecutive days of 90 degrees fahrenheit or more.

Prevention can be effective in reducing the chance and severity of heat stress related events.

- Hydrate before, during, and after work. Hydrating after your body has heated up is not effective.
- Drink electrolyte containing drinks (e.g. Gatorade), in addition to water.

- Take rest breaks in shady or cooler indoor areas.
- Work in areas with ventilation, when possible.
- Know the signs of heat stress: cramping, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, fainting, cessation of sweating or excessive sweating, cool moist skin, confusion.
- Look out for your co-workers and check in with them. Take immediate actions if symptoms of heat stress are present. Call for medical help as needed, loosen clothing, move to a cooler area, apply cool water, ice or cool wet towels to the body (armpits), and hydrate as possible.

Visit DEP's [Hot and Cold Weather Guide](#) for more information on prevention.

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.





## Community Garden Opens in Bronx



Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability **Angela Licata** and BEPA Project Manager **Melissa Enoch** recently joined the New York Restoration Project (NYRP), Council Member **Rafael Salamanca's** office, and neighborhood residents in the Morrisania section of the South Bronx to cut the ribbon on the reconstructed Paradise on Earth Community Garden. DEP provided funding through BEPA's Green Infrastructure Grant Program for the installation of green infrastructure elements, including permeable pavement and rain gardens, which will help to manage more than 1.7 million gallons of stormwater each year. To date, DEP has committed more than \$14.5 million for 35 projects through the Green Infrastructure Grant Program.

## Nominate a DEP Hero

### Heroic Service Award



DEP's Quality of Work Life (QWL) CAT Committee invites you to nominate your DEP heroes to receive the Heroic Service Award on Employee Recognition Day. The Heroic Service Award recognizes employees who have performed a significant act of heroism (on or off the job) relating to protecting the environment or critical infrastructure, saving a life, or preventing extreme injury; and in performing the act of heroism, placed themselves in harm's way or incurred personal risk. To qualify for the award, the act of heroism must have occurred between August 1, 2017 and July 31, 2018. If you know a DEP employee(s) who meets the qualifications for the award, please tell us about them by [submitting your nomination](#) by July 31 at 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Executive Director of Labor Relations **Aaron Feinstein** at [aaronf@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:aaronf@dep.nyc.gov) or call 718-595-4122.

## BWT Receives Energy Award



Pictured from left to right: DCAS Deputy Commissioner **Anthony Fiore**, Newtown Creek WWTP Chief **Zainool Ali**, Newtown Creek WWTP Facility Manager **Frank Loncar**, Coney Island WWTP Chief **Howard Robinson** and Coney Island WWTP Facility Manager **Keith Beckmann**.

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) recently recognized the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment with the Hall of Fame award and the Outstanding Facility Contributor award for its exemplary performance in the citywide Demand Response Program (DRP), an initiative that aims to improve the reliability of the city's electric grid by asking participants to strategically reduce their energy usage during peak hours. DRP also avoids the use of additional power plant resources, which typically burn dirtier fuel, thereby helping to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## Beachgoers Stay Hydrated



Water-On-the-Go provided refreshing gulps of delicious drinking water to the thousands of New Yorkers who flocked to the Rockaways this past weekend to soak up some sun. The popular fountains, easily spotted with their accompanying bright blue NYC Water tents, were set up at 108<sup>th</sup> Street and Beach Channel Drive to help beachgoers stay hydrated and beat the heatwave. Each day, DEP delivers more than 1 billion gallons of water to more than 9.6 million residents, including 8.6 million in New York City.

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