

Ben Nesin Building Rehab



DEP has started work on a \$7.4 million project to [refurbish the former Ben Nesin Laboratory building](#) on Route 28A. The four-story building was constructed in 1961 to serve as an office and water quality laboratory. It stopped being used as a laboratory when DEP finished its new Kingston Laboratory in 2008, but the building continued to house 12 engineers, maintenance and safety staff who oversee operations at Ashokan and Schoharie reservoirs. The building, which is expected to be complete by 2018, will be refurbished as modern office space for those employees and an additional 12 employees. The restoration work will include the replacement of all windows, interior and exterior doors, and new systems for heating and air conditioning (HVAC). The project will be seeking silver-level LEED certification by incorporating a number of environmentally responsible design elements. This includes preferred parking for low emitting and fuel efficient vehicles, energy efficient lighting, additional insulation, water efficient fixtures, and the use of recycled and regionally sourced materials.

Spotlight on Safety

OSHA's Top 10 Most Cited Violations, 2016

OSHA has announced its Top 10 Most Cited Violations for Fiscal Year 2016, and while the list may appear similar to last year's, it is still important. With all of the statistics OSHA releases, the Top 10 violations give workers a clear idea of potential violations to be aware of in their own workplace. OSHA continues their efforts to minimize high-hazard threats and encourage employers to be proactive in order to avoid being cited for one of the "Top 10" violations.

The Top 10 for Fiscal Year 2016 are:

1. Fall Protection

2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Lockout/Tagout
6. Powered Industrial Trucks
7. Ladders
8. Machine Guarding
9. Electrical: Wiring Methods
10. Electrical: General Requirements

Let us use this list as a reminder of hazards we should avoid in our daily operations. For more detailed information, read the article on [Safety & Health Magazine'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

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

As DEP strives to ensure a reliable supply of water for New York City, we must introduce policies that incentivize efficiency and alternative water use. One of the new innovative programs we have recently launched to aid in our water conservation efforts is the [On-Site Water Reuse Grant Program](#), a cost-sharing program aimed at providing commercial, mixed-use, and multi-family residential property owners with incentives to install water reuse systems.

This new grant program was designed to encourage New York City property owners to implement new water reuse strategies that will help DEP get closer to our goal of reducing water demand by 25 million gallons per day.

Grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000 will be awarded to "building-scale" sites that contain 100,000 square feet or more of residential or commercial space, as well as "district-scale" properties that include the sharing of water between two or more parcels. The targeted water savings will be 32,000 gallons per day and 94,000 gallons per day respectively.

Water reuse systems, otherwise known as water recycling systems, make more efficient the safe use of rainwater, black water, and gray water when properly designed and operated. This grant program promotes the construction of these systems at both the building and district scales by covering a portion of the efficiency technology capital costs. In addition to the grant, the properties will also be eligible for a reduction of their water bills up to 25 percent.

The On-Site Water Reuse Grant Program complements the [Water Demand Management Plan](#), which DEP has been implementing for the last several years to reduce citywide water consumption by 2021. To meet this goal, DEP has developed

a combination of programs to identify opportunities to conserve water at City-owned properties and facilities. Partnering with NYC Parks, activation buttons are being installed on the spray showers at 400 playgrounds around the city that will save 1.5 million gallons of water a day. In addition, more than 40,000 bathroom fixtures in hundreds of public school buildings are also being updated. These retrofits will conserve approximately 4 million gallons of water each school day.

To encourage water conservation on private properties, DEP began a voucher-based program to replace roughly 100,000 outdated residential toilets with high efficiency models which use only 1.28 gallons of water per flush, compared to traditional toilets which can use as much as five gallons. Also, over 72,000 customers have saved more than \$60 million in water charges by signing up for DEP's automated [Leak Notification Program](#), which alerts property owners to spikes in water consumption so that they can quickly find and fix any leaks.

As a result of water conservation programs, the transition from frontage billing to metered billing, the roll out of Automated Meter Readers, and real-time feedback about water consumption, overall water use in the city has declined from over 1.5 billion gallons a day in 1980 to roughly 1 billion gallons a day at present, all while the city's population grew from just over 7.1 million to more than 8.5 million in the same period. The On-Site Water Reuse Grant Program will be another way to further reduce the City's water demand, and I'd like to thank **Vlada Kenniff, Alan Cohn, Pinar Balci, Dave Lipsky, Erin Morey, and John Brock** for their efforts with this project. Additionally, I'd like to acknowledge our colleagues at the Bureau of Customer Services for all of their support. Helping property owners conserve and reuse water is a win-win for both DEP and the environment.

Jerome Park Reservoir Hosts Visitors



Lakeisha Bradshaw, Eva Lynch, Effie Ardizzone, and Corinne Martin were among the BPAC staffers on-site to sign up visitors.

The [limited access recreation event held at Jerome Park Reservoir](#) the weekend of Nov. 19 and 20 was a big success with the community. A total of 210 people attended, including Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and Council Member Andrew Cohen, and enjoyed the opportunity to walk or jog around the 2-mile perimeter of the 93-acre Reservoir. There were also some birdwatchers who brought binoculars to the facility to catch a glimpse of some waterfowl in flight. The Reservoir, located in the northwest Bronx, can hold up to 773 million gallons of water and is fed by the City's Croton Watershed, located in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Jerome Park Reservoir is the last stop for the water before it enters the Croton Water Filtration Plant and goes into the City's distribution system.

Holiday Blood Drive Seeks Donors



The New York Blood Center is experiencing a serious shortage in blood supply this holiday season. As an added incentive to give, the 23,000th donor will win a gift and we are only 507 pints away from hitting that goal! To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, DEP is hosting blood drives at the below locations:

Lefrak: 6th Floor Training Room, 12/7 and 12/8, 7:45am to 1:45pm;
Kingston/Catskill Area: 51 Albany Avenue, 12/7 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm; **Kensico/Highland Regions - Sutton Park Area:** Sutton Park- 2nd Floor, Large Training Room, 12/8, 8:30am to 2:30pm;
Downsville Region Area: Downsville Fire Hall, 12/14, 9:00am to 2:00pm; **Grahamsville Region Area:** Grahamsville Fire House, 12/21, 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Welcome Aboard!



Eighteen new employees attended orientation on Nov. 28 and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **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!

Lynn Little with BEDC; **Reshma Menghani** with BWS; **Charles Cannisi**, **Tisha Cook**, **Edward Ford**, **Melody Darby**, **Roy Frederick**, **Meghan Kiernan**, **Jeffrey McDuffie**, **Lawrence Odoom**, and **Alexander Thomson** with BWSO; **Edwin Hernandez**, **Kelly Maxwell**, **Patrick William** and **Gennaro Zambrano** with BWT; **Jason Gregory** with CDBG; and **Nicole Benjamin** (not pictured) and **Michael Cox** with FDC.

Help New Yorkers Keep Warm

Please help our fellow New Yorkers keep warm during the severe winter months ahead by participating in the [28th Annual New York Cares Coat Drive](#), going on now through Dec. 30. Consider donating your gently-used, freshly laundered coats for men, women, and children. A drop-off location can be found on the 1th Floor of the Lefrak low-rise. Or, text COAT to 41444 or [click here](#) to make a monetary contribution. Just \$20 buys a new coat for a New Yorker in need. For more details, please contact **Joe Sokolowski** at ext. 6168 or **Sara Pecker** at ext. 5487.

Food Drive Aims to Fight Hunger

Hunger goes on long after the holidays are over. This season we will be collecting longer, so that food may be distributed in the new year. You can help fight hunger by donating a [non-perishable food item](#). Donated items can be brought to the 19th floor, between 8:00am and 3:30pm, from now until Dec. 16. Collection boxes will be set up in the Flocculator Enclave. Please call Joe Sokolowski at ext. 6168 or Sara Pecker at ext. 5487 if you have any questions.

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