

Task Force Chipper Hits NYC



Following last week's snowstorm and the widespread tree damage across the city, BWS crews have been deployed to the five boroughs to aid NYC Parks in clearing downed and damaged trees. Thank you to: **John Vickers, Robert Wilson, Eric Kight, Steve Brown, Sven Smith, Brad Darling, Jeff Kellogg, Steve VanValkenburg and Kevin Wilbur.**

Spotlight on Safety

Have a Safe Thanksgiving Holiday

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires. In fact, in 2016, fire departments from across the country responded to an estimated 1,570 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving.

The following tips can help you stay safe this Thanksgiving:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking in order to keep an eye on the food.
- Keep children away from hot foods and liquids, and at least 3 feet away from a hot stove.
- Keep knives, matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.

- Be sure electric cords from kitchen appliances are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep the floor clear so you do not trip.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working.

These tips can help during the holiday season, when many people will be cooking large meals for family members. To prevent foodborne illnesses, it is also important to wash your hands before and after food preparation. Cook food thoroughly and perishable food should not be left out for more than 2 hours. For more information, visit the [National Fire Protection Agency website](#). Have a safe Thanksgiving!

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



Paul Rush
Deputy Commissioner
Water Supply

The Bureau of Water Supply is pleased to report that overall participation in the recreational boating program remained steady in 2018, despite record rainfall that drenched the watershed for much of the summer and early fall. A total of 1,660 boats were used, including 935 canoes and kayaks that were rented to visitors by local businesses. Rental boats made up the majority of boats used on the four reservoirs for the third consecutive year, underscoring the program's support of local tourism and outdoor recreation businesses.

Rentals continued to lead the way as 56 percent of all visitors chose to rent a boat from one of seven businesses in the Catskills that store pre-cleaned canoes and kayaks alongside the reservoirs. The recreational boating program at Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie reservoirs complements the traditional use of metal rowboats for fishing, which has been permitted for decades on all New York City reservoirs.

Pepacton and Neversink reservoirs were the most popular, attracting 715 and 653 visits respectively. They were followed by 215 visits at Schoharie Reservoir and 77 at Cannonsville. While most boat owners were from watershed counties and the New York City metropolitan area, 2018 also saw participants from 14 other states!

For the fourth year, rental boats were available from eight launch sites alongside the reservoirs. Local businesses this year again reported that visitors were adding



a boat rental on the reservoirs as part of their stay at local campsites, lodges or other overnight facilities, which had included boating on the reservoirs as part of their marketing. The rental program is administered with significant help from the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC), which funded the acquisition of 30 storage racks for the rental boats. CWC also administers the process to vet and approve businesses that applied to participate in the rental program.

The recreational boating program continues to be one of the most popular outdoor experiences that DEP offers on its reservoirs and watershed lands. I am happy to see that visitors are providing a boost to the local economy by renting boats from local vendors, and that interest in recreational boating remained strong during one of the wettest summers of the last century. We look forward to collaborating with our partners in the Catskills to reach a new record for boating in the watershed next season.



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of innovation. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by November 20 to values@dep.nyc.gov and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.

Ceasing the Grease in Coney Island



Earlier this month, DEP joined with staff from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) in Brooklyn to distribute educational information concerning the proper disposal of grease. BPAC's **Charlie Sturcken**, **Eva Lynch** and **Sahar Pakravan** went door to door at NYCHA's Coney Island Houses reminding residents that grease should be thrown out in the trash, and not poured down the drain where it can cause blockages and backups. Similarly, BPAC's **Ed Turner** visited commercial restaurants in the area to remind them of regulations concerning the proper installation of grease traps. NYCHA had requested DEP's assistance to help prevent backups within their facilities. DEP has similarly visited NYCHA facilities in southeast Queens and knocked on more than 70,000 doors to spread the "Cease the Grease" message.



DEP Hikers and Leaf Peepers



DEP's QWL and WorkWell/Employee Engagement & Wellness Programs gathered Oct. 13 in Beacon NY for an organized hike under the leadership of **Harry Donas**, with the assistance of **Tania Leary**. **Marcia Jones** and **Renee Alfieri** both co-led in facilitating this adventure to further engage our employees and their family and friends in this outdoor experience. Beacon was selected so that the more than 40 participating DEP employees could gather socially, be physically active, and enjoy breathtaking views and fall foliage. Despite the morning rain, it turned out to be such a clear, crisp day and hikers were able to see the Manhattan Skyline 60 miles away from the top of Mount Beacon.

Employee Engagement and Wellness is a priority at DEP. We know that happy, healthy employees make for a strong and productive workforce and aids with diversity inclusion efforts. As DEP has become an Incubator site for the City of New York during the last couple of years, we are working on more programming including Farm Share, yoga, walking challenges, and much more. We are also scheduling Brown Bag presentations focusing on stress prevention/awareness, meditation, aromatherapy, reiki and massages. We hope to involve you in meaningful activities that include all employees. We look forward to planning more outdoor activities for 2019.

PS 50 Improves Jamaica Bay Health



Commissioner Sapienza and School Construction Authority President **Lorraine Grillo** announced Monday the completion of a new "green" playground at P.S. 50 in Jamaica. The school's playground has been transformed with the addition of green infrastructure that has the capacity to capture up to 836,000 gallons of stormwater annually, which will help to improve the health of Jamaica Bay. The playground improvements include a turf field, new running track and benches to complement the existing play equipment and basketball hoop. The cost for the new playground was nearly \$1.6 million.

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