

## NYC Tap Water Snags Top Prize



**D**EP is honored to announce that New York City's tap water was recently awarded the top prize in New York State's [Regional Metro Tap Water Taste Test competition](#). The contest was held last Thursday at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan and pitted the City's tap water against drinking water suppliers from Westchester,

Nassau, Suffolk and Orange counties. Museum visitors sampled tap water from the five suppliers and ranked them by taste. New York City's tap water was judged to be the best tasting, followed by water from Elmsford in Westchester County. After winning the Regional Taste Test competition, New York City tap water will next compete in a state-wide contest to be held in Syracuse, N.Y. on September 2. The annual taste test competition, which takes place in county, regional, and state-wide contests is organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Water and Wastewater Education and Outreach Committee. Each year, DEP publishes a Water Supply and Quality Report with detailed information about the water supply and the quality of the City's drinking water. To view the report [click here](#).

## Spotlight On Safety

### Tree Care Safety

Did you know that DEP employs a tree task force? Tree trimming and removal operations expose workers to a variety of potentially fatal hazards, including falls and being struck by falling objects. Before work begins, an assessment of the worksite should be completed to ensure that the tree can support the weight of the work being done on it. This will help to minimize the risk of tree limbs breaking off and either striking the worker or causing them to fall from the tree. Tree care workers must receive proper training on performing the tasks and the potential hazards. Other precautions for employers include:

- ensuring workers wear proper PPE and fall protection

- ensuring work is performed at least 10 feet from overhead power lines
- establishing an appropriate "drop zone" on the ground where workers can avoid being struck by falling objects

Building on efforts to ensure safety for tree care workers, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently hosted a stakeholder meeting to collect information on hazards in the tree care industry. OSHA will use the information gathered during this meeting to determine the need for a proposed standard. For more information, [click here](#).

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.

## Commissioner's Corner



I had the privilege today of joining with Sanitation Commissioner (DSNY) **Kathryn Garcia**, NYC Parks Brooklyn Borough Commissioner **Kevin Jeffrey** and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 Clean Water Acting Director **Jeffrey Gratz** to launch "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches," a public information campaign and beach clean-up program aimed at reducing littering and improving the cleanliness and aesthetics of New York City beaches. When it rains, trash and debris discarded on city streets and sidewalks can be washed down storm drains and end up on beaches. This summer, "Clean Streets = Clean Beaches" posters will be displayed at area beaches and on approximately 2,000 Sanitation vehicles citywide. In addition, DEP will join with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to clean trash and debris from waterfront properties.

The program was launched at MCU Park in Coney Island, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, where children attended the Cyclones game from area day camps and the City's Summer Youth Employment Program. The "Clean Streets = Clean

Beaches" campaign began in the early 1990s to highlight the link between litter on the streets and trash found on area beaches. The 2016 program will utilize an informational poster for display at area beaches as well as on Department of Sanitation fleet vehicles, including approximately 450 mechanical brooms.

Also recently launched is the Summer 2016 Waterfront Clean-Up program where DEP partners with DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program to hire nearly 200 young New Yorkers who will spend approximately 25 hours a week removing litter and debris from waterfront properties. The program helps to promote environmental stewardship and provide valuable work experience.

During the summer, the city's beautiful beaches, from Orchard Beach in the Bronx to Cedar Grove Beach on Staten Island, are choice destinations for New Yorkers looking to swim and sunbathe. I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage all New Yorkers to pitch in, do their part and help keep the beaches safe and clean. Please, do the right thing and put your trash where it belongs—in a litter basket and not on the street.

I want to thank the staff of the Bureau of Public Affairs and Communications for once again coordinating this effort with our partner agencies, including DSNY, NYC Parks, DYCD and the U.S. EPA. Additionally, I want to applaud the efforts of all DEP staffers who work diligently on a daily basis to keep our local waterways clean and beautiful. More information and photos can be found [here](#).



## Croton Plant Wins Prestigious Award



DEP's \$3.2 billion Croton Water Filtration Plant was recently presented with the prestigious [Distinction Award](#) during the 2016 Global Water Awards at the Global Water Summit in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Croton is the largest underground filtration plant in the United States, built entirely beneath Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. The filtration plant is hidden under a driving range at the Mosholu Golf Course, forming the largest "living roof" in North America. The Plant has the capacity to filter up to 290 million gallons of water a day and can supply up to 30 percent of New York City's current water needs. The state-of-the-art facility came online in 2015.

## Drink NYC Tap Water



DEP and the New York City Health Department have partnered to create a newly announced youth-centered advertising campaign which encourages New Yorkers to drink more of the City's high quality tap water. The "Drink NYC Tap Water" ads showcase school-age children discussing water as a healthy beverage choice, and revealing how it helps fuel them to do more of their favorite activities—including sports, dancing and singing. The advertisements also highlight the healthy and delicious combination of drinking water and eating fruit. The ads will be airing on television, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter throughout the summer. For more information on the campaign, [click here](#). To view the ads, tune in to the [NYC Health YouTube channel](#).

## All Aboard the Dragon Boats



Several DEP staffers went dragon boating on Flushing Bay last Wednesday evening. They split up among several boating teams, including the Empire Dragon Boat Team and the Guardians of Flushing Bay, and learned how to row from the experts. Launching from 1 World's Fair Marina, participants enjoyed clear skies and unrivaled views as they navigated the waters.

## \$41.5 Million Upgrade in Ozone Park



DEP has joined with the Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Design and Construction (DDC) to begin work on the installation of nearly three miles of new sewers and more than three miles of new water mains in the Ozone Park neighborhood. [The \\$41.5 million project](#) will include the addition of more than 200 new catch basins that will drain stormwater from the roadways and help to reduce flooding during heavy rain. In addition, nearly 80 new fire hydrants will ensure that firefighters have ready access to the City's water supply. Once that work is complete, the roadways will be rebuilt, new sidewalks and lighting will be installed and 200 trees will be planted. DEP and DOT are funding the project and DDC is managing the construction, which is anticipated to be completed in late 2018.

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