

Commissioner's Corner



Last week, New York City joined the Trust for Public Land to unveil a state-of-the-art playground on a formerly cracked asphalt lot at PS111 in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. Designed

with help from the school's students, the one-acre playground will include green infrastructure components that will allow the space to capture up to 700,000 gallons of stormwater runoff each

year and help to improve the health of the Hudson River.

The playground is being funded through an innovative public-private partnership, with private donations from The Charina Endowment Fund and The Sulzberger Foundation, and public funding from former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and the Departments of Education and Environmental Protection, as well as the School Construction Authority.

Community participation is a cornerstone of The Trust for Public Land's NYC Playgrounds Program, and students at PS111 spent three months helping plan the new playground. The final product has a turf field, running track, basketball courts, outdoor ping pong tables, play equipment and safety mats, forest walk, outdoor classroom, rain

garden, green roof gazebo, drinking fountain, benches and chess and checker tables. This is the 6th green infrastructure playground built by TPL in partnership with the City throughout the five boroughs.

Another hallmark of The Trust for Public Land's playground work is the focus on green infrastructure, which reduces storm runoff that can flood streets, and overwhelm sewer systems, allowing untreated water to end up in rivers and bays. Each playground absorbs at least half a million gallons of water annually and includes 20-30 new trees that bring shade and improved air quality to their neighborhoods. In New York, the group is planning similar playgrounds near Jamaica Bay, Newtown Creek and the Gowanus Canal.

Photos from the event are available on [DEP's Flickr Page](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Transportation Safety

We are now in the third week of National Safety Month (NSM) 2015, and this week's focus is on transportation safety.

According to the National Safety Council, car crashes are the leading cause of preventable deaths in the U.S., with nearly 100 people killed every day. Collisions have also been identified as the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities.

Summer means more traffic and construction on the roads, but there are many other factors that can contribute to motor vehicle accidents, including impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving, and fatigue. Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of crashes. If

you need to make a phone call, pull over to a safe area before using your phone.

Defensive Driving is one way to ensure that you are aware of the different vehicles you share the road with and how to safely interact with them. Be especially aware of motorcycles, trucks, and slow moving vehicles. To drive defensively, leave plenty of space between your vehicle and others and make sure you are visible to other drivers. Finally, always allow yourself time to make decisions.

For more information on transportation safety, [click here](#) to view the National Safety Month materials.



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.

High Bridge Reopened



Last week, DEP joined other City agencies, elected officials, and community leaders to celebrate the reopening of the High Bridge—the oldest standing bridge in New York City and an important part of the history of the City’s water supply infrastructure. Having been closed to the public for more than 40 years, the High Bridge now provides scenic pedestrian and cycling access between the Bronx and Manhattan.

Opened in 1848, the High Bridge was a part of the city’s original Croton water supply system carrying water between the Bronx and Manhattan. After being closed for more than four decades, the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Design and Construction restored and improved the 1,450-foot-long, 123-foot high bridge. As the only inter-borough bridge designed

exclusively for pedestrians and bicyclists, the restoration of the High Bridge provides communities in both Manhattan and the Bronx with access to more than 125 acres of green space with baseball fields, basketball courts, bike trails, a skate park, playgrounds and lawns.

To see photos from the event, [click here](#).

Diabetes Prevention Program

There is still space for you to attend our Diabetes Prevention Program Informational Brown Bag Session, tomorrow, June 17th. You can sign up for either the 12pm–1pm or 1pm–2pm sessions by emailing brownbag@dep.nyc.gov. See [The Source](#) for more information.

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

What’s Up Down There?



On June 9, the Brooklyn Historical Society opened an exhibition that explores one of Brooklyn’s oldest and most extensive infrastructure projects: its sewer system. Called “Brooklyn Sewers: What’s Up Down There?” the exhibit tells the story of the creation of the Brooklyn sewer system through a historical look at four corners of Kings County: Flatlands, Bushwick, Coney Island and Fort Greene. Visitors can look beneath the surface into the problems, challenges, and issues that each of these neighborhoods faced in the creation of the sewer system, and the factors that made an integrated municipal system for sewerage an absolute necessity. The exhibit was curated by a team of teens who participated in the Historical Society’s free afterschool museum studies program known as Exhibition Laboratory or Ex Lab. **Robin Sanchez** and **Lakeisha Bradshaw** with DEP’s Education Office worked closely with both the students and the curators. The exhibit will remain on view until May 29, 2016. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 12pm–5pm. For more information, [click here](#).

Celebrating Water Through Art



With funding from the Catskill Watershed Corporation, and support from DEP’s Education staff, the group Row New York recently teamed up with student artists from the Groundswell Community Mural Project to design and create a series of mural banners inspired by Row New York’s three locations - the World’s Fair Boathouse in Flushing-Meadows Corona Park, Queens, the Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse in upper Manhattan, and their main office and academic spaces in Long Island City, Queens. To see additional photos of the murals, [click here](#).