

Speed Walk for Water Quality



To help improve the health and cleanliness of the water in Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay, DEP restored eight acres of tidal wetlands and eight acres of native coastal grassland and shrubland habitat. The new plantings and restored wetlands absorb stormwater runoff to protect water quality and also provide an important habitat for wildlife. Click the photo to view the video. To see more photos go [here](#)

For those wishing to view the video outside of the office, you can watch it on [Instagram](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Caution on Overconfidence

DEP employees take great pride in their ability to perform their tasks safely and efficiently. However, overconfidence can be dangerous to you and your coworkers because it can undermine established safety procedures. To help avoid overconfidence when it comes to safety matters, here are some helpful suggestions:

- Remain alert, be aware of hazards and focus on doing the job safely
- Follow recommended safe work practices at all times and do not use short cuts
- Pay attention during safety meetings—you may have heard it all before, but a reminder never hurts

Experienced workers have a responsibility to set a good example for new employees. Do things the safe way, because someone may be watching and learning from you. Never let overconfidence compromise safety.

For additional information visit [Safety Tool Box Topics](#).

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

Last week, I joined Mayor de Blasio in announcing that coordinated work has begun to upgrade essential underground infrastructure at four locations in the city, with dozens of other locations currently under consideration for future work. In June, the administration released the Underground Infrastructure Report, which called for improving the way street work is conducted by piloting coordinated investments in critical infrastructure by the City and private utilities. The Mayor also committed an additional \$300 million to accelerate capital projects to upgrade the City's buried infrastructure, including water mains and sewers.

DEP operates a network of roughly 15,000 miles of water mains and sewers beneath city streets, and Consolidated Edison and National Grid manage more than 6,300 miles of gas mains and service lines. The City is working with the utility companies to select locations throughout the city for the coordinated replacement of water, wastewater, and gas infrastructure, particularly those areas with older cast iron pipes that have required repairs in the past. The first projects resulting from these new infrastructure partnerships are already underway.

In the St. Albans neighborhood of Queens, DEP was planning to add new storm sewers to several blocks to help alleviate street flooding. While the roadway was opened to add the storm sewers, the existing cast iron water mains, originally installed in 1923, were replaced with new ductile iron mains, and the sanitary sewer line, installed in 1931, was also upgraded. Prior to beginning this work, DEP coordinated with National Grid,



which maintains buried natural gas mains in this area of Queens. Earlier this summer, National Grid replaced its aging cast iron gas mains. Work is expected to be completed this fall.

In Lower Manhattan, DEP was planning to replace a 12-inch diameter cast iron water main along several blocks of Clarkson Street that was originally installed in 1923. Work was coordinated with Consolidated Edison, which is now in the process of replacing its cast iron gas main, originally installed in 1897, along these same blocks as DEP completes infrastructure upgrades. In addition, crews are now mobilizing to begin similar coordinated upgrades in the Jackson Heights and Murray Hill neighborhoods of Queens.

The \$300 million in additional funding will build upon DEP's budgeted capital program, which calls for more than \$2 billion for water main and sewer upgrades citywide over the next four years. The additional funding will help put DEP on pace to replace the highest risk water and sewer infrastructure over the next 10 years.



Playground Protects Newtown Creek



Last week, DEP and The Trust for Public Land continued a unique partnership to build up to 40 new school playgrounds that include green infrastructure to capture stormwater when it rains, thereby easing pressure on the City's sewer system and improving the health of local waterways. The announcement was made during a ribbon-cutting celebration held at Brooklyn's J.H.S. 162, where the new playground will manage approximately half a million gallons of stormwater annually, and help to reduce pollution in Newtown Creek.



Designed with input from students, school staff and several public agency partners, the new schoolyard includes green infrastructure components such as a synthetic turf field, porous pavement over broken stone reservoirs, shade trees and a rain garden. Green playgrounds already completed through this partnership include P.S. 261 in Boerum Hill and J.H.S. 218 and P.S. 65 in East New York.



Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 23 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Louis A. Cotrone, Dharmesh Desai, Colin J. Fredericksen, Jean Rony Hilaire, Akil Mitchell, Louys Mortel and Tri Nguyen with BWSO; **David Gagliano, Reece Hickey and Susan B. Timmins** with BWT; **Sreenivasulu Dudi, Karim Obaid and Heather Truberg** with OIT; **John A. Viggiano Jr. and Kenneth Weber** with BEDC; **Balign Johnson** (not pictured) and **Crispin A. Moore** with BCS; **Molly Braun and Doris Feher** with Executive; **Diana Almanzar** with Labor Relations; **Nicholas A. Collins** with BWS; **Gina Kosty** with Sustainability; and **Gomatie Seipersaud** with Human Resources.

Did You Know...

DEP recently launched the [Employee Resource Center](#), an on-line site that puts all the important information you need as a DEP employee right at your fingertips? Watch the informational video on [The Source](#).

At the Employee Resource Center, you will find information on:

- CityTime, Deferred Compensation Plans, NYCERS, FMLA and Workers Compensation
- Agency policies, including Flexible Use and Lateness
- Career counseling services, job vacancy notices, and civil service information including salary ranges, service increments, and leave accrual schedules
- Equal employment opportunity initiatives and events

The site also has a Feedback button so if you have suggestions on additional information to include, or any other feedback, please let us know.



Yoga @ DEP

NAMASTE: DEP is pleased to offer midday yoga classes at Lefrak headquarters and the Valhalla and Kingston offices. Yoga is a great way to stretch your body and calm your mind and has been shown to increase workplace effectiveness. Classes are open to all employees, you just need to bring a yoga mat and towel. Employees are encouraged to speak with their doctor if they are not sure if yoga is right for them. For more information about Lefrak classes, email [Joya Cohen](#), and for inquiries regarding upstate classes, email [Bob Groppe](#).

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