

Commissioner's Corner



Mayor de Blasio made a historic commitment of \$1.9 billion to undertake 45 infrastructure projects in southeast Queens to improve drainage and reduce flooding. Communities are now beginning to see the results of that work. Working with our partners at DDC, block by block we are building out a drainage system that will provide some peace of mind to the people in Jamaica and all the neighborhoods in southeast Queens.

Last week, DEP announced the completion of a \$14.5 million project that rebuilt streets along the east side of Baisley Pond Park, bringing storm sewers, sidewalks, and other new infrastructure to an area that had long suffered from localized flooding and poor street conditions.

As part of that commitment, more than 4,700 feet of new storm sewers were installed in Baisley Pond Park, ranging in size from 12–42 inches, along with 50 new catch basins to direct stormwater. Over 26,000 square feet of new sidewalk was installed at the edge of the park along with 4,000



feet of new curb. An additional 15,000 square feet of existing sidewalk and 2,350 feet of curb was replaced throughout the area.

The project also installed 815 feet of new sanitary sewers, replaced 125 feet of existing sanitary sewers and nearly 4,500 feet of older water mains, and added 11 new fire hydrants.

The new local network of storm sewers drains into Baisley Pond, through a new stone-faced reinforced concrete headwall with a 42-inch outfall. In addition to the headwall, the project included erosion and sedimentation control measures in Baisley Pond and more than 5,000 square feet of wet and dry plantings and seeding, including species such as switchgrass, little bluestem, and various wild flowers. The

I'd like to thank our partners at DCP and DDC and our dedicated staffers in BWSO, including Deputy Commissioner **Anastasio (Tasos) Georgelis, Thomas Wynne, Evan Pilachowski, Abir Momen, Sol Posada, Terrell Estesen, James Rossi, Dean Cavallaro, and Charles Olson**, without whom this project would not have been possible.

Spotlight on Safety

Summer Safety

Here are some general safety tips to consider during the summer months:

- When outdoors, use sunscreen with a minimum of SPF 15 that protects against both UVA and UVB rays, and reapply as directed on the bottle
- Stay hydrated, avoid strenuous activity in hot weather, and be aware of signs of heat illness
- Use caution while swimming in pools and especially bodies of water; if you become caught in a current, swim parallel to the shore until you can swim free
- While barbecuing, propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors and kept away

from obstructions; the [National Fire Protection Association](#) offers more BBQ safety tips

- Be aware of children playing outdoors; never leave children unattended near water; and, when driving with children, never leave a child unattended in a hot car
- Both while walking and driving, be aware of your surroundings, including other vehicles, motorcycles, bikes, and pedestrians
- If you are traveling, keep emergency kits on hand and ensure you make copies of important documents, such as your passport

For more information on summer safety, visit the [National Safety Council'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.



The Delaware County Fair



More than a dozen DEP employees shared information about the water supply last week at the Delaware County Fair and Grahamsville Little World's Fair. The annual events—packed with agricultural exhibitions, rides, and unique culinary delights—are good opportunities to meet with our watershed neighbors and New York City residents who own second homes in the Catskills. This year DEP shared information about water-supply careers, water quality testing, and outdoor recreation in the watershed. In this photo from the Delaware County Fair, watershed maintainer **Pat Wayman** (left) teamed up with our partners at the Watershed Agricultural Council to greet fairgoers. Many thanks go to the DEP employees who donated their time and materials to make the displays, and who staffed the tent each day!

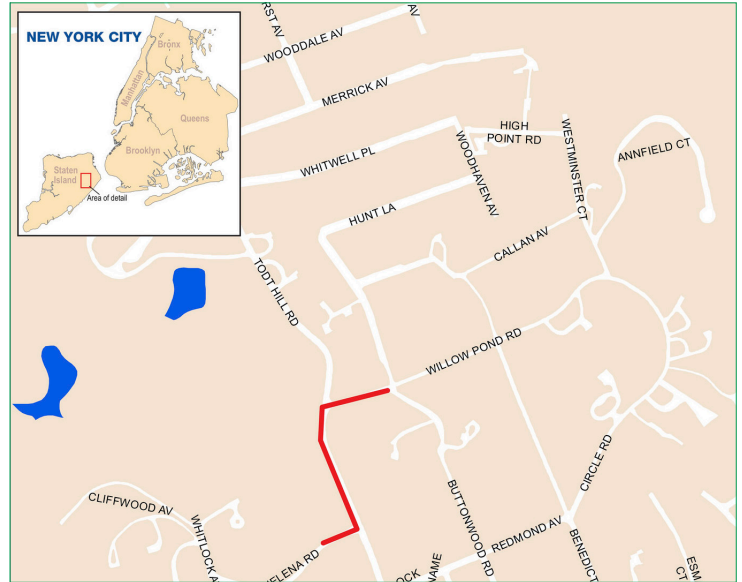
Buoy Testing at Neversink Reservoir



Water quality scientists **Chris Morgans** and **Justin Zimmerman** performed routine maintenance last week on a robotic monitoring buoy at Neversink Reservoir. More than a dozen of these monitoring stations are deployed across the reservoir system. Last year the network of buoys sent approximately 1.2 million data points in real time to water supply operators, providing the scientific information needed to send the best-quality water to the City every day. Each station is equipped with at least one sonde, an instrument that measures water quality at multiple depths within the reservoir. A sonde is calibrated in the laboratory and deployed for one month. At the end of its deployment, the sonde is retrieved from the buoy, replaced with a new sonde, and then tested again in the laboratory to ensure its calibration remained within specifications during its time in the reservoir.

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

Drainage Upgrade for Todt Hill



DEP has announced plans for an [enhanced drainage system](#) for a section of Todt Hill Road on Staten Island that suffers from chronic flooding. Work will include the construction of new catch basins and more than 900 linear feet of 36-inch sewer running along Todt Hill Road from Willow Pond Road to Helena Road. The relocation of natural gas infrastructure must be completed before the sewer work can begin, but it is anticipated that the drainage upgrade will begin shortly after Labor Day and continue for about five weeks. Work along Willow Pond Road and Helena Road will take place during normal work hours. As Todt Hill Road is a major north-south traffic artery, work will take place during the overnight hours when the roadway will likely be closed from 10pm–6am. It is anticipated that the entire project will be completed in approximately five weeks.

Divers to Inspect Two City Reservoirs



Small boats and divers will be on Central Park and Silver Lake Reservoirs this week to conduct regular inspections and surveys. The work, which has been coordinated with the Central Park Conservancy and NYC Parks, is part of regular dam safety inspections and will inform planning for future capital upgrades. The work at Central Park Reservoir will take place on Tuesday, August 21, Thursday, August 23 and Friday, August 24. A boat and divers will be working at Silver Lake Reservoir on Wednesday, August 22. Neither Central Park Reservoir nor Silver Lake Reservoir is part of the City's potable water supply system.