

Kudos Corner



Although the Croton Water Filtration Plant was officially activated in May 2015, just last week a federal judge in Brooklyn gave final approval to the project. This is a tremendous accomplishment for the department and the hundreds of current and former staff who have helped to negotiate with regulators and plan, design, construct, test and operate the plant. Kudos to our colleagues in BEDC, BWSO, BWS, BEPA and BLA, as well as our partners at the Law Department!

Spotlight on Safety

Drive Safely Work Week

October 3rd–7th is Drive Safely Work Week (DSWW). This year marks the 20th anniversary of the DSWW campaign, which is sponsored by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS). The goal of DSWW is to prevent traffic crashes both on and off the job. The 2016 campaign focuses on raising self-awareness and motivating positive change; encouraging safe behavior while driving and identifying the need to change unsafe behavior.

This week serves as a reminder of the many ways you can practice safe driving:

- Avoid distracted driving—keep cell phones out of sight
- Be aware of your surroundings including pedestrians and other vehicles
- Obey speed limits
- Never drink and drive
- Always wear your seatbelt
- Take necessary precautions while driving in poor weather conditions

For more information visit [NETS' Drive Safely Work Week website](#) and [CDC's Motor Vehicle Safety Page](#).

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

As we developed our Green Infrastructure Plan we always knew that, in addition to the expected harbor water quality improvements, we would see numerous ancillary benefits. Cleaner air, increased shade and lower temperatures were among the anticipated improvements. Over the last few weeks, Gardeners with the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations have discovered that the rain gardens are also being utilized by monarch butterflies.

Since the mid-1990's, the population of monarch butterflies has dropped significantly due to many factors, including severe weather events and a changing climate, the use of pesticides, invasive species and a rapidly shrinking habitat. The curbside rain gardens include hardy plants to help soak up stormwater before it can enter the sewer system and contribute to overflows into local waterways. Milkweed, a favorite of the monarch butterfly, is one of the plants that is regularly included in the rain gardens. With roughly 2,500 rain gardens built over the last few years, and thousands more planned for the coming years, monarch butterflies will have an expanding habitat throughout the five boroughs to both reproduce and feed during their annual migration. A map of rain gardens and other green infrastructure installations is available [here](#).

In the New York region, monarch butterflies lay their eggs on three types of milkweed, Common Milk-

weed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*), as it is the only food a young caterpillar will eat before it transforms into a chrysalis. The milkweed contains a toxin that once ingested, makes the monarch caterpillars and butterflies distasteful to predators. The purple-flowering milkweed is often planted within the rain gardens because its root system is capable of absorbing large amounts of water. Other insect species that have been found within the rain gardens include ladybugs, praying mantis and honey bees, which are valuable pollinators.

DEP gardeners found monarch butterfly caterpillars and chrysalises within rain gardens in Rego Park, near Queens Boulevard, and in Brownsville, near Atlantic Avenue. The jade and gold chrysalises were closely monitored until the monarch butterflies emerged. This latest generation of monarchs will fly south to Mexico for the winter where it will begin the species' lifecycle all over again. More information, photos and videos can be found [here](#).

As our green infrastructure program has grown, so have the number of staff who play a vital role in ensuring its success. I'd like to acknowledge all the hard work from the Bureaus of Sustainability, Engineering, Design and Construction, and Water Sewer Operations. Great work all!



Peak Performances Honored



The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, a leading advocate for environmental policies that advance clean water, honored eight of DEP's in-city wastewater treatment plants with Peak Performance awards for activity in 2015. The Hunts Point, Oakwood Beach and Red Hook plants each received gold awards for perfect compliance records. The Jamaica, Wards Island, Rockaway, Bowery Bay and Newtown Creek plants were each recipients of silver awards. In the above photo, Red Hook Facility Manager **Elio Paradis** (left) and Superintendent **Mahendra Patel** (center) pose with Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** after he congratulated them on winning the award.

September is Recovery Month

A note from Kaitlyn Maceira, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program (NYC EAP)

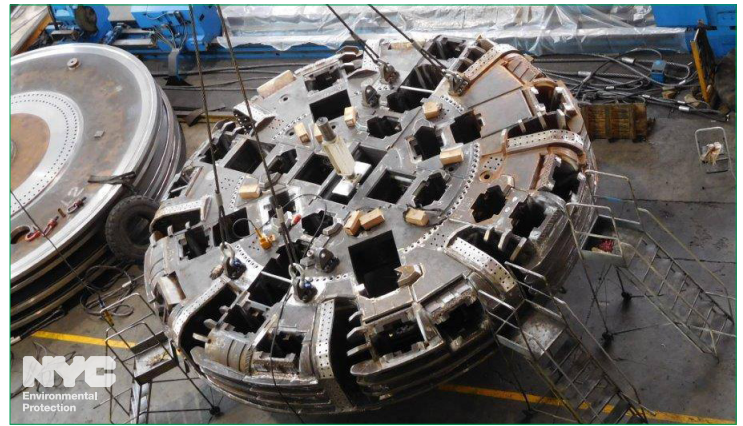
The word recovery holds pretty heavy weight. Recovery is a powerful, positive word that refers to overcoming something negative: an illness, an injury, or as more commonly used - an addiction. But that's not always accurate. You can recover from anything. Yes, you can recover from an illness, or from an addiction, but you can also recover from a relationship or an intrinsic battle. Sometimes you may even need to recover from a Tuesday! Recovery is a spectrum and each recovery is a victory—big or small.

Recovery does not always require the practice of formal treatment. A recovery practice can be identified as anything that continues to keep one moving forward. There will always be something that will tire us out, make us angry and even sometimes make us feel

defeated. So how do we recover? And honestly, who has the time? You do. We all do. We all have the ability to recover a little bit at a time. Recovery practices can include meditation, an act that has proven to be an effective way to recover from physical illness, addiction and mental strain. Over and over again, it has been proven that exercise can be used to not only improve your physical health but your mood as well. Recover with support from friends or family members. Seek professional help for a recovery plan that best suits your needs. Whatever works for you, just do it and continue moving forward.

Take time to recover, from yourself, from each other, from anything and everything. If you or a loved one is in any need of support, recovery or information, free and confidential problem solving services are available at NYC EAP. Contact us by phone at (212) 306-7660 or email at eap@olr.nyc.gov.

Name That Tunnel Boring Machine



DEP employees have an opportunity to literally leave their mark on one of the most technologically advanced machines ever used on a City construction project.

In 2017, DEP will receive the tunnel boring machine (TBM) that will drive the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel. The bypass tunnel is a 2.5-mile conduit that will be constructed 600 feet below the Hudson River. The finished bypass will be connected to structurally sound portions of the Delaware Aqueduct to convey drinking water around a stretch of the tunnel that is currently leaking water into the river.

The TBM will build the new tunnel by crushing bedrock that lies ahead, grouting the tunnel lining as it moves, and engineers say it

will withstand more pressure than any machine of its kind. In fact, the TBM is being designed to withstand 20 bar of pressure, or roughly 8.3 times the amount of pressure in an average car tire.

A machine that impressive deserves an equally strong name

We're asking our DEP colleagues to submit their ideas for a TBM name over the next week. Suggested names should be creative, and they should be historically or contextually connected to the City's water supply system. Ideas can be submitted to Adam Bosch by emailing boscha@dep.nyc.gov. One person will have his/her idea affixed to the machine and driven into New York City water supply history.

Out of the Archives



Tree fossils from Earth's oldest forest (380 million years old!) were uncovered when stone was quarried for the Gilboa Dam. The discovery was exceptionally significant and the fossils are now in several locations including the Gilboa Museum and New York State Museum, which exhibited a diorama of the forest from 1925-79 and continues to research the specimens. September 29, 1921. See more photos [here](#).

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