

Don't Take the Dam for 'Granite'



Bureau of Water Supply workers are pictured repointing the massive stones on the spillway of Merriman Dam at Rondout Reservoir in Ulster County. The repointing helps keep the 600-foot-long spillway in good condition by filling gaps in the masonry that developed over decades of freezing and thawing. The spillway is made of large granite stones that range from approximately 1–4 feet wide. Rondout Reservoir conveys drinking water to New York City through the 85-mile-long Delaware Aqueduct, the longest tunnel in the world.

Spotlight on Safety

Be Aware of Your Posture

You may already know that performing exercises with proper technique and posture is necessary to prevent injuries, even though a routine workout may be only 45–60 minutes. However, many of us neglect our posture and body position while at work.

Ergonomics is the science of fitting a job to the person who works in it. DEP has addressed ergonomic concerns through the design and/or re-design of work stations, job hazard assessments, formal ergonomic assessments and employee trainings, as well as ongoing

Environmental, Health & Safety assessments of worksites.

Proper posture helps to prevent the development of and reduce symptoms and side effects of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD). It also helps to minimize operation downtime due to diminishing work performance and excessive employee absenteeism due to developed MSD conditions. For additional information on maintaining proper posture at your worksite visit [DEP's Ergonomic Policy](#), [CDC's website](#) or [OSHA's website](#).

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

I was very excited to join with The Trust for Public Land (TPL), the NYC Department of Education, the NYC School Construction Authority and Council Member Rosie Mendez last week to announce the completion of yet another “green” playground—this one at PS 15 The Roberto Clemente School, in the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan.

The one-third of an acre playground includes green infrastructure components that will capture approximately 400,000 gallons of stormwater each year, which will improve the health of the East River. This work includes specialized plantings and shade trees, porous pavement and permeable pavers. In addition, a new synthetic turf field was constructed that includes a subsurface storage layer of broken stone and perforated distribution pipes to promote infiltration. P.S. 15's new green playground serves 200 pre-K to 5th grade students during the school day, and also serves the community as a public park during weekends, holidays and school vacations.

Contributing to such a unique playground demonstrates DEP's steadfast commitment to protecting New York City's environment. Green infrastructure reduces combined sewer overflows into our local waterways. We also value green spaces in ultra-urban areas for reducing air pollution, cooling

summer temperatures, and providing wildlife habitat.

DEP and TPL want to instill a sense of environmental stewardship in the next generation, which is why this project, like others before it, engaged students at PS 15 to contribute ideas during the planning process. Their concepts transformed a cracked asphalt lot into a state-of-the-art playground that features an artificial turf field, 2-lane running track, basketball courts, net climber with safety mats, play house, water fountain, benches, boulders, turf pods, a stage, game tables, color seal art designed by the students, an outdoor classroom and a mural.

This ribbon-cutting marks nine playgrounds we have completed around the city, including two this past summer. In Ridgewood, at the Robert E. Peary School, P.S. 75Q, we created a 1-acre play space that serves 500 pre-K to 12th grade students. And, at the Edward Bleeker School, J.H.S. 185Q, in Flushing, we constructed a 1.2-acre schoolyard that will serve 1,200 6th to 8th grade students. All of these green initiatives are helping to improve the health of the East River, the Gowanus Canal, the Bronx River, Jamaica Bay and Flushing Bay, in addition to Newtown Creek and Flushing Creek.

I would like to thank our entire DEP team for their hard work on this project, especially **Tetyana Klymenko, Margot Walker, Kent Pan, Miki Urisaka, and Kerry Lowe**. For more information and photos [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.

\$43 Million Farm and Forest Fund



The Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) and DEP have created a \$43 million endowment fund for WAC that will be used to safeguard agriculture and forestry easements for many decades to come. The endowment, which was fully funded by New York City, will be used by WAC to monitor activities and inspect easements that are owned by the council now and in the future. WAC currently owns easements across 25,845 acres of farm and forest land.

Fight the Flu at Work

All City employees who receive health insurance through the City are covered to receive an annual flu vaccination.

Get your free flu shot at the following locations and times. **Lefrak:** 6th Floor Training Rooms, 9/30, 8am–4pm; **Newtown Creek WWTP:** Support Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 9/29, 7am–9am; **Wards Island WWTP:** New Administrative Building, WI 1st Floor, Training Room, 9/23, 1:30pm–4:30pm; **Kingston:** Training Room 1 and 3, 9/29, 9am–3pm; **Valhalla:** 3rd Floor, Large Conference Room, 10/19, 9am–1pm; and **Rego Center Community Room:** 97th Street between ALDI and Horace Harding Expressway, 9/28 and 10/5, 7am–9am; 10/20, 11am–2pm; 11/3, 12pm–2pm, and 11/15, 8am–4pm. Remember to bring your City of New York employee ID to your flu shot. Schedule your worksite appointment in advance at www.apschedule.com/nycflu (username: nyc, password: flushot) or call 866-481-4391, Monday through Friday, 8am–6pm.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 34 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources **Zoe Ann Campbell** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Harold Fogle and **Rosario Marquez** with BCS; **Gamal Ingram** and **Ashley Jobson** with BEDC; **Anthony Brown**, **Matthew Castro**, **Robert Thompson**, **Eric VanTyle**, **Wilson Villaluna** and **Alrick Mowen** with BWS; **MD. M. Ahasan**, **Kevin Barraza**, **Catharine Bartone**, **Eve Brooks**, **Tasha Bussey**, **David Collier**, **Robert Dixon**, **Yasmin Husbands**, **Cary Liang**, **Keury Melendez**, **Kerrylene Modoo**, **Abir Momen**, **Ciara Olea**, **Gurpreet Parmar**, **Astrode Petit-Frere**, **Anna Pimenta**, **Ranoda Prewitt**, **Adam Scicchitano** and **Rong Yuan** with BWSO; **Michael Carew** and **Jerry Mile** with BWT; **Ali Farooqui** with CDBG; **Paul Sagar** with Legal; and **Aleksandr Sadkhin** with OIT.

Bronx Office Earns Perfect CORE Score



Congratulations to the hardworking Bureau of Customer Service staff at the Bronx Borough Office for getting a perfect score on their recent CORE inspection. The CORE program, also known as Customers Observing and Reporting Experience, rates facility conditions and customer service at over 300 of the City's walk-in service centers. Street Condition Observation Unit (SCOUT) inspectors from the Mayor's Office of Operations arrive unannounced at service centers, conduct observations and rate 11 physical conditions and four customer service elements. Using specific criteria, inspectors rate each condition excellent, good, fair or poor. Agencies receive scores for cleaning & maintenance, facility operations and an overall score combining the first two. The Bronx Borough Office received a rating of 100, meaning excellent, across the board! Congratulations to all those pictured above: **Theresa Feighery**, **Joann Gaston**, **Jimmy Solero**, **Marcela Carvajal**, **Antigone Hawkins**, **Jacqueline Holly**, **Jacqueline Hernandez**, **Lester Ledgister**, **Betsey Rodriguez**, **Jasmine Singh**, **Denise Sital**, **Laura Hairston**, **Lanier Williams**, **Tara Burton-Gates**, **Arif Kapadia**, **Rubin Hernandez**, **David Brodie**, **Anthony Golino**, **Olga Santos**, **Debbie McCray**, **Brian Vahey**, **Michael Penasso**, **Victor Ortiz**, **Carl Moll**, **Jennifer Sayers**, and **Julia White**. Keep up the good work!

Teamwork Makes DEP Work Better



DEP's Quality of Work Life (QWL) labor/management committees (i.e. Oversight, CAT and Equipment) participated in a team building retreat on September 14 at Oak Ridge at Forest Park in Woodhaven, Queens. The workshop was designed to strengthen the alignment of management and labor by offering participants the opportunity to share ideas, explore ways to improve communication and collaboration, network, and reinforce QWL's commitment to serving the employees of DEP. This event was attended by **Diana Almanzar**, **Jon Bailey**, **Nicholas Barbaro**, **Rebecca Behle**, **Zoe Ann Campbell**, **David Cohen**, **Rosie DeJesus**, **Aaron Feinstein**, **Tasos Georgelis**, **Peter Graziano**, **Marcia Jones**, **Lionel Layne**, **Gary Leunis**, **Patrick McFarland**, **Sam Nebedum**, **Lisa Polimine**, **Diana Jones Ritter**, **Mike Roach**, **Andy Rousseau**, **Kyle Simmons**, **Sandra Shaddock**, **Andrea Shivcharan**, **Lenora Smith**, **Brian Swarouth**, and **Kim Vann**.

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