

\$40 MILLION SEWER UPGRADE



Early next year, DEP will break ground on a \$40 million upgrade to the sewer system that will improve the health of Jamaica Bay. Construction will begin on a new \$29 million interceptor sewer in south Ozone Park that, when com-

pleted, will provide significant additional capacity within the area's drainage system and reduce sewer overflows into Bergen Basin. In addition, at a cost of \$11 million, later in the spring DEP will begin work to install three hydraulic levees at key junction points within the area's sewer network that will optimize the carrying capacity of the pipes during rain storms and reduce sewer overflows into both Bergen Basin and Thurston Basin. Modeling shows that taken together, the two projects will ensure that an additional 300 million gallons of combined sewer flow are routed to the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant each year, where it will be treated to Federal Clean Water Act standards, rather than being discharged into the tributaries of Jamaica Bay.

Spotlight on Safety

EHS Year End Recap

In 2014, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS):

- Implemented new procedures to standardize the EHS assessment process.
- Benchmarked EHS assessment deliverables, to decrease the time it takes to provide findings and feedback for the required bureau/facility response
- Improved statistical analysis of data to better understand agency-wide EHS performance
- Held the 3rd, "EHS Forum" aimed at fostering professional development for the DEP EHS community
- Revived the "EHS Matters" publication, to present case studies on EHS incidents and near misses

- Enabled the Training Tracking & Reporting System (TTRS) to demonstrate agency compliance with mandated trainings.
- Established Computer Based Trainings in the TTRS (e.g., Conflicts of Interest, Recycling)

Overall DEP's total recordable illness and injuries for FY 2014 showed a decrease. Also, the agency's injury/incident rate decreased and remains below the industry rate of 5.9. It is important to that we continue towards the Agency's vision of making DEP among the safest water utilities in the nation.

We are always interested in getting your feedback about EHS at DEP, so feel free to send in a question or suggestion to EHS@dep.nyc.gov.

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

Please join us for a moment of silence this afternoon as we honor the memory and sacrifice of NYC's two slain police officers.

As the Mayor has noted in his statements over the last few days, the whole City has been wounded by the senseless murder of Police Officers Ramos and Liu last week. To honor their memory, and to show our solidarity with the women and men of the NYPD, and our own DEP police officers who put their lives on the line for us all every day, we will be observing a moment of silence this afternoon at 2:47pm, the time when our



colleagues made the ultimate sacrifice. Please join us for a moment of reflection and respect.

\$40 MILLION SEWER UPGRADE (Continued)

Currently, two 36-inch sewer lines carry combined flow from North Conduit Avenue, under the Belt Parkway, to 150th Street and 126th Avenue, where it connects to a 72-inch sewer line which brings the flow to the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant. Due to increased development in southern Queens, the twin 36-inch sewers no longer have sufficient capacity to carry the combined flow generated north of the Belt Parkway and act as a bottleneck in the areas drainage system. During heavy rain, the bottleneck causes Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) to be discharged into Bergen Basin. To relieve this bottleneck DEP will build a parallel 48-inch sewer under the Belt Parkway. It is anticipated that this new sewer line will reduce CSOs into Bergen Basin by 135 million gallons each year.

To further reduce CSOs into Bergen Basin, as well as into Thurston

Basin, at a cost of \$11 million DEP will install three hydraulic levees, or bending weirs, at key points in the areas sewer system to optimize the capacity of the pipes to store the combined flow during rain storms. During rain storms, the weirs will be kept in an upright position by counter-balanced weights. This will hold the flow in the pipe until there is enough pressure to force it down, which is only expected to occur during intense rain storms. Once the rain storm has passed, the flow will continue on and be treated at the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant. Installation of the three weirs is expected to reduce CSOs into Bergen Basin by 65 million gallons each year and into Thurston Basin by 102 million gallons a year.

To view maps and renderings of this latest project to improve the health of our waterways, click [here](#).



Happy Holidays



Thanks to the generosity of so many DEP employees, the 2014 Holiday Toy Drive collected approximately 700 new toys for children in need in New York City and throughout the watershed. The toys will be donated to Families on the Move NYC, The People's Place in Kingston, Santa's Helpers at the Downsville Central School and to Sullivan County Head Start. Thank you for helping to make the holidays brighter for those in need. See more pictures [here](#).

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 10 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!

Robert Calcano and **Michael Cobb** with BWSO; **Vincent T. Coughlin** and **Matthew Herrington** with BWT; **Alexa M. Aristizabal** with Executive; **Tonicka Blades** with BEDC; **Chrissaida Crawford** with BWS; **Ashley Miah** with Engineering Audits; **Joe Negrin Jr.** with OIT; and **Wanda Roldan** with Human Resources.

Extra, Extra!



Click the photo to see a video about the recently completed sewer upgrade project in the St. Albans neighborhood of Queens. For those wishing to view the video outside of the office, you can watch it on our [YouTube Channel](#).

'Stream'lining Water Quality



Last Friday, DEP joined the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program to announce the completion of two major projects that restored 1,620 feet of stream in the Town of Shandaken. The projects, with a combined cost of \$2.6 million, were designed to protect key roadways and water quality in the NYC drinking water supply. To read more about the projects and to view photos of the work, click [here](#).



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