

## Watershed Recreation



DEP recently released the annual [Watershed Recreation Newsletter](#), which serves as a yearly source of updates for thousands of watershed residents and visitors who enjoy recreating on City-owned lands and waters. The 2016 edition includes a calendar of outdoor events—including special fishing events, educational tours, and volunteer efforts—that are suitable for families. The newsletter also highlights information about DEP's recreational boating program, new fish stocking efforts, and profiles on two unique recreation units that offer fishing, hiking and more.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Workplace Violence Prevention Program

Every employee has the right to a safe and respectful workplace, and DEP is dedicated to providing such a workplace for all of its employees. Workplace violence is any physical assault or act of aggressive behavior occurring where a public employee performs any work-related duty in the course of his or her employment. DEP's Workplace Violence (WPV) Prevention Program is designed to minimize the number of incidents and respond promptly to any that do occur.

DEP employees have the right—and are encouraged—to report incidents or concerns about workplace violence without fear of retaliation. If you believe you have experienced or witnessed an incident, you should immediately notify your supervisor and/or the DEP WPV Prevention Coordinator at: [wpvconcerns@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:wpvconcerns@dep.nyc.gov). Visit [DEP's workplace Violence Prevention Program](#) under DEP Resources in The Source for more information.

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.

## Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

I am pleased to report that outreach teams from the Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications have knocked on the doors of 25,000 homes in southeast Queens to spread the message that improperly disposing of grease down kitchen drains can clog pipes and lead to sewer backups. The door-to-door campaign began last September and will cover Community Boards 12 and 13, where there were more than 4,800 reports of sewer back-ups during the past five years. Investigations by DEP crews found that most of these backups were caused by grease blockages in the sewers. Accumulation of grease in sewer lines is responsible for 60 percent of sewer backups citywide.

By the end of this summer, DEP anticipates reaching 50,000 households and more than 1,000 food service establishments with grease education kits and compliance information. In addition, partnerships have been established with local schools, community boards, elected officials, business groups, and religious and neighborhood organizations to encourage New Yorkers to properly dispose of grease in the household trash.

Educational programs have been developed for the schools in the area, including P.S. 176, P.S. /I.S. 148 and I.S. 59, with interactive



**Eric Landau**, DEP's Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications, is a guest commentator this week.

and multidisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) lessons. The curriculum introduces students and educators to New York City's drinking water and wastewater systems. More information can be found [here](#). In addition, information and grease education kits will be made available at as many community events and meetings as possible. The campaign will also include workshops at New York City Housing Authority developments, which include approximately 2,500 households within the two Community Boards, and on-site visits will be made to commercial food establishments.

I'd like to thank our partners in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations and the many volunteers from our Environmental Compliance Outreach and Community Affairs teams who have sacrificed numerous Saturday's to help spread this [important message](#).



## Prescription for Addiction

### Going in.

A note from **Kaitlyn Maceira**, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program

A 2014 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration study found that 21.2 million Americans over the age of 12 needed inpatient treatment for their misuse of drugs and/or alcohol that year. Inpatient programs, usually lasting 28 days, are held in residential treatment facilities with a focus on, among other topics, obtaining sobriety, relapse prevention, identification of triggers to use and learning healthy coping skills.

Recently, with managed care becoming increasingly more difficult to navigate, people are often discharged after two to seven days due to a lack of insurance coverage. Thousands of inpatient substance abuse treatment facilities are scattered across the United States, among these are self-pay programs, programs covered within an insurance network and those that will bill for out-of-network services. It has become gradually more common for people struggling with addiction and/or their family and friends to run into difficulty seeking help through inpatient treatment, both in terms of insurance coverage and false advertising by the treatment program

regarding available services, accommodations, and even location. However, steering oneself through the maze of inpatient options does not have to be disheartening and discouraging, the NYC Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help.

NYC EAP has extensive experience working with different treatment facilities and has built strong relationships with many to ensure a worthwhile stay and an appropriate treatment program for each individual. To better assist the employee or family member, NYC EAP is equipped to authorize the necessary length of stay for those who have GHI insurance, and will work closely with Beacon Health Options to ensure the longest stay possible for those with HIP insurance. NYC EAP will continue to work with the employee or family member following their inpatient stay by maintaining continuous contact, including connecting them with an outpatient treatment facility for added support and coping skills to maintain sobriety in one's everyday life. All information and services provided by NYC EAP are free and confidential and can be accessed by calling (212) 306-7660 or emailing [eap@olr.nyc.gov](mailto:eap@olr.nyc.gov).

### Save the Date!

Please join us Wednesday, March 23, at noon in the Rego Center Community Room when, as part of the DEP Experience Brown Bag Luncheon, we will hear from DEP's **Ted Dowey**. Ted is a project manager for the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction and he will speak about his first project management experience, *Diamond Prospecting in West Africa*. Please plan to join us, and don't forget to bring your lunch! The Rego Center Community Room is located on 97<sup>th</sup> Street, just off of Horace Harding Expressway and next to the ALDI Food Market. [A map is located here.](#)

## Fix a Leak Week



Last week, DEP staff fanned out across the city to educate New Yorkers about the high cost of residential water leaks and simple steps homeowners can take to find the leaks and repair them. The outreach events were held in recognition of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Fix a Leak Week* which is celebrated between March 14–20 to remind Americans to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. The outreach events were held at select Home Depot stores and DEP staff distributed literature along with leak detector dye tablets designed to quickly identify leaky toilets.

## Welcome Aboard!



Last week, 27 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!

**Noel Nieves** with BCS; **Frank Malandro** with BEC; **Paul Herzfeld** with BLA; **Bradley Darling**, **Kirby Fletcher**, **Melissa Murgittroyd**, **Melissa Ng**, **Eric Pfeiffer**, **Jamie Rizzo**, **Jeffrey Scanlan**, **Iris Stratton**, **Brandon Terrill**, and **Steven VanValkenburg** with BWS; **Adebayo Adeleke**, **Robert Carrion**, **Kelson Davis**, **Joshua Foster**, **Victor Lee**, **Ezequiel Manaiza**, **Mihailo Paylyha**, **Mohammed M. Rahman**, **Sarita Sablon**, and **Whitnee Washington** with BWSO; **Kristina Buddenhagen** with BWT; **Omar Nazem** with FDC; **Shiva Paul** with Police & Security; and **Philip Wong** with Sustainability.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**