

Water Supply Memorial



This past weekend, DEP Police joined members of the New York Guard's 56th Brigade to honor the guard members who protected the New York City reservoir system during World War I. The annual gathering at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery honors those members of the First Provisional Regiment who protected the water supply more than 90 years ago. The 1,200-man regiment patrolled 98 miles of aqueducts between Kingston and Yonkers during the war and roughly 40 of the members died from a form of influenza. The regiment included men and boys who were not eligible to serve overseas.

Spotlight on Safety

NYC Construction Safety Week 2015

The New York City Department of Building's annual Construction Safety Week took place from April 27 – May 1. A major component of Construction Safety Week is the Build Safe/Live Safe Conference, where experts discuss industry trends and highlight safe construction operations.

DEP's Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC) celebrated Construction Safety Week by hosting a booth at the Build Safe/Live Safe Conference for the fourth year in a row. BEDC also distributed

daily communications to its employees and contractors which focused on a variety of topics important to Bureau operations. In addition, staff developed a series of poster's highlighting some important safety topics, including [fall prevention](#), [slips, trips and falls](#), [culture of safety](#), the importance of [observations](#) and [planning](#).

For more information on NYC Construction Safety Week and the Build Safe/Live Safe Conference, please visit [Construction Safety Week 2015](#).

Commissioner's Corner

On May, 1, 2015, **Deputy Commissioner Zoe Ann Campbell**, and **James Cuggy**, **Deputy Director of HR**, accepted the City's highest award for DEP's blood donation efforts from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and the New York Blood Center in recognition of last year's very successful program. The award ceremony was held at Battery Gardens Harbor View Restaurant in Manhattan. In 2014, DEP employees donated over 2,300 units of blood which will go a long way in saving lives.

From organ transplants to heart surgeries, today's advanced medical care relies on blood transfusions. When one person donates a unit of blood, it can be separated into individual components to save multiple lives. Blood donors help meet the daily transfusion needs of cancer and surgery patients, accident and burn victims, newborns and mothers delivering babies, AIDS and sickle cell anemia patients, and many more.

Congrats and huge thanks to the many DEP employees who make the blood drives happen,



including **Glorivee Roman**, **Trina Jones**, **Robert D'Attile**, **Vyacheslav Repik**, **Danielle Cantwell**, **Mary Beth Gelb**, **Adele Mandanici**, **Joseph Trimarco**, **Malini Strickland**, **Daniel Chin**, **Debra Siegel**, **Julio Nunes**, **Arlene Jordan**, **Thundiyathu Babukutty**, **John Conti**, **Bibi Baksh**, **Marjorie Adams**, **Patricia Abrams**, **Robin Turner**, **Theresa Kelly**, **Emily Kinne**, **Kim Scanlan**, **Latisha Moore**, **Margaret Chambless**, **Godwin Lowe** and **Joseph Borchetta**. Thank you to all staff for supporting this initiative and making 2014 such an outstanding year for DEP's blood donation program.



Kudos Corner

This past weekend, the "How NYC Works" team from NY 1 was recognized with two Emmy Awards for the series which takes an in-depth look at different facets of the city's infrastructure. Many thanks to the numerous DEP employees who spent countless hours hosting the team during the taping of the shows on the city's [drinking water](#) and [wastewater](#) systems.

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.

Eel Count at Richmond Creek Bluebelt



Last week, DEP and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation hosted students from the Saint Clare and New York Harbor Schools, as well as Cub Scouts from Pack 25, at the annual count of juvenile glass eels at Staten Island's Richmond Creek Bluebelt. The American eel is born at sea, floats to the shore on prevailing currents, and migrates to clean, healthy waterways along the east coast where they can live up to 20 years. Eel populations are an important indicator of water quality and experts have seen a resurgence in the eel population in New York City following billions of dollars in investments to improve water quality.

Each spring eels arrive in estuaries like the Hudson River and urban ponds as translucent, two-inch long "glass eels." As part of ongoing research, volunteers and students use a ten-foot cone-shaped net specifically designed to catch the eels and then count and release them back into the water. The 2015 eel monitoring program began in March and will continue until the end of the eels' migratory period. So far thousands of glass eels have been observed in Richmond Creek. Staten Island is one of ten sites, ranging from New York City to Albany, where counts are taken as part of DEC's Hudson River Eel Project.

In 2014, about 6,000 glass eels were observed in Richmond Creek and more than 85,000 were counted at the 10 Hudson River Estuary monitoring sites. Eel populations had been in decline along the east coast of the United States for decades due to a combination of over fishing, water quality degradation, and man-made barriers to migration, such as dams.

Over the last decade DEP invested more than \$10 billion to upgrade sewers and wastewater treatment plants to improve the health of New York Harbor and local waterways. On Staten Island DEP has connected thousands of homes to the City's wastewater treatment system, eliminating the need for septic tanks, and preserved or constructed more than 60 Bluebelt wetlands to reduce roadway flooding and improve harbor water quality.

The Bluebelt program preserves and optimizes natural drainage corridors including streams, ponds and lakes. Stormwater is directed to the wetlands where it is stored and naturally filtered. In addition, the Bluebelts provide important open spaces and diverse wildlife habitats. Over the last ten years DEP has built Bluebelts for approximately one third of Staten Island's land area.

To view more photos from last week's eel count click [here](#).

Press Box



DEP SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FLOATABLE BEACH SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

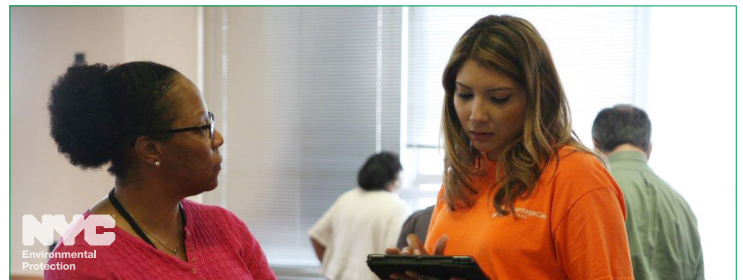
The New York City Department of Environmental Protection is once again looking for volunteers to be part of its 2015 Volunteer Floatables Beach Surveillance program. The program, which kicks off this month and continues until October, takes note of floatable debris often found in local waters. Floatables are man-made, waterborne waste materials that wash up on beaches and shorelines. The program also helps track serious oil spills, fish kills and water contamination. In addition, volunteers also survey litter from the sidewalk that lands on the beach when storm sewers overflow. Volunteers would work once a week for 20 minutes. The optimum time to monitor the water is any time up to two hours after high tide. Surveys can be done on a lunch hour, in the evening after work, or on the weekend.

Read the entire Staten Island Advance article [here](#).

Did You Know?

That the Delaware River Basin Commission has released an updated modeling tool that allows the public to test water management scenarios and compare their outcomes? The Delaware River Basin-Planning Support Tool provides interested stakeholders with the ability to test flow management scenarios against a set of existing targets, regulations, and laws that govern the use of water within the Delaware River Basin. The tool will show users how those scenarios would change an array of outcomes, including the amount of water available for drinking supplies, downstream releases, habitat protection, flood mitigation, and more. Additional information can be found on the commission's [web site](#).

DEP Snapshot



Last week, nearly 500 employees attended DEP's Health and Wellness Fair.

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