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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 16-65
July 1, 2016

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NYC Educators Visit Water Supply System in the Catskills



More than 40 educators learned about forests, farms, streams and the important role the Catskills play in the nation’s largest water supply

More than 40 educators from New York City visited the Catskills on Thursday to learn about the City’s water supply system and local partnership programs related to forests, farms and streams. The daylong tour included stops at Rondout Reservoir, the Time and the Valleys Museum, the Frost Valley YMCA Model Forest, and Thunder View Farms. The annual tour provides information and exercises to educate thousands of people in New York City about their high-quality drinking water and the invaluable role the Catskill region plays in preserving it. The educators come from a wide range of museums, nonprofit groups and government agencies within the City, including the American Museum of Natural History, National Wildlife Federation, Bronx Children’s Museum, Children’s Museum of Manhattan, and the New York Harbor Foundation. The annual tour is made possible by a grant from the Watershed Agricultural Council.

Note: Additional high-res images from the tour are available on [DEP’s Flickr page](#).

DEP manages New York City’s water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of high quality water each day to roughly 9.5 million New Yorkers. This includes more than 70 upstate communities and institutions in Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties who consume an average of 110 million total gallons of drinking water daily from New York City’s water supply system. This water comes from the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton watersheds that extend more than 125 miles from the City, and the system comprises 19 reservoirs,

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three controlled lakes, and numerous tunnels and aqueducts. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the upstate watershed. In addition to its \$70 million payroll and \$157 million in annual taxes paid in upstate counties, DEP has invested more than \$1.7 billion in watershed protection programs—including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Watershed Agricultural Council—that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program with nearly \$14 billion in investments planned over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/dep](#), like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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