

How NYC Works: Wastewater Treatment



“New Yorkers use a lot of water. An average of 1.2 billion gallons goes down the drain every day... So where does it all go? The only place it can. Into the waterways that surround us. Before it reaches the waterways, it passes through a complex

wastewater treatment system run by the city’s Department of Environmental Protection to clean and disinfect it so we don’t get sick and wildlife can survive. Let’s find out how it works.” [Watch NY1’s Roger Clark take us through the wastewater treatment process.](#)

Spotlight on Safety

Hazard Communication/Right-to-Know Policy

DEP’s revised Hazard Communication/Right-to-Know (RTK) Policy officially goes into effect today, July 1. The revised policy reflects the requirements of the new Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals developed by the United Nations, for which employees and contractors must comply. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standard 1910.1200, which addresses the potential hazards of chemicals found in the workplace, was revised in 2012 as part of the transition to GHS.

The key revisions to the policy include changes for individual roles and responsibilities, explanations of the new pictograms, as well as an outline of the new Safety Data Sheet format. Employees working with hazardous materials should know the format changes to labels and safety data sheets, how they work together, and the guidance on product handling and emergency response. For more information view the [DEP Hazard Communication/RTK Policy](#).

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

The use of rain barrels helps to further a number of important initiatives for DEP and this past Sunday we partnered with Assembly Member **Nily Rozic** to distribute approximately 300 of them to homeowners in Fresh Meadows, Queens. The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner’s downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. The water collected in the rain barrels can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. Rain barrels can help reduce residential water bills as watering lawns and gardens can account for up to 40 percent of an average household’s water use during the summer months. They also help to reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the City’s sewer system, which in this case helps to protect the health of Flushing Bay. Since 2008, DEP has distributed more than 2,400 rain barrels. View photos from Sunday’s event [here](#) or on our [Flickr page](#).

DEP’s Rain Barrel Giveaway Program is part of New York City’s Green Infrastructure Plan, which aims to capture stormwater before it can ever enter the sewer system and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows into local waterways.

The rain barrel program also builds upon DEP’s efforts to conserve water as part of a \$1.5 billion initiative to ensure clean, reliable, and safe drinking water

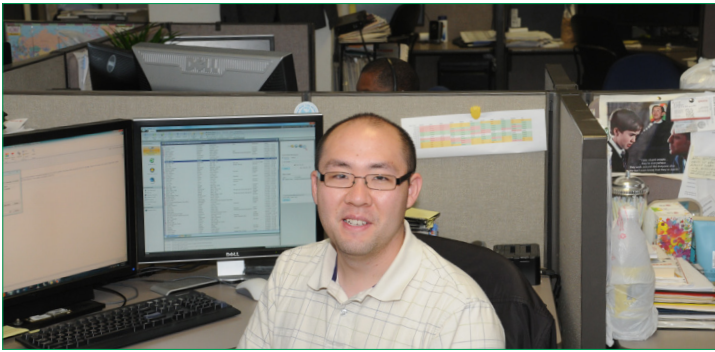


for more than nine million New Yorkers for decades to come.

To further reduce the use of water in private residences, we recently initiated a \$23 million High Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program that will replace inefficient toilets in select residential properties across the five boroughs and save 10 million gallons of water each day. We’ve also been working to reduce demand for water at City-owned facilities, including the installation of activation buttons on spray showers at 400 playgrounds around the city that will save 1.5 million gallons of water a day during the summer months. We are also installing new, high efficiency fixtures in the bathrooms of 500 City schools to reduce water consumption by nearly 4 million gallons each school day. Finally, see the back page of today’s Pipeline to read about the great work being done to reduce water consumption at DEP’s wastewater treatment plants.



Focus on the Field



DEP's nearly 6,000 employees provide essential services that are needed around the clock by more than 9 million New Yorkers, and the department is constantly integrating new technologies into its day-to-day operations to meet new needs and further improve the delivery of these services. This means that employees are ever more reliant on the Office of Information and Technology (OIT) to ensure that their computers, mobile phones, tablets, laptops and printers are working properly. **Paul Park**, OIT's Service Desk Manager, oversees a team of a dozen technicians who respond to more than 100 requests for assistance each work day.

Park was born and raised on Long Island and graduated from Ward Melville High School. He earned a bachelor's of science degree in computer and systems engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and joined DEP in October 2008 as an IT Technician. In this role he primarily responded to requests for assistance to the help desk. He was later promoted to Senior IT Technician where he assumed primary responsibility for supporting the executive staff. And, earlier this year, he took on his current role as Service Desk Manager.

Park is currently spearheading the implementation of the NYC PrintSmart initiative at DEP, a program that aims to modernize the printing operations across City government, reduce costs and improve the environment. By centralizing most print jobs at multi-function devices, DEP

expects to reduce costs by up to 60 percent per year. In addition, added capabilities will allow employees to send print jobs directly from mobile devices and scan documents directly to email. The initiative will also help to protect the environment by reducing our demand for electricity and require fewer supplies, such as paper and toner. Over the last week Park has been instituting these changes on the 10th floor at Lefrak headquarters where OIT resides. In the future the program will be spread to the entire department.

The Service Desk can be a stressful place to work at times, but according to Park that's also what makes the job rewarding. "I really enjoy working with computers and helping others fully utilize their potential, but it's even more satisfying to know that our work is supporting the critical services DEP provides," he said. "The talented, diverse and professional technicians in OIT strive every day to ensure timely resolutions to all IT issues."

"In a relatively short period of time Paul has proven himself to be a talented IT professional and an integral member of the support team here at DEP," said **Farhan Abdullah**, Director of IT Operations.

When he's not resolving IT issues at DEP, and managing to avoid similar requests from friends and family, Park likes to play basketball and is a big fan of the Knicks. He's happy that they've hired Phil Jackson and has his fingers crossed that Jackson will bring a championship back to New York City.

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

Much Less Demanding



While DEP is working on numerous external initiatives to reach the important goal of a five percent reduction in citywide water demand prior to the future shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct for repairs, steps have also been taken internally to reduce the amount of water we use. [Click here](#) to read more.

Paddlers Wanted



DEP's Hong Kong Dragon Boat Team is looking for new paddlers to join them for this year's annual festival. [Click here](#) for more information!

Welcome Aboard!



Last week, 27 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner of Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

John Claudio-Bil, **Bhawanie Jaggernauth**, **Andrew McGarrell**, **Nubia Morales**, **Micheal Palladino**, **Rodney Robinson**, **Thomas Rosello** and **Esmond Yuen** with BCS; **Yannick Lungu**, **Derek McGruder**, **Shyam Singh**, **Tehual Singh**, **Dennis Thomas**, **Tommy Usry** and **Douglas Wilson** with BWT; **George W. Bloom**, **Joanna Heim** and **Yong-Sheng Teng** with BEDC; **Steven S. Brown**, **Sean Camillieri** and **Joseph C. McGrath III** with BWS; **Krystal Castle**, **Xin Cheng** and **Timothy P. O'Grady** with Executive; **Joseph Anzelone** with Fleet; **Joshua S. Hardy** with Public Affairs; and **Elias Kanellos** with BWSO.