

## Commissioner's Corner

### Thank You for Your Service!

In honor of Veteran's Day, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the veterans within the DEP family.

We salute those who have served in our nation's armed forces and those who are active-duty members of the military.

We also take a moment to quietly reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by so many servicemen and servicewomen while protecting our freedoms.

Thanks to the staff members and veterans who partook in Sunday's NYC Veterans Day Parade. I'd also like to encourage staff to join me at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Events, being held at Lefrak on Friday, November 16, from 12:15PM–1:30PM, and at Kingston on Monday, November 26, from 12PM–2PM.

The nation owes all veterans a debt of gratitude.

With our utmost respect and honor, thank you for your service.



DEP staff members and veterans, as well as the Police Honor Guard, were among the thousands who took part in Sunday's NYC Veterans Day Parade up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. The 1.2-mile route stretched from 26<sup>th</sup> Street to 46<sup>th</sup> Street, and commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I (1918-2018). The Army was the featured military branch, with the Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard also represented. The parade boasted more than 300 marching elements and an estimated 20–30,000 participants, as well as top high school marching bands from across the country, and an array of floats, military vehicles, and vintage automobiles.



## Spotlight on Safety

### The Importance of Safety in Sustainability

DEP's new vision is "to be a world class water and wastewater utility, while building a sustainable future for all New Yorkers." While sustainability is a term most commonly used to describe protecting the environment, it can also refer to an agency's sustainability. This includes occupational safety and the wellbeing of employees. Therefore, it is important to include bureau EHS in any changes being made within your bureau to ensure new operations are safe for both employees and the public.

DEP recently began revising its Strategic Plan with new values:

1. Safety
2. Integrity
3. Service
4. Diversity
5. Support
6. Transparency
7. Sustainability
8. Innovation

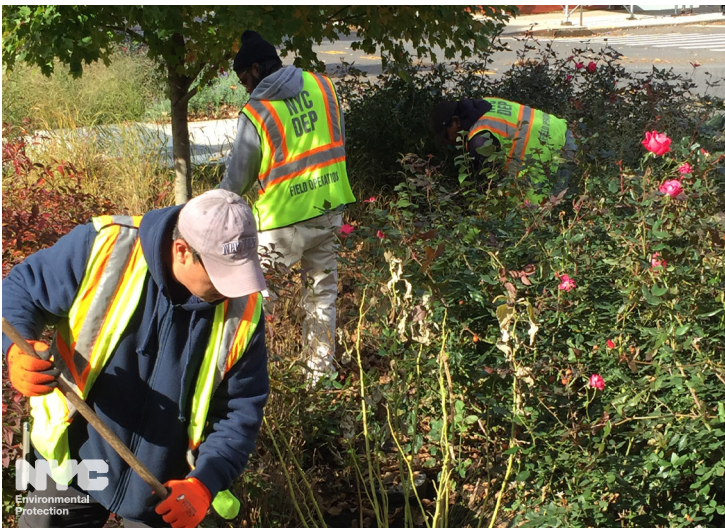
To learn more about DEP's plan to include safety in sustainability, visit [DEP's Strategic Plan](#) site. To learn more about the relationship between sustainability and safety, read the [Safety & Health Magazine article](#).

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. HELP IS ON THE WAY.



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of innovation. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by November 20 to [values@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:values@dep.nyc.gov) and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.

## Green Infrastructure Winter Prep



With more than 4,000 Green Infrastructure (GI) installations across the city, ensuring that they are operating properly and at peak efficiency is imperative to the health of New York Harbor. To that end, BWSO GI Maintenance crews work year-round to care for each asset. In the fall, which the crews note seems to be coming later every year, each installation is prepared for the winter months by checking on the health of the plantings, trimming tall grasses and perennials, and collecting and removing leaves and debris. A thin layer of leaves is left to protect the roots of the plants during the winter months. Pictured here are **Kasia Kwaczynska, Isaias Bermudez-Martes, Francisco Mejia, Frank Hollman, and Theo Mixon** who are winterizing Stormwater Green Streets adjacent to Soundview Park, and within a stone's throw of the Bronx River. Additional Bronx crew members include **Carmen Duran, Carlos Dale, Said Glynn, Allen Laboy, Marc Richardson, and Felisha Rodriguez.**



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

## Kudos Corner



**Françoise Chauvin**, who helps make sure DEP follows the accepted methods and procedures to collect and analyze many of its drinking water samples, recently joined a federal committee advising the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on similar matters. In October, she became a member of the EPA's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board. Known as ELAB, it was "established to provide advice and counsel on scientific issues associated with measurement, monitoring, and laboratory science matters..." acting EPA Administrator **Andrew Wheeler** explained in his letter of invitation. Chauvin said being part of ELAB will give the City a "voice in the conversation shaping the evolution of the analytical approaches used for environmental testing." Chauvin has been with DEP for almost 13 years and is a quality assurance supervisor in Distribution Water Quality Operations in Lefrak. She previously worked for a biotechnology firm and was a post-doc at Johns Hopkins University. She has been part of committees similar to ELAB but on a smaller scale. She was previously a voting member on the Chemistry Expert Committee for the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference. ELAB helps EPA develop, validate and disseminate methods for sample collection and analysis. Her term on the 15-member, volunteer board will end in October 2020.

## Welcome Aboard!



Today, 6 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Michelle Szeto** with BEDC; **Anna L. Bily** (not pictured) and **Adam Campbell** with BWS; **Daler Avalov** and **Chineme Emuhcay** with BWT; and **Zeyu (Mike) Su** with OIT.