

Weekly Pipeline

Barretto Point Park, Bronx

November 23, 2021

Happy Thanksgiving

As the holiday approaches, I want to wish you and your families a safe and healthy Thanksgiving, and to also express my thanks for your dedication to DEP during

another challenging year. Your herculean efforts in these trying times have allowed our agency to continue to fulfill its goals of being a world class water

and wastewater utility. I sincerely appreciate your support and partnership, and hope you enjoy some much-needed time with your loved ones. Stay safe, and

best wishes again for a healthy holiday season.



Vincent Sapienza

Commissioner's Corner



Vincent Sapienza

Last Friday I was honored to join with the National Park Service, the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy (JBRPC), and the Fund for

the City of New York to cut the ribbon on the newly completed Living Shoreline at West Pond in the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Recreation Area.

The restoration project uses natural features to create a soft protective edge that will limit erosion and protect West Pond and the adjacent loop trail. Newly placed sand and native plantings will act as wave attenuators, safeguarding these vital freshwater wetlands while

creating a new, much-needed tidal wetland. The protective berm around West Pond was breached during Superstorm Sandy and subsequently repaired in 2017. Another breach would eliminate a freshwater wetland system that supports a high diversity of bird species within Jamaica Bay. For more photos of the project and the ribbon cutting, visit [Flickr](#).

The restoration project, which cost \$4 million and was funded entirely by DEP, began May 17 and was completed earlier this month. The living shoreline was designed by Dirtworks Landscape Architecture PC, Rippled Waters Engineering and Great Ecology, with collaboration from community stakeholders including the Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers, the American

Littoral Society, and the Billion Oyster Project. The funding was part of an agreement between New York City and New York State to further improve the health of local waterways.

Construction restored 2,400 linear feet of shoreline with ap-

proximately 51,000 cubic yards of sand, thereby creating more than nine acres of wetland and upland maritime habitat. A breakwater system comprised of 5,000 biodegradable oyster...

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Spotlight on Safety

As we enter the second holiday season of the pandemic, it is important to continue to take precautions to gather safely. Remember these safety tips:

- if sick, avoid preparing food
- wash hands frequently when handling food
- do not share cups, plates, and silverware
- keep raw meat and eggs away from fresh produce and other foods that do not need to be cooked
- use separate cutting boards, plates, and utensils for uncooked and cooked meats to

avoid cross-contamination; clean up after cooking

- keep cold foods cold (40 F or below) and hot foods hot (165 F for most foods); use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature
- refrigerate leftovers within two hours of being served
- leftovers are safe for 3-4 days when refrigerated

Visit [Food Safety for the Holidays](#) and [Safer Ways to Celebrate Holidays](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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 [EHS EMPLOYEE CONCERNS](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

In the News



Community volunteers were given the opportunity to learn about rain garden maintenance during a special event last month held in conjunction with DEP and Public Advocate **Jumaane Williams**. **Commissioner Sapienza** also joined the group, talking about the importance of green infrastructure and how it helps to manage neighborhood flooding. [Read the news story.](#)

Newtown Creek Cleanup



DEP recently assisted environmental groups seeking to revitalize Newtown Creek in Queens. The Nov. 13 cleanup took place at the Borden Avenue Street dead end in Greenpoint, where the Dutch Kill tributary passes under the Long Island Expressway. Approximately 50 volunteers participated—filling four 30-yard containers provided by the Newtown Creek

Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility. Special thanks to Bureau of Wastewater Treatment Transportation Section Chief **Samuel Young**, dispatchers **Brian Bowen**, **Thomas Ortiz** and **Lateef Franklin**, and motor vehicle operators **Jimmy Competelli** and **Rodney Taylor** for coordinating drop-off and pickup of the containers to support this community event!

Welcome Aboard!



On Monday, 18 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the agency from **Commissioner Sapienza** and HR Generalist **Harold Kim**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Mariann Adams, **Cierra Barnes**, **Rachel Goodman**, **Tanya Harding**, **Sharmin Hos-**

sain, **Lisa Jackson**, **Dharmattie Ramkishun**, **Alexis Santiago**, and **Veronica Torres**, with BCS; **Paul Belec**, with FMC; **Alvin Bermudez**, **Amitav Ghosh**, **Shahria Kony**, **Wenxiang Liu**, and **MD Golam Rabbani**, with BWSO; **Weronika Patycka**, **Cristian Sabin**, and **Mohammad Asif Saeed**, with BEDC.

Holiday Toy Drive



Please consider taking part in DEP's Holiday Toy Drive which will benefit Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. New and unwrapped toys, sports equipment and/or accessories for

kids can be dropped off with your bureau coordinators. The final day to donate is Friday, Dec. 17. For more information, visit [the Source](#) or reach out to **Joseph Sokolowski** at ext. 6168.

The Art of Gratitude



Jonathan Glotzer

As we prepare for the holiday season amidst the backdrop of a pandemic, this time of year can stir up a lot of feelings for people. Some view the season as a joyous time of year while others may have mixed emotions or simply look forward to having a day off or a chance to earn holiday pay. However, what is com-

mon for many as we head into this holiday season is a feeling of emotional wariness especially when we think back to this time last November, when a historic election had just unfolded, telework was still in effect, and a vaccine rollout was as of yet unrealized. It is usually easier for people to recall struggles, and in fact, there is some hardwiring of our brains that attune...

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