

Angling Goes Electric at Cannonsville



Next Monday, twenty-two City-owned reservoirs and lakes across the watersheds, covering roughly 33,500 acres, will be open for fishing from shore or with fishing boats. Most offer fishing opportunities for cold-water species such as trout and warm-water species such as smallmouth and largemouth bass. In addition to reservoirs, there are more than 191 miles of stream frontage on city lands in the watershed, including in areas where public access to water is otherwise difficult. The start of fishing season also kicks off of a new pilot program that will allow electric trolling motors for fishing on Cannonsville Reservoir. The electric trolling motors can only be affixed to row boats or jon boats

for the purpose of fishing. Electric trolling motors must be powered by sealed, marine grade batteries and cannot use gasoline or oil. In addition, the pilot program requires that electric trolling motors must be steam cleaned by a certified vendor, not exceed 55 pounds of thrust, and their batteries cannot exceed 12 volts. The breadth of fishing opportunities on City land underscores DEP's concerted effort to open more City property in the watershed for recreation and boost the local tourism economy. There are currently 114,833 acres of city land open for recreation in the watershed, including the aforementioned reservoirs and more than 52,000 acres that are open for use without a permit.

Spotlight on Safety

Put out the "Unwelcome Mat"

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 70 workers died from preventable "back-over" incidents in 2011. This occurs when a vehicle moving in reverse strikes a worker who is standing, walking, or kneeling behind it.

Here are some tips to help prevent back-over incidents:

- Drivers can use a spotter to help them safely back up their vehicle.
- Workers should wear high visibility clothing.

- Workers should be aware of a vehicle's blind spot and stay out of it.
- In complex construction environments, employers may create internal traffic control plans which tell vehicle operators where to drive, reduce the need for backing up, and separate employees on foot from operating equipment.

For more information visit:
osha.gov/backover

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

Tomorrow, fresh off her duties serving as Director of the NYC Rapid Repairs Program, Deputy Commissioner **Kathryn Mallon** will be the special guest for the second installment of "The DEP Experience" Brown Bag Series. Last week **Mayor Bloomberg** announced that the NYC Rapid Repairs program has completed work on more than 99 percent of homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy, helping more than 20,000 families—and approximately 54,000 people—return to their homes in communities hit hard by the storm. NYC Rapid Repairs is a first-of-its-kind program to provide free repairs to thousands of homeowners left without heat, power, and hot water following Sandy.

Under the NYC Rapid Repairs program, the City deployed dozens of contractors and thousands of skilled construction workers to make emergency repairs on residential properties affected by Hurricane Sandy. No other city has ever responded to a natural disaster by offering essential emergency repairs that allow homeowners to get back to living in their own homes. The innovative program is projected to finish all scheduled home repairs this week and will continue to offer homeowners guidance through NYC Rapid Repairs After-Care.

Tomorrow's presentation about NYC Rapid Repairs will be held in the LeFrak 3rd Floor cafeteria from 12:00-1:00 PM and will be available via video conference in the Grams-ville Training Room, Kingston Training Rooms 2 and 4, and the Valhalla 2nd Floor Large Conference Room. Please join me as we welcome Kathryn back and learn more about this first-of-its-kind program.

In other news, earlier today the US Environmental Protection Agency released a survey that found that more than half of the nation's rivers and stream miles are in poor condition. Among other things, the report found that twenty-seven percent of the nation's rivers and streams have excessive levels of nitrogen. Nitrogen is a naturally occurring element that is found in food and other organic materials. Too much nitrogen in the water causes significant increases in algae, which harms water quality, food resources and habitats, and decreases the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to survive. Nitrogen is also present in wastewater when it enters treatment plants. At DEP we have committed significant funding and are the regional leader in nitrogen removal from wastewater.

Because nitrogen is not a pathogen and poses no threat to human health, the treatment plants were not originally designed to remove it from the treated water before it is discharged into the receiving water body. We are investing more than \$1 billion to reduce nitrogen discharges from the four Upper East River wastewater treatment plants—Bowery Bay, Hunts Point, Tallman Island and Wards Island—which will reduce total nitrogen discharges from the four plants by more than 52 percent. In fact, last week we announced that the recently completed \$237 million upgrade to the Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant will reduce the amount of nitrogen discharged from the Plant by nearly 50 percent and thereby improve the ecological health of the East River and New York Harbor. You can learn more about our nitrogen reduction efforts here [🐱](#).



Focus on the Field



Invasive plants, bugs, and fish from foreign countries can threaten the environment, the economy, and human health in the United States and they have increasingly become the focus of people like **Meredith Taylor**, who coordinates DEP's efforts to protect the City water supply from their effects. Taylor has been the invasive species coordinator here for nearly six months, and she directed similar efforts at the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership before that.

Taylor has at least three central goals—to identify the threat from invasive species, to protect the watershed by spreading awareness and prevention tips, and to take decisive action if an unwanted species is found in City reservoirs or forests.

"Every species we're concerned about can affect water quality or ecosystem processes that are important," Taylor said. "That's why training staff is a big part of being prepared. We'll have more eyes on the ground and in the water throughout the watershed."

Taylor, who lives in Woodstock, N.Y., has begun to educate DEP staff throughout the upstate watershed. Last week, she explained the invasive-species threat to eight employees in Putnam County who oversee the steam cleaning of contractor vessels and row boats used for

fishing. Steam cleaning ensures that any invasive species that may cling to a boat is destroyed before the boat is used in the reservoirs.

Invasive species include quarter-size bugs that can kill trees, crabs that can burrow into dams, mussels and snails that can clog water intake pipes, and plants that can promote algae growth. They often reach the United States through global imports from China, Russia, and elsewhere.

Numbers describe their harm. Federal researchers estimate that invasive species are responsible for roughly \$120 billion in economic harm each year, have impaired roughly 49 percent of threatened species in the United States, and contributed to 68 percent of fish extinctions.



Taylor began focusing on invasive species during her studies at Cornell University, in part because the issue was diverse. "Invasive species come in all forms and so do their effects, ranging from the spread of infectious diseases to the destruction of food crops," she said. Taylor and the DEP invasive species working group are currently focused on implementing plans for rapid-response actions in the case that invasive animals or plants are found on City property.

Volunteer Opportunity

Staten Island Bluebelt Cleanups

Parts of the Staten Island Bluebelt were heavily littered with debris by Hurricane Sandy. We invite you to join us on Saturday, March 30 and/or April 6 to help restore these vital wetlands to their natural beauty.

Volunteers will help collect trash and other light debris that was washed into the Bluebelt by the storm surge. To sign up, please email VolunteerDay@dep.nyc.gov with your preferred date(s).

Water-On-the-Go Goes International



Last Friday, DEP celebrated the 20th anniversary of United Nations (UN) World Water Day by stationing a Water-On-the-Go fountain outside of the UN building, in Manhattan. The fountain was open from 7am –2pm, and nearly 100 visitors stopped by for a drink and to learn about New York City's water supply system. Last year, more than 500,000 people visited Water-On-the-Go fountains throughout the five boroughs. The UN has designated March 22nd as World Water Day and recognizes it annually as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Thanks to the DEP staff who operated the first Water-On-the-Go fountain of 2013.

Milestone

Congratulations to the following employees: **Iris Ojdanic**, ACCO, 39 years of service; **Alan Wasserman**, ACCO, 38 years of service; **Gary Rudas**, BWT, 35 years of service; **Johann Wiese**, BWSO, 35 years of service; **Adele Mandanici**, EA, 34 years of service; **Irina Veytsman**, BWSO, 32 years of service; **Richard Quick**, BWSO, 32 years of service; **James Pena**, BCS, 32 years of ser-

vice; **George Malacos**, BWT, 31 years of service; **Frances Patuto**, MB, 31 years of service; **Robert Grandner**, BWT, 30 years of service and **Larry Walker**, BCS, 30 years of service.

Congratulations also to **Dennis Baccamo**, BWS, and his wife **Kelly** on the birth of their daughter **Gwenyth** on March 23. All are doing well!

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday 11 new employees attended orientation and were given an overview of the department by **Commissioner Strickland** and Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones Ritter**. As they begin their new assignments we hope everyone will take a moment to say hello and welcome them to DEP!

Jerome Anderson, MD **Iqbal Hossain**, **Quincy Mayfield**, **Igor V. Shklyar**, and **Navindra Sukhdeo** with BWT; **Thomas Delaney** and **Christopher Piper** with BWSO; **Alexis Henry** with the Water Board; **Razzaq Manley-Yuseff** and **Erica Spiritos** with BEDC; and **Nigel J. Williams** with BCS.

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