NYC Environmental Protection
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE

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GR$$N LIGHT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2007 Mayor Bloomberg unveiled PlaNYC: A Greener, Greater New York. The Water Quality section of the Plan recognized the tremendous strides the City has made in improving the health of our waterways while it also acknowledged that much work remains to be done to better control Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's). To confront this challenge the Plan called for upgrading our sewer infrastructure as well as pursuing strategies to keep stormwater from entering the sewer system in the first place. While the concepts were still in the early phases of development, they were the forebears of our current Green Infrastructure Plan.

After intensive data collection and analysis by the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis (BEPA), the Green Infrastructure Plan was introduced on September 28, 2010. It built upon and extended the commitments made in PlaNYC as well as the 2008 Sustainable Stormwater Management Plan. By analyzing the anticipated costs of building and operating green infrastructure along with the predicted impacts on CSO volumes in individual watersheds, the Plan offered a detailed framework and implementation strategy to both improve water quality in New York harbor and make the city more livable. Green Infrastructure includes technologies like green

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Spotlight on Safety

Mold: Myths and Reality

Mold is a fungus that can grow on any porous surface where moisture and oxygen are present. Common sites for indoor mold growth include plaster or sheetrock, carpet, windows, water fountains and sinks. Most types of mold do not cause health problems. A less common type of black mold (Stachbotrys chartarum), has been reported anecdotally to cause more serious illness in children, but this is still under study. When mold growth occurs in buildings, occupants may begin to report musty odors and symptoms such as watery eyes, and wheezing or minor coughs. There is no evidence that indoor mold can actually cause asthma or more chronic respiratory problems in normally healthy adults or children and sampling for the presence of mold is generally not recommended by environmental health experts.

To prevent mold growth, be on the lookout for damp areas, leaks or other points of water intrusion in your work areas. Don't leave windows open unattended and don't accumulate papers and files on the floor or other surfaces that may become damp. Report and fix all leaks as soon as possible. Contact OEHS or your EHS representative if you have additional questions. Visit epa.gov/mold and cdc.gov/mold for additional informaiton.

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

Last week, DEP marked two important milestones: the second anniversary of the landmark NYC Green Infrastructure Plan and the first ever installation of the award-winning Bluebelt program in the Bronx. Each of these initiatives have transformed the way DEP fulfills its responsibility as a steward of New York City's environment, using innovative methods of stormwater management that both cuts costs and cleans our waterways.

The Bluebelt program preserves and optimizes natural drainage corridors including streams, ponds and lakes to store and naturally filter stormwater. Over the last ten years DEP has built Bluebelts in the South Richmond and mid-Island areas of Staten Island, providing drainage for 19 watersheds over roughly 14,000 acres. Together with The New York Botanical Garden we recently announced completion of a stormwater detention wetland in the Bronx which is helping to alleviate a persistent flooding problem along Southern Boulevard. New catch basins collect stormwater and discharge it into the deepest area of the wetland, where suspended solids and debris are able to settle and vegetation absorbs excess nutrients from the water. The filtered water then slowly spills into the Upper Twin Lake, which eventually feeds into the Bronx River and New York Harbor. In addition, more than 3,000 native plants, shrubs, and trees have been planted to help create a habitat that will attract wildlife and contribute to a vibrant natural ecosystem. And because The New York Botanical Garden is located within a combined sewer area, stormwater will be diverted from the sewer system and combined sewer overflows will be reduced.

By using natural installations to capture and retain stormwater runoff at its source, the Bluebelt program shares the founding principles of the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan. Launched by Mayor Bloomberg in September, 2010, the Plan has demonstrated remarkable progress over the last two years, including the modification of our consent order with DEC to incorporate additional green infrastructure. In support of our plan, DEP has been actively monitoring the progress of pilot projects including an enhanced tree pit on Autumn Avenue in Brooklyn; a bioswale on 99th Avenue in Queens; and a blue and green roof at PS118 in Queens and the results have been encouraging. In addition, the three Neighborhood Demonstration Areas that have been identified in the Jamaica Bay, Newtown Creek and Hutchinson River watersheds, which are required under the modified Order, are progressing right on schedule and we expect more than 250 bioswales to be in the ground by the end of 2013. I look forward to continuing our landmark progress, and congratulations to the Office of Green Infrastructure on a remarkable two years.

Focus on the Field

Rudy Ferro has been operating or captaining boats for DEP since 1982. A veteran of BWT's Marine Section, Captain Ferro has piloted vessels in waters than range from the swift currents of the East River to large swells in the open ocean. He served as a Sludge Boat captain until 1995 and today he is a Senior Captain piloting the 55-foot harbor survey vessel "Osprey". Although most of his days are spent traversing the harbor with a crew of marine scientists, it was out on the open ocean where Captain Ferro cut his teeth.

Captain Ferro recalls a time when he piloted large sludge ships on routine trips to dispose of sewage sludge in the ocean. These were the days when DEP vessels were not limited to New York Harbor. Piloting large sludge ships out into the ocean is something Captain Ferro says he certainly does not miss. Rough seas and storms could make even a routine trip uncomfortably exciting.

Back in the harbor, trips with zero visibility or docking at Hell Gate could be nerve racking. It was in these cases that Captain Ferro's training with the Coast Guard proved its worth. To become a captain he had to pass numerous tests, including the ability to navigate every section of the harbor. But in hindsight, the more challenging voyages were his favorite part of the job. "There is never really a dull moment in the Marine Section; you always have to be on your toes." With no room for error, Captain Ferro is grateful for the high level of professionalism among his peers and their dedication to DEP's mission.

In the past, Captain Ferro enjoyed trading in his boat for the solid ground of a baseball diamond. He served as an umpire calling balls and strikes for high school games. Today his days of being called "Blue" have come to an end. He dedicates his time to raising his two lovely daughters.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following employees with 30 or more years of service: **Ronald Hewlett**, BWS; **Robert Kozinski**, BWT; **Felix Gonzalez**, BCS; **Robert Petrelli**, BWS; **Nicholas LaSalle**, BCS; **John Sexton**, BWT, **William Kelly**, BWT; **Shirley Smith**, BCS; **Kishin Moorjani**, BEDC; **Randy Hedden**, BWT and **Mark Carter**, BEC.

Sunday, October 21, 2012 the American Cancer Society is sponsoring their 19th Annual Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk. This marks DEP's 17th year of participation in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk. Participants can walk in Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Long Island, Brooklyn, and Staten Island and in select locations Upstate. For more information please to portal.

DEP BLOOD DRIVE TOTALS: DEP employees donated a total of 563 pints of blood during the September blood drive. Thank you to all of the donors and staff who worked on this successful drive.

Bay Ridge Big Fix Nearly Complete

Work to repair the compromised sewer line on 92nd Street in Bay Ridge continues to progress and during the last week concrete sections of manhole were set in place and the hole has been back-filled from a depth of approximately 70 feet to 17 feet. Work to repair the local sewer line is now underway and the final sections of manhole have been delivered. BWSO has made remarkable progress on the complex repair of this sewer line.

(GR$$N LIGHT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE... continued)

roofs, rain gardens, porous pavement and bioswales.

The Office of Green Infrastructure (OGI), housed within the Bureau of Sustainability, was formed to implement the Plan and is led by Assistant Commissioner **Magdi Farag**. Staff include Director **Margot Walker**, Project Manager **Mikelle Adgate** and Engineering Directors **Tetyana Klymenko** and **Raymond Palmares**, and Engineer **Josh Landecker**. Recently joining the team are Project Manager **Kerry Lowe** and Engineer **Kathryn Prybylski**.

By combining data from the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT) and BEPA, OGI has identified priority areas for green infrastructure implementation based on the frequency and volume of CSO's and the health of the receiving water body. They are now focused on investing $187 million over the next three years to bring green infrastructure to public properties located in these priority areas such as public housing, schools, playgrounds and public sidewalks. "By clustering our initial Green Infrastructure projects within these identified priority areas we expect it will have a more demonstrative impact and help us reach our water quality goals in the areas where it is needed most," said Assistant Commissioner Farag. Thus far 14 bioswales have been built and more than 250 will be in the ground by the end of 2013. Click here to see a bioswale in action.

The Green Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding for projects on privately owned property and continues to move forward on a parallel track. We are now seeing the completion of some of the first projects. Earlier this summer **Mayor Bloomberg** and **Commissioner Strickland** toured the city's largest rooftop farm at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and later this month there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at a recently completed project at Queens College.

Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability **Angela Licata** is extremely proud of the work done by the group thus far and is equally excited about what lies ahead. "Our data analysis and projections laid a stable framework and our research and pilot projects focused on New York's unique challenges. The Green Infrastructure Plan presents a cost-effective solution to CSO's and as the implementation of the Plan kicks into high gear we are all excited to see the tangible benefits that the plan has projected."

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