

NYC Fleet Spotlight: Peter Ortiz, Auto Mechanic, Parks

By Keith Kerman and Lenin Fierro

With over 160 types of equipment in the fleet, our fleet garages service and support many different specialty operations. As we face another hurricane season, we spotlight the City's critical forestry operations and one of our forestry mechanics, Peter Ortiz at NYC Parks.

New York City has over 666,000 street trees and over 5 million total trees. The main forestry program for the City is at NYC Parks, which operates log loaders, tree trimmers, stump cutters, chippers, and dump units to care for trees and address emergency situations.



Peter Ortiz is an auto mechanic with the Parks Department's main forestry operation at the Flushing Meadows Garage in Queens. He has been with the City since September 15, 2014.

Peter began his career as a seasonal mechanic with New York State Parks. He left to work for an oil company and then returned, this time to City Parks at the 5-Boro Garage, where he helped maintain DEP and Parks units as part of our shared services and consolidation efforts.

Peter is now at the Flushing Garage, focusing on keeping our complex forestry equipment ready and on the road. He performs a wide variety of in garage and rolling repairs, with a newly developing focus on hydraulic and electrical systems. He has also tackled repairs and rebuilds for Parks major tub grinder, which grinds log wood to chips.

"Every day there is something different," explains Peter, but "the guys in the shop are the best part of the job."

Forestry isn't the only fleet operation dear to Peter. Peter grew up in Baldwin NY and serves as First Deputy Fire Chief for the Baldwin Volunteer Fire Department. He graduated from Baldwin High School and later received his diesel auto mechanic certification from the College of Automotive and Diesel Technology (NYADI). Peter is a licensed New York State inspector and holds a Class-A Commercial Driver's License with towing endorsement. His hobbies include working and restoring two of his own classic vehicles.

Thanks to Peter and everyone in Parks forestry operations.

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