

Weekly Pipeline

Flood Barrier Event in **Queens** with **Rebecca Thimote**, **Chris Scheurer**, **Emmanuel Paravalos**, **Jordan Betts**, **Dwayne Brown**, **Jubril Kassim**, and **Nick Lombardo**.

September 20, 2022



Commissioner's Corner



Rohit Aggarwala

Climate change and extreme weather are issues impacting all of the world, not just New York City. To that end, it is important to collaborate with our colleagues across the globe to share ideas and forge partnerships so we can best prepare our cities and societies to be more resilient. Last week, from Sept. 11–15, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the International Water Association's [World Water Congress & Exhibition](#), held in Copenhagen, Denmark. Attending at the behest of **Mayor Eric Adams**, I was pleased to be able to join colleagues from the bureaus of Water Supply, Wastewater Treatment and Environmental Planning and Analysis to spend the week engaged in workshops, panel discussions, debates, and networking events.

Additionally, we signed a new Collaborate Research Memorandum between NYC and Copenhagen to continue our work together on innovative



solutions to climate change. We also visited several locations as part of Copenhagen's Cloudburst Management Program. Each of the sites featured park space which has been designed to flood during heavy rain events. In fact, many of their more ambitious projects function very much like our Bluebelts. We also took a tour of Frederiksberg Forsyning, a new groundwater treatment plant which is under construction in the neighboring municipality. The innovative facility will recover thermal energy from the groundwater to be incorporated into local district heating.

I want to sincerely thank **Angela DeLillo** and **Jonathan Hoffman** from BWT, **Emily**

Pereira from BWS and **Alan Cohn** from BEPA for joining me. Of note, I was part of a thoughtful dialogue on Water Safe Cities while Jonathan partook in a panel on coronavirus monitoring in wastewater.

I also had the privilege of addressing the conference on Monday and giving the keynote address, titled "A Practical Perspective in Building Resilience into Urban Water Management." The full text can be read [here](#).



Spotlight on Safety

National Preparedness

Month is observed every September to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. September 19–25 is also [Climate Week NYC](#). Climate change has an impact on the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Lack of preparedness can create panic, lead to disruptions in transportation and utilities, and create hazards that lead to property damage and injury or loss of life. NYC now has mitigation and resiliency plans in place to prepare for natural disasters now and throughout the year.

Some steps you can take are:

- make an emergency plan and create an emergency support network
- gather life sustaining supplies in both a "to go" bag in case of evacuation and for sheltering in place, such as water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries and first aid kit
- plan for hazards by staying informed of weather forecasts and news casts

For more resources visit [September is National Preparedness Month](#) and [What Is Climate Change?](#)



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're 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.

Educators Tour Watershed



Last week, BPAC's Education Office hosted more than 50 non-formal educators from New York City and the watersheds for their annual Watershed Forestry Bus Tour. This unique professional learning opportunity featured several stops in the East-of Hudson Watershed, including the Kensico Reservoir and New Croton Dam, Hilltop Hanover Farm, Teatown Lake Reservation, an actively managed forestry site and the interior of the Old Croton Aqueduct. Educators learned about our water supply's history, its current-day operations, and some of the

challenges that we face in the future from presentations and hands-on activities modeled throughout the day. Many of these concepts and activities will be shared by these educators as they engage thousands of young people and adults throughout the coming school year. Thank you to BWS's **Carl Cardillo**, **Allison Dewan**, and **Amanda Locke**, and BPS's Lieutenant **Joseph Decker** and Captain **Joey Rosa** for presenting, and BPAC's **Helene Amato**, **Nicki Alexander**, **Akilah Lewis**, **Lindsey Reisz**, and **Robin Sanchez** for organizing the event.

Work-Specific Stress



Jonathan Glotzer

There is a lot expected from DEP employees, especially since what we do is so critical for the millions of people who rely on (and sometimes take for granted) clean water. Expectations can bring stress and along with major life changes, such as what we experienced throughout the pandemic, work-specific issues are frequently the highest reported source of life stress.

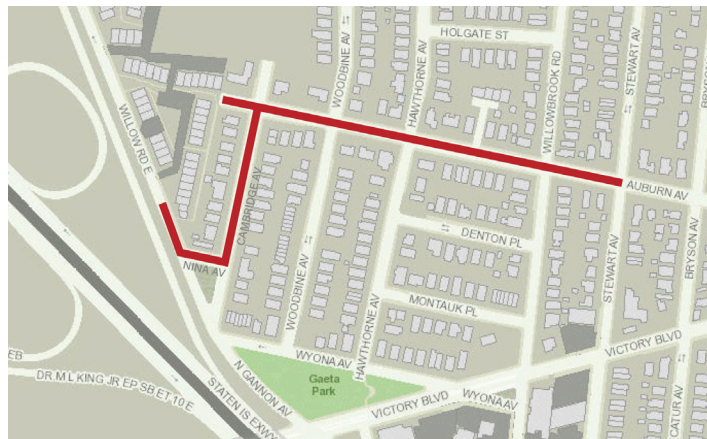
Of these reports, there are often personal issues that cause work

experiences to be so stressful such as relationship/family issues, personality traits, conflict, and financial strain that tax our emotional reserves to a point where work pressures are the "last straw." However, putting aside these personal stressors that we may have brought into the workplace, there are the work-specific issues that cause us distress.

While specifics will vary with each individual, some common causes of work-specific stress include...

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Drainage Upgrade for Staten Island

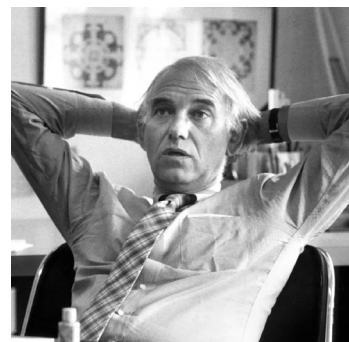


Construction has begun to install nearly three dozen new catch basins, as well as new storm sewers, in the Willowbrook/Westerleigh section of Staten Island. Councilman David Carr provided \$1 million in funding for the [\\$1.6 million project](#), which will help to better manage stormwater.

Work began Aug. 23 and is anticipated to be completed by October. As part of the project, 2,200 linear feet of new storm sewers will be added to the neighborhood to alleviate flooding. To better capture stormwater and direct it to the new drainage system, 31 new catch basins will be installed.

In Memoriam

James Stewart Polshek, the renowned architect of DEP's Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF), passed away on Sept. 9 at the age of 92. Over his nearly 70-year career, he produced important works of public architecture that include the Clinton Library and Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas; the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan; and the new entrance to the Brooklyn Museum. Polshek firmly believed that architecture could be a force of social justice, and his approach to DEP's Newtown Creek WRRF prioritized public access to encourage New Yorkers to discover and learn about wastewater treatment and resource recovery. The design established the visitor center, from which DEP runs



James Stewart Polshek, *The New York Times*

its educational tour program, and—everyone's favorite—the glass enclosed catwalk at the top of the famous digester eggs that provides a birds-eye-view of the entire facility and the breathtaking city skyline. You can learn more about Polshek's architectural master plan for the Newtown Creek WRRF here: [Virtual Tour of Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility in Brooklyn, NY - YouTube](#).