

Weekly Pipeline

Water-on-the-Go fountains hydrated New Yorkers on the Fourth of July

July 10, 2024



Eric Adams, Mayor
Rohit T. Aggarwala, Commissioner

Commissioner's Corner



Rohit Aggarwala

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some DEP highlights, look ahead to the latter half of 2024, and announce several key new leadership appointments, including **Nerissa Moray** as Chief Financial Officer and **Ari Maas** as Deputy Commissioner of Police and Security.

I want to thank all of DEP's hardworking staff for your dedicated professionalism, and I look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for DEP!

Here are just a few of DEP's accomplishments from the second quarter of this year:

- DEP published the [2024 Stormwater Analysis](#), a progress report on the City's efforts to build stormwater resilience throughout NYC. Building citywide stormwater resilience will require major capital investments that will be implemented

over decades. This report serves as a precursor to the Stormwater Master Plan, which will lay out a more comprehensive approach to stormwater management

- The agency continues to advance the NYC Green Infrastructure (GI) program, and recently published the agency's [annual GI report](#). In 2023, DEP added approximately 1,000 GI assets to the agency's portfolio. DEP's GI program currently manages over 1.5 billion gallons of stormwater per year and reduces over 680 million gallons of combined sewer overflow per year
- We recently announced new plans to limit muddy water releases from Ashokan Reservoir and enhance flood protections for Lower Esopus Creek. DEP worked closely with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and State elected officials to revise the Interim Release Protocol (IRP) and deliver a solution that is responsive to downstream Watershed community concerns about impacts to recreation and aesthetics.
- DEP team members have been engaging and working with flood vulnerable communities to develop long-term stormwater management solutions. Staff interacted with



concerned residents at the Kissena Flooding Town Hall and the Jewel Streets Community Workshop.

- The agency has also been engaging with elected officials and the Water Board to work towards solutions in key policy areas crucial to DEP's operations. Recent City Council hearings have been held on the budget, stormwater, and lead service lines.
- DEP led the FY25 rate setting process from April to June, leading to the Water Board's approval of an 8.5% increase to the water/sewer rate. This rate cycle also reinstated the "rental payment,"

which the City requested of DEP for the first time in several years.

- We continue to step up our enforcement efforts against delinquent accounts to improve collections and revenue. As a result, we've seen about \$7M in payments from nearly 700 overdue accounts.
- Looking ahead, DEP is preparing to take ownership over the East Side Coastal Resilience project this summer.

I want to close by thanking all of DEP's hardworking staff for your dedicated professionalism, and I look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for DEP!

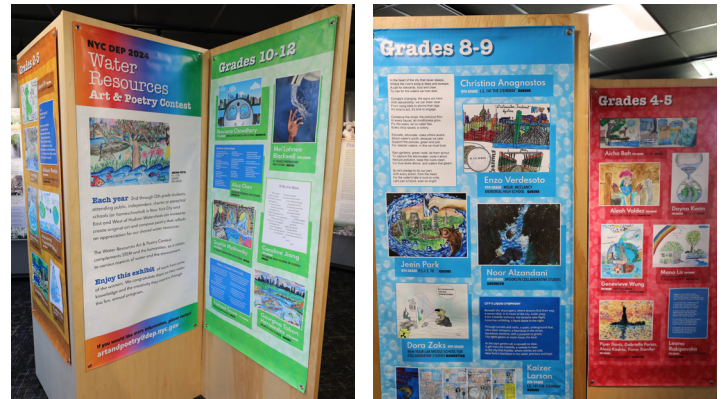
SYEP Orientation



Last week, DEP welcomed 20 interns in BEPA, BIT, EEO, and ODHR as part of the Department of Youth & Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is the nation's largest summer youth employment initiative, and since 1963 has provided New York City young people between the ages of 14 and 24 with up to six weeks of entry-level experience at worksites in all five boroughs. Last summer, a record 69,716 participants were employed at more than 12,000 worksites. DEP has participated in this program since 2018 as a

way to introduce New York City youth to the water system that they use every day. This year's orientation was facilitated by **Briana Lomax-Day** (Agency Internship & Recruitment Coordinator), **Adrienne Blanford** (Planning Specialist) and **Joel Rutherford** (Recruitment Liaison). The EEO portion was given by **Zachary Taylor** and the EHS presentation was given by **Sandra Thompson-Reid**. These SYEP interns will join the other interns that started in June and will be immersed into the summer activities, including the Internship Closing Ceremony.

Art and Poetry on Display



BPAC's Education team has again partnered with The Catskill Water Discovery Center to feature some of the annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest winners in an [exhibit](#). This year, the Water Discovery Center, which shares space with BWS' Arkville Office, selected contest winners from New York City and watershed communities to be displayed on banners in their exhibit space. This

wonderful partnership helps to further showcase the beautiful artwork and poetry created by 2nd-12th grade students about our shared water resources, while educating visitors about the important ways water connects us. The exhibit can be viewed at the center from 12-4pm on the following dates: July 4-7, 20, 27, August 10, 17, 31, and Sept. 1-2. To learn more, contact artandpoetry@dep.nyc.gov.

Welcome Aboard!



On Monday, 12 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the agency from HR Generalist **Harold Kim**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP! **Rekha Bhusal**, **Keisha Streeter**, and **Shilo Williams**,

BWS; **Osagiehi Edoloyi Jr.**, **Amy Isaac**, and **Ajay Saraswat**, **BEDC**; **Yao Amewu** and **Aung Myint**, **FMC**; **Maruf Ahmad**, **OEHS**; **Carolina Dietz-Vargas**, **BIT**; **Katie Yau**, **BWT**, and **Kayla Kirton**, **SUST/EC**.

Social Media Highlight



It'll continue to be hot 🥵 for the next few days. If you're outside, a cool mist of water can provide much needed relief. To request a spray cap for a hydrant, go to your [@FDNY](#) firehouse. Or, find a spray shower at [@NYCParks](#) near you! [#BeatTheHeat](#)

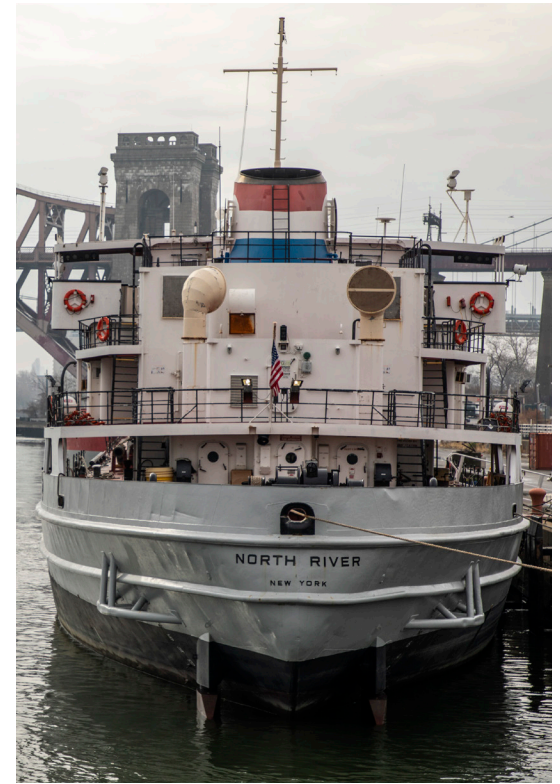


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Sludge Boat Celebrates 50 Years of Service



The M/V North River is still gracing New York Harbor's waterways at 50 years of age.

The sewage-transporting sludge boat is part of the fleet operated by the Marine Section of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. Extending the lifespan of equipment earns a great sense of pride for an operation, but when the piece of equipment is a floating 3,000-ton ship it becomes an extraordinary achievement.

Built at Maryland Dry Dock & Shipyard in Baltimore at a cost of \$3.5 million, the North River was launched in May 1974 with much fanfare as hundreds of guests stood along the pier. The masterpiece ship was designed by the renowned naval architect, **Philip Rhodes**, known for designing America Cup winners. His ships were characterized by a molded and dynamic hull that enabled speed and maneuverability to be optimized. The North River encompassed all these

design features and more for efficiency, reliability, and longevity.

The North River arrived in New York City on August 9, 1974 and was initially docked at the Owls Head Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility. Commissioner **Martin Lang**, Deputy Commissioner **Charles Samowitz** and their guests boarded the vessel and made the last leg of the delivery trip up the East River. One month later, on a warm and sunny day, a crew of eight seasoned mariners flawlessly completed the first of over 30,000 round trips that the North River would make transporting sludge.

The sixth DEP sludge vessel built since 1938, the North River underwent several modifications as ocean dumping was phased out. A new sludge cargo system complete with dry mode pumps and odor control were installed as part of the conversion to becoming an in-harbor feeder vessel. An independent, self-

contained gen-set installed on the bow in 1990 provided the extra source of power needed to operate the sludge pumps. The re-invented North River became the workhorse of the fleet, typically transporting 10 million gallons of sludge each week.

On the morning of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the North River was motoring under the Brooklyn Bridge as the Twin Towers were struck. The vessel docked that fateful day at Owls Head WRRF in sight of the unfolding catastrophe. The boat attempted to assist in the evacuations of lower Manhattan, but ultimately was too large to dock at any of the piers.

For the next 20 years, the North River continued to fulfill its mission of transporting sludge between wastewater resource recovery facilities. A key driver for the success and longevity of the vessel can be attributed to the captains and marine operators, whose steadfast professionalism

has steered the North River away from the countless hazards found in the New York Harbor. This meticulous care has allowed all maintenance efforts to focus on repairing or replacing equipment on a schedule that is cost effective and efficient for the operation.

Still running are the two main propulsion engines manufactured by Cooper Bessemer. The 6-cylinder inline common rail engines trace their design roots to the great locomotive era. Given the arduous work that these original units operated under for five decades, it is remarkable they can still provide the power needed to navigate the waterways of the New York Harbor.

Today, the North River is the last remaining link tying the old fleet of the 1930's to the new class built in the 2010's. Despite an incredibly long run of service, the North River is aging gracefully and remains ready to sound the horn and make another trip in a truly historic career.