



NYC Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) 2025 Annual Report

Draft Report Presentation

June 17, 2026





Agenda

- I. Introduction to the MS4
- II. 2025 MS4 Program Updates
- III. Related Initiatives
- IV. Resources
- V. Guest Speaker

INTRODUCTION TO THE MS4



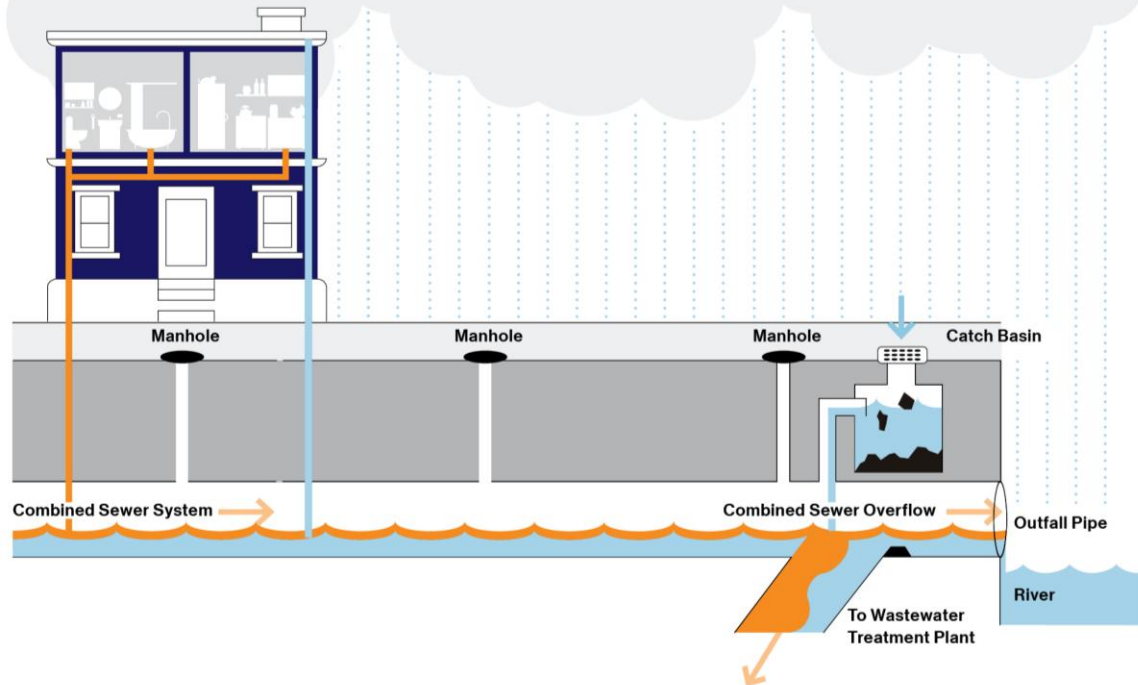
Stormwater in NYC

- Over 70% of NYC is impervious area
- **Impervious surfaces** cannot absorb precipitation naturally, leading to stormwater runoff
- Stormwater runoff may pick up **pollutants** before entering the sewer system
 - Localized flooding
 - Water quality issues

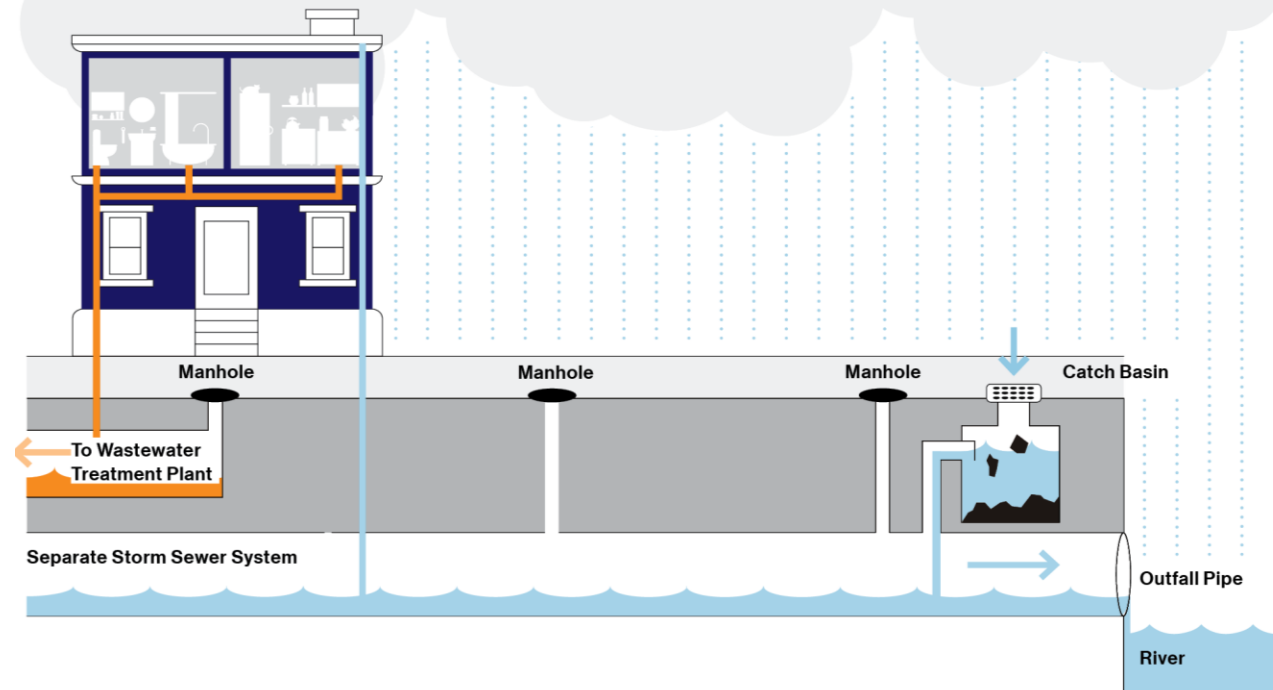


Types of City-Owned Sewer Systems

Combined Sewer System



Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System



~30% of NYC is served by the MS4

Large MS4 areas in:

- Staten Island
- South Brooklyn
- Southeast Queens
- City-owned parks

[View the MS4 Map](#)



Wildflowers at the Staten Island Bluebelt

Stormwater Management

- Under Clean Water Act (CWA), federal and state authorities regulate stormwater pollution
- CWA requires cities to obtain permits to discharge from their MS4s into local waterbodies
- To reduce potential stormwater pollution, the City developed the **NYC Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan**
- NYC's first MS4 Permit was issued in 2015; permit was renewed in 2022
- Covers 14 City agencies



A catch basin clean-up event in E

Stormwater Management Program Areas



Public Education & Outreach



Public Involvement & Participation



Mapping



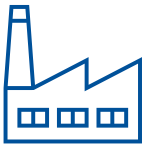
Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination



Construction and Post-Construction



Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping



Industrial and Commercial



Floatables Controls



Monitoring



Special Conditions for Impaired Water

2025 PROGRAM UPDATES

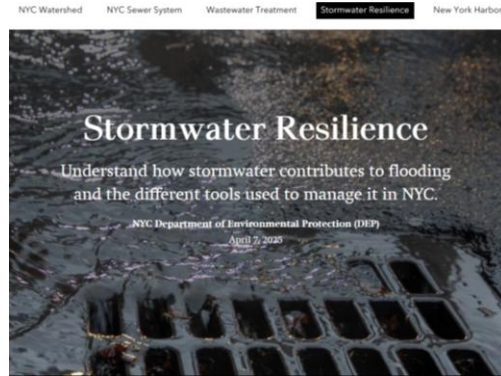


Public Education & Outreach (PEO)

- Covers initiatives to inform the public about the MS4.
- 2025 Highlights:
 - Held more than **1,700 events**
 - Reached **~57,000 participants**
 - Introduced and expanded public education campaigns targeting POCs



PEO 2025 Program Highlights



DEP Virtual Tours



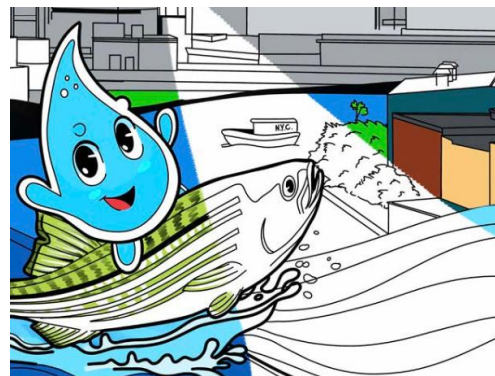
Parks Environmental Education



Operation P.O.O.P.



Urban Park Rangers



Drippy's Water Adventure



Annual Art & Poetry Contest

Highlighted Non-Profit Effort: **NYC Trash Academy**

- Free eight-week course
- Waste and Water Module – developed in partnership with DEP:
 - Wastewater treatment system
 - Circular economy
 - Opportunities for everyday water stewardship
- [NYC Trash Academy — Sanitation Foundation](#)



Public Involvement and Participation (PIP)

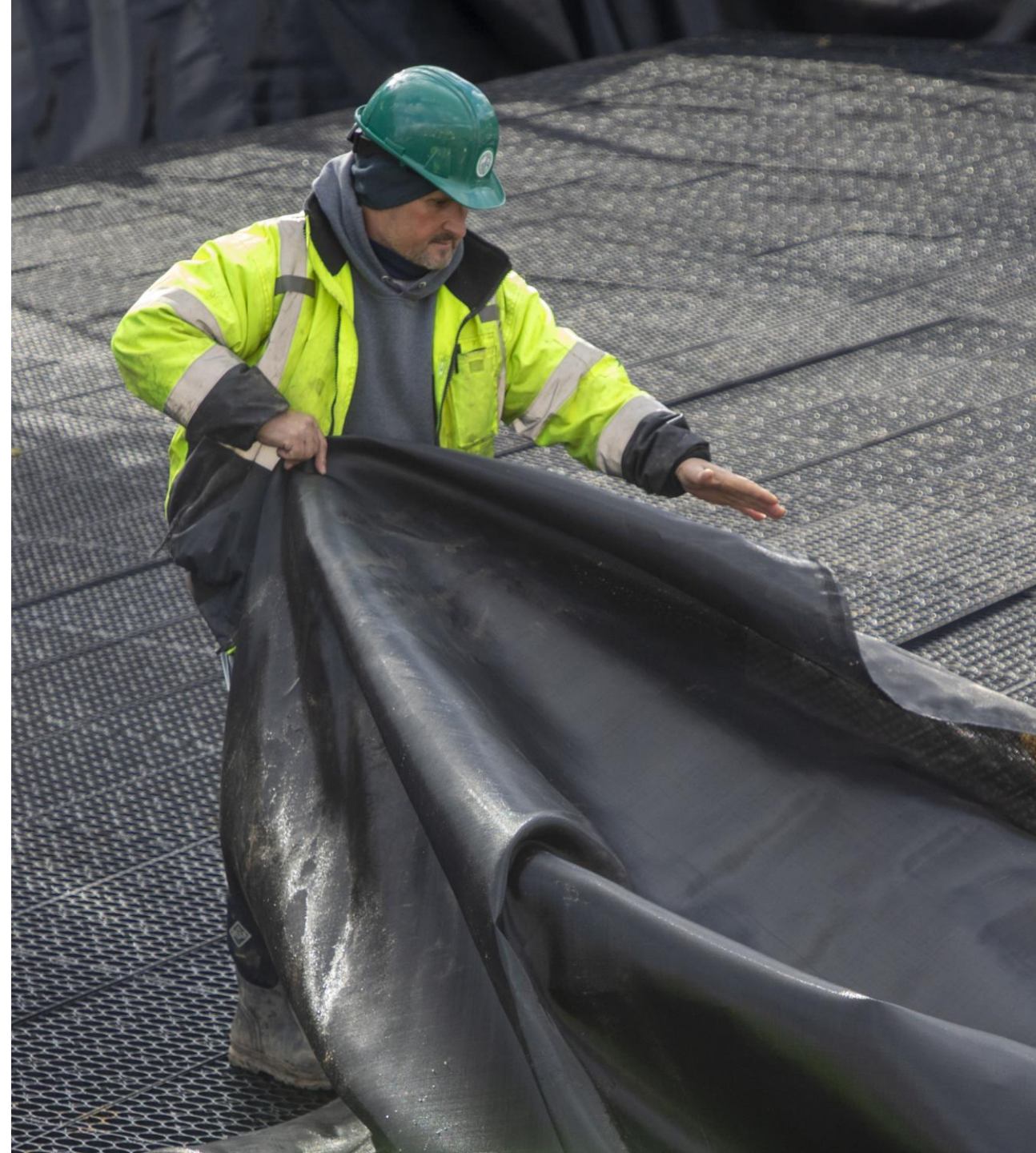
- Covers initiatives to get the public involved in MS4-related activities.
- 2025 Highlights:
 - More than **990** unique events citywide, including:
 - **579 Park Stewardship events**
 - **409 Community Clean-ups**
 - **3 public Bluebelt Clean-ups**
 - **SAFE Disposal events** in every borough
 - Hosted **monthly stormwater permitting webinars** for the development community



A Parks Stewardship event

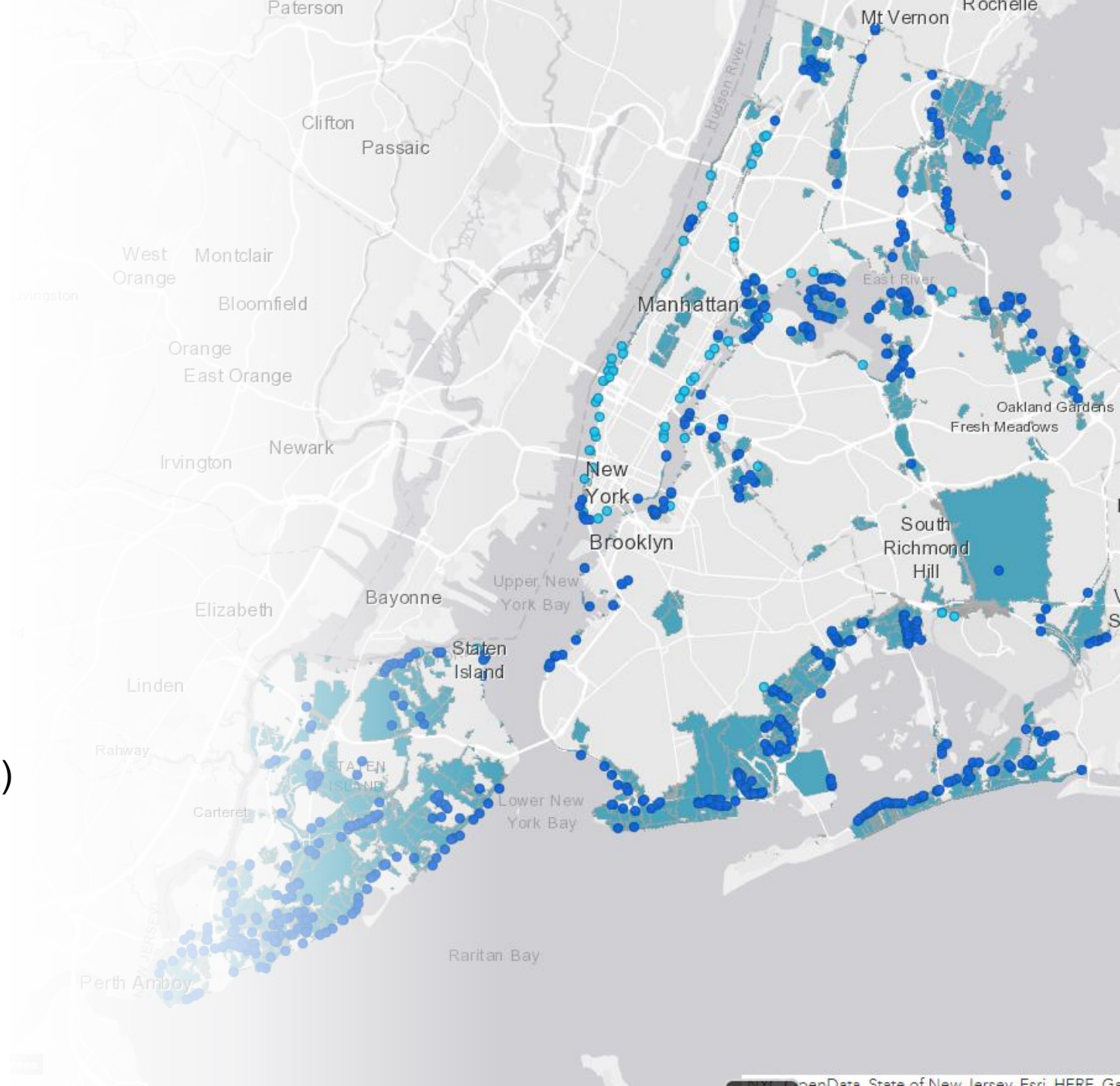
PIP Highlight: Stormwater Permitting Workshops

- DEP hosts monthly workshop webinars to guide users through stormwater permitting process
- Find previous presentations:
www.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/stormwater-permits.page
- Sign up for DEP Stormwater newsletter for notifications of upcoming webinars:
www.nyc.gov/site/dep/about/newsletters.page
- Topic survey:
<https://dep.wufoo.com/forms/zr8ip61112p87z>



Mapping

- Includes identifying and mapping the MS4 outfalls and drainage areas
- View the interactive MS4 Map: www.nyc.gov/dep/ms4map
- Last Update: August 1, 2020
- Includes: 764 outfalls
- Next update due: August 1, 2027 (5 years from effective date of renewed MS4 Permit)



Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

- Program includes finding, abating, and preventing illicit discharges.
- 2025 Highlights:
 - DEP issued **18 summonses** and **60 Commissioner's Orders** in MS4 areas
 - DSNY issued **538 summonses** citywide
 - **Detected 178** illicit discharges and **abated 171**; of these, 14 were considered persistent
 - **Inventoried 84 MS4 outfalls**



Construction & Post-Construction (C/PC)

- Includes managing pollution risks from development and redevelopment projects
- In NYC, C/PC is implemented through the **Stormwater Construction Permitting Program** – DEP:
 - Reviews/accepts **SWPPPs**
 - Inspects construction sites for stormwater impacts and for operation of post-construction stormwater management practices (**SMPs**)



Corporate Commons Three green roof retrofit in Staten Island

Stormwater Permitting

Unified Stormwater Rule (USWR) 2022

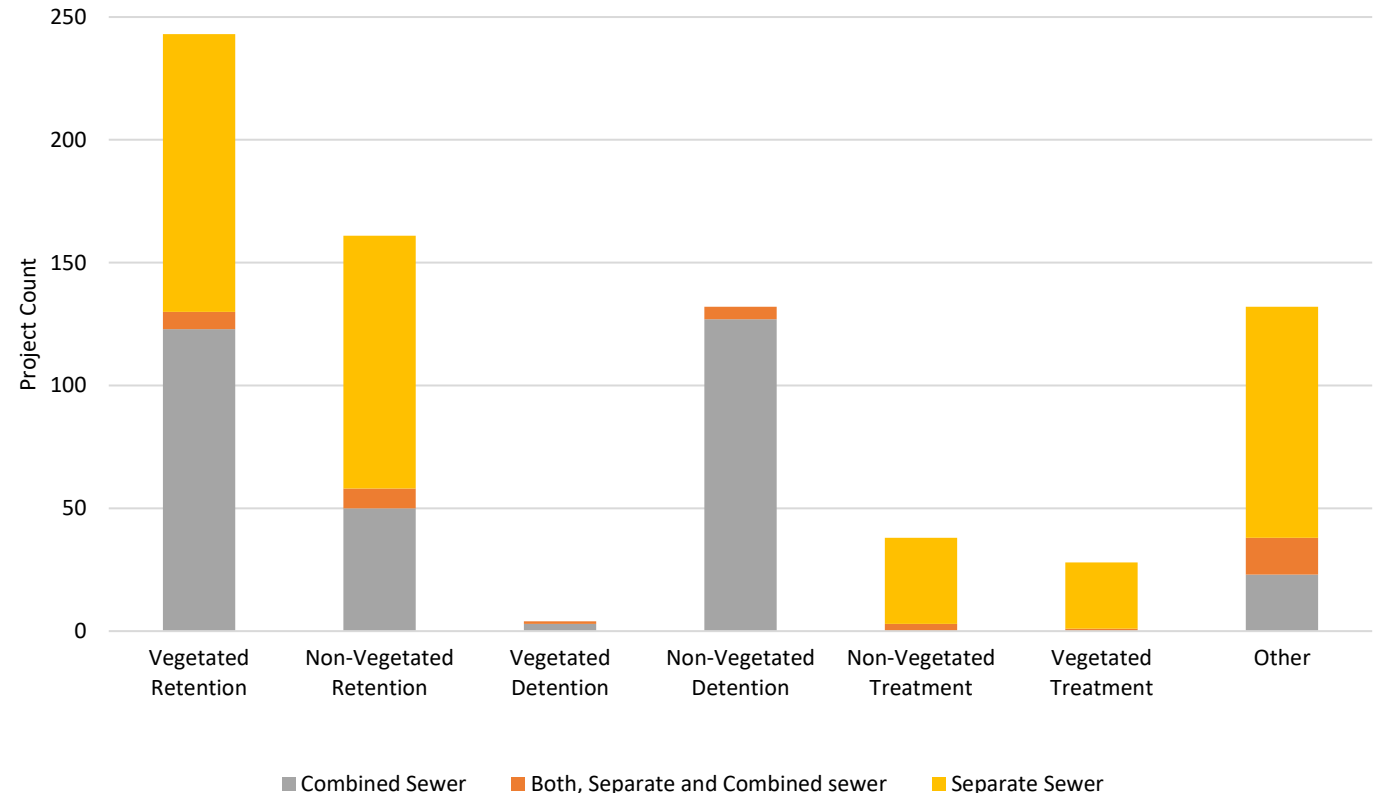
- USWR aligned DEP site connection permitting water quantity/flow requirements with stormwater construction permitting water quality requirements
- Threshold for stormwater permitting: 20,000 sq. ft. of soil disturbance and/or 5,000 sq. ft. or more of new impervious surface
 - Applies in both MS4 and combined sewer system areas
- Prioritizes vegetation and retention practices through the SMP Hierarchy in the NYC Stormwater Manual
- For more details on the USWR visit:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/unified-stormwater-rule.page>



Stormwater Construction Permitting

2025 Highlights:

- Reviewed **536 SWPPPs citywide**
 - 224 in the MS4, 25 in MS4/CSS
- Issued **275 Stormwater Construction Permits**
 - 146 in the MS4
- Hosted **monthly workshop webinars** on the SW permitting process
- Conducted **160 inspections** of active construction sites.



Summary of accepted SWPPPs projects with post-construction SMPs in combined sewer system (CSS) and MS4 areas.

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping (PPGH)

- Manages pollution risks at the City's own facilities and operations
- 2025 Highlights:
 - Assessed **73 municipal facilities and off-site operations**
 - Implemented Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs), including **sweeping ~868,000 miles of street** and **inspecting ~13,900 catch basins**
 - Trained **10,000+ municipal employees** on PPGH awareness
 - **~90 City staff** trained in **inspection/maintenance of municipal GI assets**



Industrial/ Commercial

- Includes managing pollution risks from industrial and commercial facilities that engage in certain activities that may cause stormwater pollution.
- 2025 Highlights:
 - Inspected **25 MSGP-permitted facilities**
 - Assessed **10 unpermitted facilities** (7 referred to NYSDEC for potential SPDES coverage.)
 - As of 2025, **18 facilities were identified as potential significant contributors of POCs** and referred to NYSDEC for determination of SPDES permit applicability

From 2019-2025, DEP
assessed 1,488
unpermitted I/C facilities



Control of Floatable and Settleable Trash and Debris

- Includes measures to reduce litter and keep trash and debris from reaching waterbodies
 - PPGH measures: Street sweeping, catch basin inspection and cleaning, hooding and maintenance, etc.
 - End-of-pipe/in-water controls: 18 active booms & nets and 3 specialized skimmer vessels
 - Public education and stewardship
- 2025 Highlights:
 - FLR Study completed
 - Began research to develop a methodology for selecting, sizing and, siting floatables controls and BMPs



Monitoring

- Program provides analyses to help evaluate long-term trends in water quality
- Includes evaluation of **Harbor Survey Data** and development of **Urban Stormwater Quality (USWQ) Models**
- 2025 Highlights:
 - Continued developing Tallman Island USWQ model
 - Hydrologic and hydraulic components calibrated and validated
 - Second USWQ interim report delivered to NYSDEC in August 2025



Special Conditions for Impaired Waters

- Program covers special conditions for impaired waterbodies with Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plans (**CSO LTCPs**) where:
 - a) LTCPs do not predict compliance with applicable water quality standards and
 - b) Stormwater is expected to contribute to the impairment.
- **Enhanced/customized BMPs** are implemented for 3 waterbodies (**Coney Island Creek, Bergen and Thurston Basins**)
- Updates on BMPs in each annual report



POCs and Enhanced Non-Structural BMPs

- **Pollutants of Concern (POCs)** for CIC, Bergen Basin, and Thurston Basin:
 - Fecal coliform (pathogens)
 - Garbage and refuse (floatables)
- **Enhanced BMPs:**
 - Catch basin marking program
 - Pet waste management stations
 - Source tracking for IDDE
 - Enhanced public education and outreach
 - Opportunities for GI and other structural retrofits (e.g., catch basin upgrades)
- **NYC Bin** rollout continues



2025: CIC Updates

Parks held **48 Park Stewardship events** in parks surrounding Coney Island Creek (CIC) (Coney Island Creek, Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks).

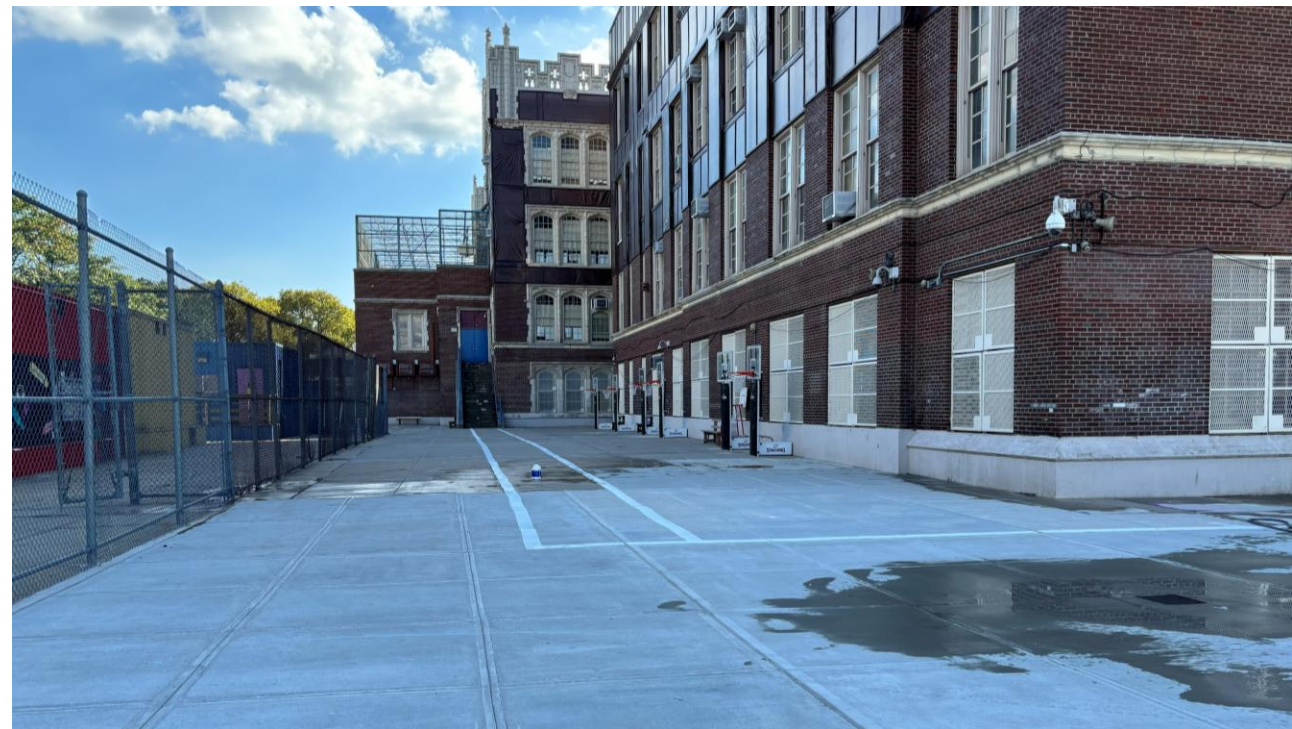
DEP has **completed GI at four schools:**

- K095: Gravesend – subsurface retention practice
- K238: Anne Sullivan – bioretention practice and subsurface retention practice (completed 2024)
- K234: W. A. Cunningham – subsurface stormwater chamber
- K212 Lady Deborah Moody – synthetic turf practice with subsurface stone storage

DEP received **funding for a cloudburst hub in Homecrest.**

DEP **projects in planning phase:** a GI median and Trust for Public Land schoolyard transformation opportunity.

Began installation of catch basin retrofits (grill plates)



Subsurface retention practice at K095 during construction in 2024 and after completion in 2025

Administering the MS4: Program Updates

2025: Bergen/Thurston Updates

- **Operation P.O.O.P.** expanded to Bergen/Thurston MS4 areas
- New education campaign: “**What You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution**”
- Identified **GI opportunities**
 - Potential parkland green infrastructure projects in Bergen Basin and a cloudburst project in Montbellier for Thurston Basin.
- Began installation of catch basin retrofits (grill plates)



RELATED EFFORTS



Related Efforts: GI

The NYC Green Infrastructure Program

- Right of Way and Public Onsite
- Large-Scale Medians
- Private Property Incentives
- Stormwater Regulations
- Cloudburst Management
- Adaptive Management



Large-Scale Medians & IHD Projects

- Two green street median projects completed in the MS4 area
 - Beach 67 median in the Rockaways and the Hillside Avenue median in Queens Village
 - Upcoming median project:
 - MS4 area in Queens on Springfield Blvd between Lucas Street and Merrick Blvd
 - Construction expected to begin in 2026
 - Gateway to Greenpoint
 - Construction began in 2025
 - Will capture almost 1 million gallons of stormwater a year through underground storage chambers, curbside inlets, large planting beds of native species, and tree plantings



Gateway to Greenpoint groundbreaking

Private Property Financial Incentives

Green Infrastructure Grant Program

- Funds the design and construction of green roof retrofits on private property in combined and separately sewered areas
- Over the last decade, the program has committed \$13M to 32 property owners citywide.
- In 2024, DEP updated the Grant Program reimbursement schedule that decreases minimum required green roof area and increased \$/SF to reflect rising construction costs.
- Upcoming 2026 quarterly webinars on how to apply:
 - September 9, 2-3 pm
 - December 9, 2-3 pm

TABLE 1: MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR GREEN ROOF PROJECTS BY SOIL DEPTH AND GREEN ROOF AREA (GRA)

Soil Depth (in)	GRA ≥ 3,500 (SF)
1.5 - 1.99	\$15
2.0 - 2.99	\$20
3.0 - 3.99	\$35
4.0 +	\$40

Private Property Financial Incentives

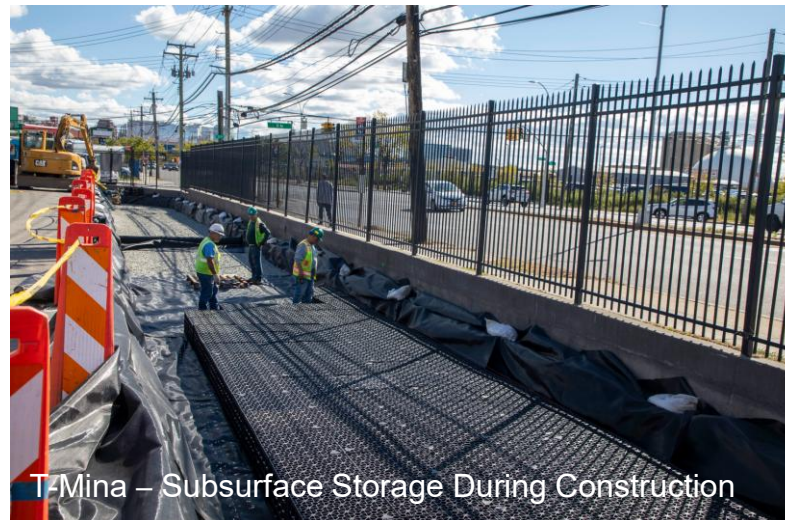
Resilient NYC Partners

Funds the design and construction of site-level green infrastructure practices for properties with >50,000 SF site-level impervious area citywide

- 17 projects completed to date, including 5 in the MS4 (Queens and SI)
- 2 projects in construction
- 1 project pending construction
- 3 projects in design



T-Mina – Before Construction



T-Mina – Subsurface Storage During Construction



T-Mina – Subsurface & Permeable Pavement Installed

Related Efforts: Cloudburst

Cloudburst Projects in MS4 Areas

- **South Jamaica Houses, Queens:** Completed 2025
- DEP and Parks expect **two Cloudburst projects to begin construction in 2026:**
 - Rufus King Park, Queens
 - Archie Spigner Park, Queens
- DEP and DOT are designing a **Cloudburst right-of-way project in St. Albans:**
 - Intersection of 177th St and 112th Ave, Queens
- In 2025, DEP kicked off design for a **Cloudburst Hub for Homecrest in Brooklyn.**
- In Thurston Basin, DEP has identified a potential **Cloudburst Hub opportunity in Montbellier.**

DEP staff at completed Sunken Basketball Court
Cloudburst Project at South Jamaica Houses



Related Efforts: Cloudburst

South Jamaica Houses Cloudburst Project



Completed construction of Sunken Basketball Court Cloudburst Project at South Jamaica Houses, Queens

Resources

- **MS4 Webpage:** [nyc.gov/dep/ms4](https://www.nyc.gov/dep/ms4)
 - **2025 Annual Report Draft**
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dep/downloads/pdf/water/stormwater/ms4/nyc-ms4-annual-report-2025.pdf>
 - **2024 Annual Report (Final)**
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dep/downloads/pdf/water/stormwater/ms4/nyc-ms4-annual-report-2024.pdf>
 - **MS4 Map:** [nyc.gov/dep/ms4map](https://www.nyc.gov/dep/ms4map)
- **Green Infrastructure Webpage:** [nyc.gov/dep/greeninfrastructure](https://www.nyc.gov/dep/greeninfrastructure)
- **DEP Newsletter Sign Up:** [nyc.gov/site/dep/about/newsletters.page](https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/about/newsletters.page)
- **DEP Social Media:** [nyc.gov/connect/social-media.page](https://www.nyc.gov/connect/social-media.page)
- **MS4 email:** MS4@dep.gov



**Draft 2025 MS4 Annual Report
available online now**

**Please submit comments to
MS4@dep.nyc.gov
by Tuesday, June 30, 2026**



**sanitation
foundation**

June 2026

NYC Sanitation

DSNY is the largest Sanitation Department in the world:

- 10,000+ staff
- Collects 24 million lbs of trash daily
- Sweeps streets and plows snow

But with 8.5M residents and 62M annual visitors, DSNY can't do it alone.

That's where we come in.

A clean city requires New Yorkers to understand their role and choose to be part of the solution.



A Platform for Citywide Impact

As the official nonprofit partner of the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY), Sanitation Foundation supports the work of DSNY to clean up the city and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.

Our vision: Make NYC the cleanest big city in the world.

Our mission: Transform New Yorkers into active stewards, rolling up their sleeves for a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable city.



Strategic Approach

ENGAGE



Education & Awareness

Build knowledge and shift behaviors around waste, recycling, and litter prevention.

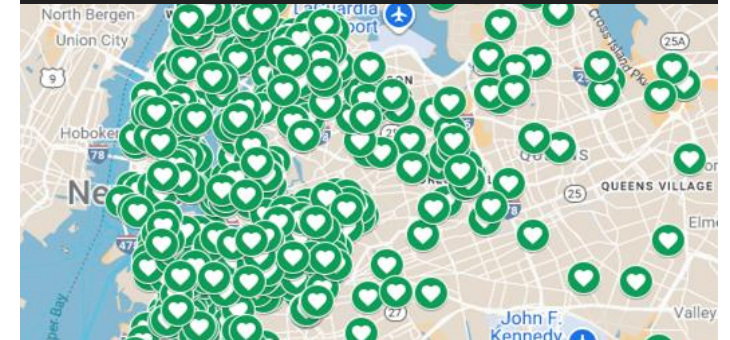
ACTIVATE



Community Mobilization & Volunteering

Equip New Yorkers to clean and care for their neighborhoods.

SUSTAIN



Long-Term Stewardship

Ensure lasting impact by providing leadership and resources.

TRASH ACADEMY TRIVIA!



How many active landfills are there in New York City?

1. 1,218

2. 310

3. 42

4. 0



How many active landfills are there in New York City?

1. 1,218

2. 310

3. 42

4. 0



*The Fresh Kills Landfill was the last operational landfill in NYC. It closed in 2001 and is now being turned into a park.

What is the most commonly littered object in the world?

- 1. Plastic Bottles & Caps**
- 2. Cigarette Butts**
- 3. Straws**
- 4. Wrappers & Packaging**

What is the most commonly littered object in the world?

1. Plastic Bottles & Caps

2. Cigarette Butts



3. Straws

*Cigarette butts and other litter get washed into gutters and can clog our storm drains and pollute local waterways

4. Wrappers & Packaging

What percentage of NYC's residential waste was diverted from landfill in Fiscal Year 2025?

- 1. 12.5%
- 2. 21.8%
- 3. 53.7%
- 4. 78.2%



What percentage of NYC's residential waste was diverted from landfill in Fiscal Year 2025?

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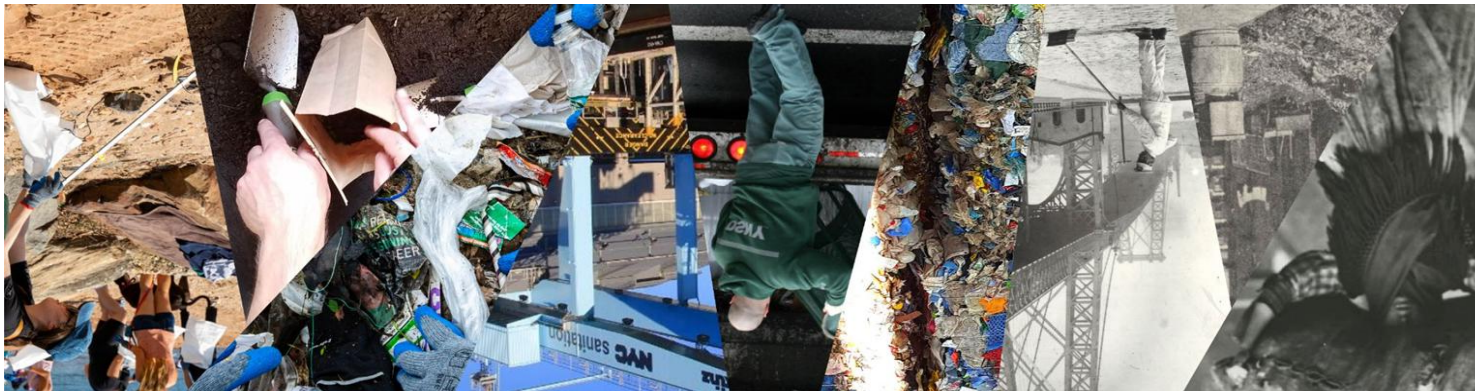
4. 78.2%

* DEP is helping to improve this number by partnering with DSNY on turning food waste into biogas at the Newtown Creek Resource Recovery Facility

We provide New Yorkers with the tools they need to be leaders in the movement for a **cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable NYC**.

Hosted virtually with optional in-person networking events, this **free, 10-session educational series** brings together **30+ industry experts, educators, and community partners** to give **New Yorkers a comprehensive introduction** to the City's **waste ecosystem**.

The Academy has had over 4,000 participants to date.



Academy Content

- **History of waste management + current systems** in NYC
- **Social, environmental + economic implications** of waste
- **Circular economy** + best practices for reducing waste
- Implementing **community + city-based solutions**

Alumni Benefits

- Academy LinkedIn group membership
- Access to additional training and networking opportunities
- Discounted True Advisor Certification

TAKE TRASH ACADEMY NOW

The **NYC Trash Academy Independent Study Program** is now live, offering 10 on-demand modules you can complete on your own schedule. It's the same insider look at sanitation, waste systems and civic leadership - designed to fit into your busy life.

- **Rolling enrollment - April 1 through November 1, 2026**
- **Two months to complete the course once you begin.**

2026 UPDATES

Annual Cohort in January - March

Our 2026 cohort was the biggest ever = 1,553 participants

Brand new modules:

DSNY Operations
Electronic Waste
Textile Recycling

Fully revamped modules:

The Circular Economy
Waste and Environmental Justice



Take pride in the city you love.

Adopt Your Spot NYC is your chance to step up and pledge to take care of a piece of the city. Whatever “your spot” is, it’s yours to care for - and make a difference right there!

New Yorkers take the pledge and pitch in to help keep their spot free from litter for the year. The program is meant to fit into your daily or weekly routine - whether that’s on a walk with your dog or on your way to or from the store/gym/work. You decide what works best for you and your lifestyle.



How It Works

- **Pledge**
Each participant chooses their spot and makes a one-year commitment to maintain it, when and how they want.
- **Supplies**
Participants can order a starter kit with gloves, bags, and litter picker.
- **“Insiders Club” Virtual Community**
Dedicated Whatsapp group, along with live meetups.
- **Exclusive Annual Event**
Featuring leaders in the world of sanitation and waste management in NYC.
- **Citywide Map**
Online map showcasing all the tended areas.

Thank You!

I look forward to continuing the conversation and working together to clean up NYC.

Halima Johnson

Director, Volunteer Programs

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646.885.5018



TRASH ACADEMY



ADOPT YOUR SPOT



sanitationfoundation.org
@sanitationfoundation