

# Minutes for Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting September 18, 2024

Bronx Community Board 8

## Meeting Recording

### 1. Welcome & Roll Call

- Present – D. Rowen, L. Spalter, S. Froot, and E. Hausman
  - K. Argenti (Zoom) and R. Fanuzzi (Zoom)
- Absent – O. Murray and R. Spalter
- Guests – M. O'Sullivan and A.S. Ben-Merre residents in attendance too

### 2. Approval of Committee Minutes – May 15, 2024

- May 2024 minutes were approved unanimously.

### 3. Chairperson's Report

- Welcome to our community members and guest speaker, Antonio Whitaker from DSNY.

### 4. NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Guest Speaker (Antonio Whitaker):

#### ➤ Curbside composting coming to the entire Bronx

- Beginning on October 6<sup>th</sup>, curbside organics/compost collection expands across the city, and it becomes mandatory to separate out organics from regular trash. Collections will occur on the same day as recycling now. Brown bins can be purchased at [bins.nyc](https://bins.nyc) and it is recommended to line the bin with a clear or compostable bag liner. Leaves collected this fall may be set out in clear (or brown paper) bags along with the brown organics bin for collection as well.
- R. Fanuzzi asked about the destination of our organics and Mr. Whitaker was unsure, but stated that all organics/compost collected by the city either goes to DSNY's Staten Island Compost Facility (SICF) or to the Newton Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

#### ➤ Containerization requirement for residential properties with 1-9 units

- Beginning on November 12<sup>th</sup>, all single family, 2-family, and buildings with up to 9 units will have to set out regular trash in bins up to 55 gallons large with a secure lid. Official DSNY bins are available for purchase at Home Depots across the city and from [bins.nyc](https://bins.nyc)
- Any bin with a lid is acceptable for now, but starting in June 2026 the official bins will be required.

#### ➤ Increase in commercial fine amounts for repeat offenders

- Businesses have already been required to set out all trash in containers and now fines are starting. If you see a business not using bins, you can report it to 311. The fines are

currently \$50 for the first offence, \$300 for the second, and \$500 for every offence after that within a 12 month period.

➤ Questions from those in attendance for Mr. Whitaker:

- Guests asked about where to get leaf bags, which CB8 will be distributing whenever possible, but clear plastic bags also work. The organics composting facilities have machines that separate out plastic bags.
- Another question related to getting stickers for bins, which can be ordered for free here:
  - [nyc.gov/sanitationmaterials](https://nyc.gov/sanitationmaterials)
- A question was also asked regarding containerization of recycling materials, which do not need to be set out in bins, though bins are encouraged. Clear plastic bags are fine too (if tinted blue, make sure they are still transparent enough that employees can tell the contents.)
- DSNY issues tickets during specific routing enforcement times, if anyone has had issues with violations, please contact the CB8 office for assistance, but do fight the ticket online when appropriate.

## 5. Old Business

➤ Hudson River PCB cleanup briefing

- The attached resolution was passed unanimously to urge EPA to adopt a not-protective determination for their 3<sup>rd</sup> 5-year review of current progress cleaning up PCBs from the Upper Hudson River. Unfortunately, the data suggests that PCB concentrations in fish have not declined, and if anything have increased due to recent dredging attempts. As such, the cleanup must continue.
  - D. Rowen, L. Spalter, S. Froot, and E. Hausman voted in favor

➤ Jerome Park Reservoir Quarterly Updates

- See attached Reconstruction Newsletter providing a quarterly update on the Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct rehabilitation project.

➤ DEP/NYC Parks finalized purchase of CSX land for Tibbetts Brook Daylighting project

- See attached article on the subject. This completes the last piece of the puzzle so that the daylighting project can now proceed!

➤ Illegal Dumping and Flooding at 306 W. 232<sup>nd</sup> Street Charter School Site

- Karent Argenti presented the attached slides showing violations and the current state of affairs. Photos show flooding as well as concrete being washed down a sewer drain.
- DOB has issued a Stop Work Order on the site since 03/06/2023, which has only been partially rescinded for “report of excessive amount of water pooling on an active construction site.”

## 6. New Business

- Committee member E. Hausman, along with Councilmember Eric Dinowitz, presented on the role of policy in community boards to SAR Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> graders using the Jerome Park Reservoir as an example.

7. Adjournment at 8:25pm.



sanitation

OFFICIAL NOTICE



# Start setting out your brown bin!

DSNY is now collecting your **organics** – food scraps and yard waste.

## Put items like these in your brown bin.

**Food Scraps** fruit, vegetables, meat, bones, dairy, prepared food



**Food-soiled Paper** napkins, tea bags, plates

**Leaf + Yard Waste** plants, trimmings, twigs, grass



## Label your brown bin.

Write your address in permanent marker on the side and lid of the bin to prevent it from being taken or misplaced.

## Line your brown bin to keep it clean.

Use paper bags or certified compostable bags with this logo:  
You can also line your bin with clear plastic liners. No shopping bags, please!



## Latch the lid.

Prevent pests from getting into your bin by keeping the lid closed and fully latched.

## Set out your brown bin for collection.

Find your collection schedule and holiday pick-up information at [nyc.gov/organics](http://nyc.gov/organics) or call 311.



sanitation

**NYC**  
Eric Adams  
Mayor

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

**ATTENTION property owners and managers:**  
Beginning **November 12, 2024**, all trash must be set out in a bin (**55 gallons or less**) with a secure lid.

This applies to:

- single-family homes
- two-family homes
- buildings with up to 9 apartments

You can use a compliant bin (**55 gallons or less with a secure lid**) that you already have, but starting June 2026, you **MUST** use an **Official NYC Bin**.

The Official NYC Bin is durable, rat resistant, and **costs less than \$50** for the most-used size! **Order by October 1 to ensure delivery by November 12!**



Official NYC Bins are only available for purchase online at:

[www.bins.nyc](http://www.bins.nyc)



**Resolution to Urge EPA to Adopt a Not Protective Determination in its Third Five-Year Review Concerning the Hudson River PCB Cleanup**

**WHEREAS**, the Hudson River is an American Heritage River and the Hudson River Valley is a National Heritage Area, the health and beauty of the Hudson River is critical to the economic vitality of the communities surrounding it; and

**WHEREAS**, Bronx Community Board 8's district borders the lower-Hudson River Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, Bronx Community Board 8 has been a long time advocate for improved river access (including for the extension of the Hudson River Greenway) as well as cleaner water for all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, for 30 years, from 1947-1977, General Electric ("GE") dumped polychlorinated biphenyls ("PCBs") into the Hudson River from two capacitor manufacturing plants located in the towns of Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, N.Y.; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of GE's PCB contamination, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") designated a 200-mile stretch of the Hudson River from Fort Edward to New York Harbor as a Superfund Site in 1984; and

**WHEREAS**, PCBs are man-made, bioaccumulative, persistent organic pollutants that have been linked to a wide variety of adverse health effects, including, among others: cancers, liver, and kidney disorders; reduced birth weight, conception rates, and live birth rates; persistent and significant deficits in neurological development, including visual recognition, short-term memory and learning; and developmental problems due to interference with thyroid hormone levels; and

**WHEREAS**, PCBs discharged by GE are still found at dangerous levels throughout the Hudson River ecosystem and as far south as New York Harbor: in soils and sediments within the river and the surrounding floodplains; in the living tissues of wildlife, from low-level organisms to larger animals such as birds and fish; and, periodically, suspended in the river itself or in the air; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002 EPA selected a two-part cleanup plan to address in-river sediments in the Upper Hudson River, a 40-mile stretch of the Hudson River between Fort Edward and the Federal Dam at Troy, which called for targeted dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment from the river bottom, followed by an extended period of natural recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the selected cleanup remedy was designed to reduce the dangerous health risks to humans and wildlife living in and near the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site in an expedited time frame and reestablish the ecological and economic health of the Hudson River; and

**WHEREAS**, EPA's original cleanup plan also focused on minimizing the long-term downstream transport of PCBs to the Lower Hudson River, a 160-mile stretch of the Hudson River from the Federal Dam at Troy to New York Harbor; and

**WHEREAS**, with the completion of dredging in 2015, the cleanup has transitioned from the dredging phase to the natural recovery phase; and

**WHEREAS**, federal Superfund law requires EPA to conduct a study every five years to evaluate the implementation and performance of the remedy to determine if the remedy is protective of human health and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 10, 2024, EPA released its draft third five-year review concluding that EPA needs more years of fish data to determine if the cleanup is meeting the expectations of the original cleanup plan; and

**WHEREAS**, EPA's draft third five-year review report does not adequately address scientific data and analysis that show that there has been little improvement in fish and sediment PCB concentrations since the completion of dredging; and

**WHEREAS**, PCB concentrations in Upper Hudson River fish and sediment are not declining as anticipated by EPA to reach key remediation targets and adequately minimize the downstream transport of PCBs to the Lower Hudson River; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued presence of PCBs in the Hudson River has significantly diminished economic activity and recreational use and enjoyment of the river; and

**WHEREAS**, the understanding of the relationship between how much PCB was left behind in the sediments and the rates of recovery in sediment and fish needs to be updated to determine if further remedial work is necessary to protect human and environmental health; and

**WHEREAS**, the data available supports the conclusion that the selected remedy is not protective of human health and the environment. The human health and ecological risks are well in excess of EPA's acceptable risk ranges, and will not be in the acceptable range for the foreseeable future; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board 8, hereby urges the EPA to adopt a "not protective" determination" in the third five-year review and acknowledge the failure of the Upper Hudson River remedy to meet the goals and objectives of the cleanup.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the EPA must begin the process of assessing additional remedial actions to protect the environment and our vulnerable communities along the Hudson River, who will otherwise continue to be exposed to toxic levels of PCBs for generations to come.

CC:

- US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2 and Hudson River Field Office
- New York State Governor Kathy Hochul
- NYS Office of the Attorney General
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Bronx Borough President, Vanessa L. Gibson
- Council Member Carmen De La Rosa
- Council Member Eric Dinowitz
- Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez
- Mayor Eric Adams
- Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams
- Council Member James F. Gennaro, Chair, NYC Council Committee on Environmental Protection, Resiliency & Waterfronts
- Council Member Shaun Abreu, Chair, NYC Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
- State Senator Gustavo Rivera
- State Senator Robert Jackson
- Assembly Member Manny De Los Santos
- Assembly Member George Alvarez
- Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz
- Congressman Adriano Espaillat
- Congressman Ritchie Torres
- U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer
- U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
- Ciara Gannon, Director of Community Boards, Bronx Borough President's Office

## Bronx, NY

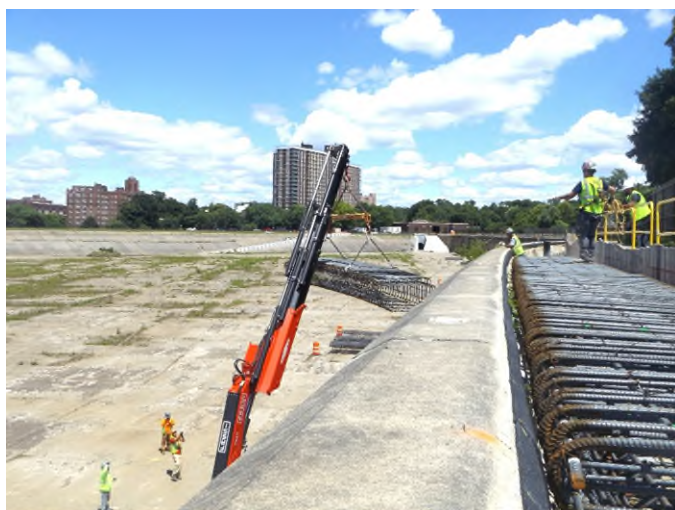
## April 2024 – June 2024 Quarterly Update

# Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation

3055 Goulden Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10468

Project: JRAQ-REH

The Jerome Park Reservoir is a raw water reservoir supplying raw water to the Croton Filtration Plant. The primary purpose of the JRAQ-REH construction contract is to rehabilitate and upgrade components of the Jerome Park Reservoir and to maintain the reservoir in a state of good repair.



Installing East Roadway Grade Beam Reinforcing Steel

### Project Scope

Construction of a Diversion Structure and filling the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) with Controlled Low Strength Material (CLSM), repair of leaks in the East Reservoir Wall, demolition of the existing fence along the East Reservoir Wall and construction of a new fence and guide rail, repair of the Lehman College Parking Lot retaining wall, repair of an existing rubble wall along the South Reservoir Access Road, repair and reinforcement of the North Basin Ramp, shotcrete repair of the North Basin inlet archway and wing walls, resetting of the East Reservoir Wall capstones, re-pointing of the East Reservoir Wall dimension stones, construction of a shotcrete armor wall along lower half of East Reservoir Wall (North and South Basins), and removal / replacement of the reservoir asphalt access roadways.

### Contract Work Schedule

May 2021 to December 2026

Eric Adams  
Mayor  
Rohit Aggarwala  
Commissioner

### Work Performed During the Period:

- Commenced the installation of grade beam reinforcing steel along the East Road of the North Basin.
- Installation of diversion pipe and concrete bulkheads within the OCA (Gatehouse 5 to Gatehouse 6).
- Commenced capstone removal/resetting along the East Road between Gatehouse 5 and Gatehouse 7.
- Commenced cleaning of sediment/vegetation from North Basin.

### Upcoming Work Activities (Next 3 Months):

- CLSM placement within the OCA (Gatehouse 5 to Gatehouse 6) from Lehman College parking lot.
- Continue construction of East Road grade beam (Gatehouse 5 to Gatehouse 7).
- Continue East Wall capstone removal/ resetting around Gatehouse 5 and repointing of North Basin West Wall.
- Complete sediment/ vegetation removal from North Basin.
- Commence North Basin East Wall armor wall installation.

### Work Hours

- 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday.
- 6:00 AM – 4:30 PM from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> for filling OCA. The early start is necessary to ensure this work which is being performed using Lehman College (LC) parking lot is completed within the window provided by LC.
- 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM on Saturdays (only as necessary)

### Community Impacts

During construction hours, you can expect the following:

- Intermittent elevated levels of noise.
- Delivery trucks entering/exiting construction entrance on Sedgewick Avenue (north end of reservoir), through construction entrance on West 197th Street (south end of reservoir) and through parking lot gates of Lehman College. Flag persons will be utilized for maintenance and protection of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- No water in North Basin during the construction period.
  - North Basin expected to be out of service (empty) until September 2025.

### Community Construction Liaison (CCL)

The DEP has assigned Robert Vargo, PE, CCM of Arcadis as the Community Construction Liaison (CCL) for this project. Please contact Robert Vargo for any project related inquiries/concerns.

**Phone:** (917) 567-6660

**Email:** Robert.Vargo@arcadis.com

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## News

# DEP and NYC Parks Finalize Purchase of Land Needed to 'Daylight' Tibbetts Brook and Extend Putnam Greenway in Bronx

June 10, 2024

**Acquiring Rail Line Property from CSX Transportation Allows City to Advance Ambitious Green Infrastructure Project**

**Restoring Waterway Will Create Additional Capacity in Bronx Sewer System, Improve Health of Harlem River, and Provide Residents with New Green Space**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and NYC Parks today announced that they have finalized the purchase of a key piece of property critical to rerouting Tibbetts Brook in the Bronx above ground, an engineering feat known as 'daylighting.' DEP, NYC Parks and railroad freight company CSX Transportation closed the deal on Tuesday to acquire the needed land for \$11.2 million. Removing Tibbetts Brook flow from the sewer system will create much-needed additional capacity in the borough's drainage network and is expected to reduce combined sewer overflows by 228 million gallons annually, which will improve the health of the Harlem River. This green infrastructure project, one of the City's most ambitious to date, will also create new rail-to-trail parkland for New Yorkers to enjoy within the former CSX rail line property and extend the existing Putnam Greenway, which goes through Van Cortlandt Park and connects northward to the 750-mile Empire State Trail.

"I want to congratulate the teams from DEP and NYC Parks whose dogged persistence pushed through years of stalemate and finalized a vital agreement with CSX Transportation. Now, we can earnestly begin to restore Tibbetts Brook and transform this unused industrial space into parkland for Bronx residents," said **Chief Climate Officer and DEP Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala**. "Daylighting Tibbetts Brook will reduce the amount of pollution flowing into the Harlem River while the newly created

greenspace will provide recreational opportunities along the riverfront, connecting walking and biking paths.”

“This landmark project will be a major victory for the City’s environmental infrastructure, adding critical new greenspace while bolstering the health of the Harlem River and strengthening the sewer network in the Bronx. Parks was proud to contribute \$4.47 million towards this project and work closely with our partners at DEP to finalize this deal,” said **NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue**. “The determination by Parks and DEP to push this acquisition over the finish line demonstrates our commitment to making our city cleaner, greener, and more resilient.”

Tibbetts Brook was dammed in the 18th century to form a mill pond in Van Cortlandt Park and by 1912 it was completely buried underground and directed into the city’s sewer system. The daylighting project will return it closer to its natural open-air path, which winds through the Kingsbridge neighborhood and empties into the Harlem River. Daylighting is the process of redirecting waterways that have been previously buried in pipes into an above-ground channel.

Once completed, the daylighting project will remove roughly 4 to 5 million gallons of water from the sewer system each day, more on rainy days. The project could also lessen flooding in some areas of the Tibbetts Brook watershed, and reduce treatment costs and greenhouse gas emissions by diverting brook water away from the Wards Island Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility.

There has already been significant community engagement on the project, and it is now in the final stages of the design process. Construction is currently expected to begin in late 2025.

The property acquisition by the city to use the former rail line as a trail was approved by the federal Surface Transportation Board. The overall daylighting and greenway project budget is \$133 million. The project is part of an agreement between New York City and New York State to further improve the ecological health of city waterbodies.

## **About the NYC Department of Environmental Protection**

DEP manages New York City’s water supply, providing approximately 1 billion gallons of high-quality drinking water each day to more than 9 million residents, including 8.3 million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,500 miles of sewer lines and 96 pump stations take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. DEP has a robust capital program, with a planned \$29 billion in investments over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/dep](https://www.nyc.gov/dep), like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.

## **About NYC Parks**

NYC Parks is the steward of more than 30,000 acres of land—14 percent of New York City—including more than 5,000 individual properties ranging from Coney Island Beach and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds, 1,800 basketball courts, 550 tennis courts, 65 public pools, 51 recreational facilities, 15 nature centers, 14 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches. We also care for 1,200 monuments and 23 historic house

museums, and look after 600,000 street trees, along with two million more in parks. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/parks](https://nyc.gov/parks).