

Watershed Recreation News & Events

New York City DEP Recreation <watershedevents@dep.nyc.gov>

Fri 7/20/2018, 11:18 AM

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**Bureau of Water Supply
Natural Resources Division**

Recreational Rule Updates

DEP is currently working to update its recreation rules for the first time since 2010. The next step in our process is to hear from you - the folks who use our lands and waters for outdoor activities. In July we will host two public hearings in the watershed to gather input on the draft rules. The revised rules will expand recreational opportunities and address several issues that the public has brought to our attention. We hope you will attend the hearings and provide comments. Your input is important to us!

**July 24 – Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services
112 Old Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512
The hearing will begin at 6 p.m.**

**July 26 – Margaretville Telephone Company
61 Academy Street, Margaretville, NY 12455
The hearing will begin at 6 p.m.**

[Click here to read more.](#)



Two New Day Use Areas



Above: The newly restored Pepacton Cemetery.

Special areas for public access encourage recreation, picnicking, appreciation of local history.

DEP recently announced the creation of two new day-use areas in the watershed, providing local residents and visitors with additional locations for enjoying the outdoors and local history. Both day-use areas are located near Pepacton Reservoir in Delaware County. They include the site of a former bridge in Dunraven and Pepacton Cemetery in Andes.

The Dunraven Day-Use Area is a 2-acre site on the East Branch Delaware River, at the head of Pepacton Reservoir. The park comprises two small areas of land on either side of the river, including the former abutments of a bridge that was located there during construction of the reservoir. One side of the park is accessible from Route 28, and the other side is located on BWS Road 10. This unique area is good for fishing in spring when the river is high. It is also good for picnicking, reading a book, eagle watching or enjoying scenic views of the valley year round.

The Pepacton Cemetery Day-Use Area includes 54 acres on a hillside that overlooks the reservoir. Last year, DEP and local experts finished a full-scale restoration of the cemetery, which is the final resting place for more than 400 deceased who were removed from local burial grounds and reinterred to allow for the construction of Pepacton and Cannonsville reservoirs. The city-owned cemetery was rededicated in their memory last November. The cemetery is a significant site for local history. Those buried at the site include the founding families of towns in Delaware County, along with more than 25 veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. The cemetery comprises approximately one-quarter of the day-use area, while the remainder includes a field with excellent views of the reservoir. That field is now open to the public for picnicking, walking and other low-impact activities.

With the addition of these two sites in Delaware County, DEP has now designated six day-use areas on water supply lands. Day-use areas are parks that can be used by the public for a variety of low-impact activities without the need for a DEP Access Permit. DEP's other day-use areas include public walkways at Ashokan, Cross River and Kensico reservoirs, and the 53-acre Devasego Park in Greene County, which includes a boat launch and picnic areas. More information about these areas can be found by visiting DEP's website at www.nyc.gov/dep/recreation or visiting the [Recmapper](#) site.

Rail Trail Construction Access Update

Ashokan boaters and anglers: We appreciate your patience with the ongoing rail trail work on the north side of Ashokan Reservoir. Ulster County has completed phase 1 of the project which includes the removal of tracks and ties. All gates are now open for recreational access. Ulster County expects to begin trail construction around August 1. We will strive to keep access open as this phase of the project is in progress. Please visit the [DEP recreation website](#) for updated access notifications. Thank you and happy fishing!

Recreational Boating



The DEP recreational boating program is in full swing for the summer. On any given weekend, you're sure to see boaters taking full advantage of the exceptional paddling opportunities at Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton, and Schoharie reservoirs. Whether you are a seasoned paddler or hitting the water for first time, we've got you covered. Visitors can rent a boat from one of the DEP certified boat rental businesses at each reservoir. If you use your own boat, no problem. You can stop at an approved steam-cleaning vendor to get your boat washed and receive a temporary or seasonal boat tag.

Reservoir paddling provides our neighbors and visitors with a unique view of the Catskills' scenic beauty - so give it a try!

For more information on finding a rental or steam cleaning vendor, or to download a map of the reservoir boating areas, please visit the [Catskill Watershed Corporation website](#).

Boat Tag Renewals

Don't forget to send in your boat tag renewals.

It's that time of year again. Boaters, please remember to send in your boat tag renewal applications if you haven't done so already. Boaters started receiving their renewal applications in March. If you didn't get your



application yet, don't worry. We are still mailing them out for the season. We anticipate that all renewal applications will be mailed by the end of July. Once you receive your application, please

verify that all of your information is correct and return the form along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address provided on the form. Once received, it will take about 6-8 weeks for you to receive your new tag. All 2018 boat tags expire on Sept. 30, 2018.



DEP Watershed Stewards

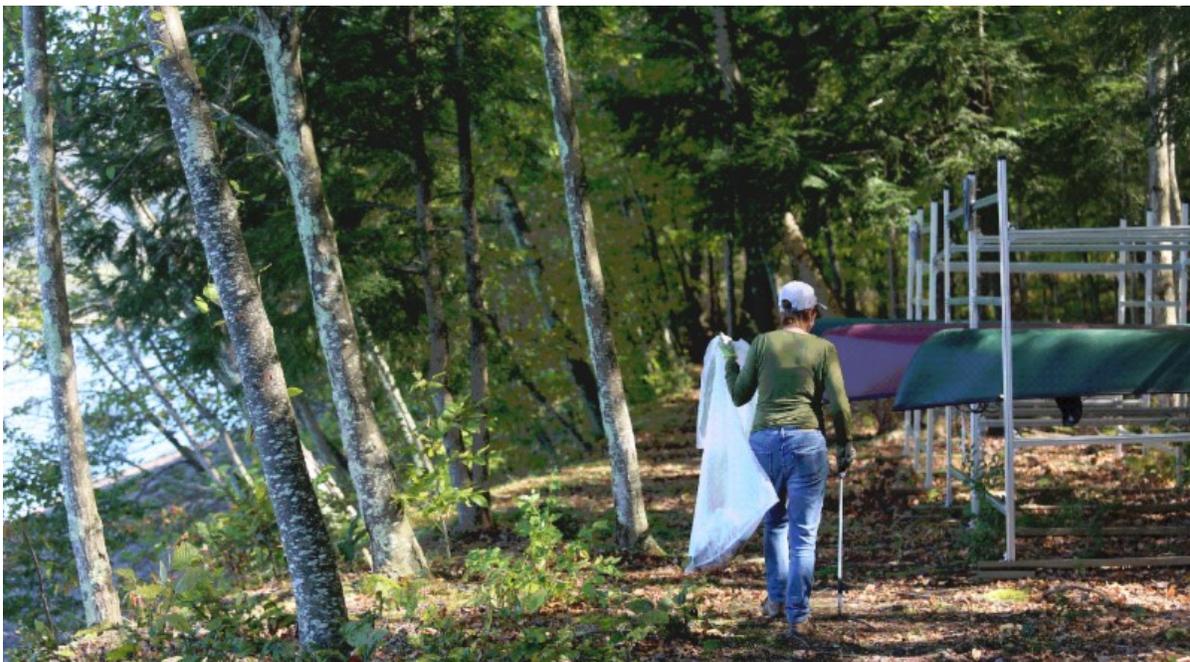
In 2016, DEP launched our pilot Watershed Land Steward Program at Pepacton and Kensico Reservoirs. The program is now a permanent part of our recreation program thanks to the success and dedication of the watershed stewards. These volunteers help to protect the resources of the NYC water supply system by encouraging the responsible and sustainable use of its reservoirs and recreation lands.

Since the beginning of the program, the stewards have informed DEP about downed trees and problem boats, talked to many recreational users of City land, and picked up countless bags of trash. Several stewards are also assisting DEP by reporting similar issues at other East of Hudson reservoirs.

We ask all our recreation users to help our stewards. Please clean, drain, and dry all your equipment before entering City lands and water. Store your boat with the hull up to prevent mosquito breeding. Pick up your trash and take it with you when you leave. If you meet someone in a DEP steward shirt or hat, stop and chat. Maybe they'll be willing to give you fishing tips or information on our recreational boating program. If you would like to do more, please contact [Lydia Lewis](#) to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

RESERVOIR CLEAN UP DAY
September 30, 2018
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.





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For recreation questions call 1-800-575-LAND (5263)
email: recreation@dep.nyc.gov
[RecMapper](#)

For dangerous or suspicious activity call 1-888-H2O-SHED (426-7433)

STAY CONNECTED



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