

Empire State Development News

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SUMMER '08 @ PIER 1 OPEN THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28!

More than 140,000 have visited Brooklyn's latest hot spot for its café, picnic tables, benches, sandbox, and magnificent views of New York Harbor and "The New York City Waterfalls"

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy are pleased to announce the extension of *Summer '08 @ Pier One!* Since opening to the public on June 26, more than 140,000 people have visited the temporary park on Pier 1, located in the future Brooklyn Bridge Park. Due to its success, this summer's interim park, which includes spectacular views of New York Harbor, will remain open to the public through September 28.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation will begin actual park construction of Pier 1 after the closing of the interim "pop-up" park. This new section of Brooklyn Bridge Park will include over 1,200 linear feet of new waterfront promenade along the East River, 6 acres of lawn with spectacular views of the Brooklyn Bridge and New York Harbor, plus a new children's playground.

Drawing in this summer's crowds was the temporary public artwork "The New York City Waterfalls" by Olafur Eliasson, presented by the Public Art Fund in collaboration with the City of New York. Visitors to Pier 1 have come from over 28 foreign countries and throughout the United States, as well as neighborhoods across Brooklyn and New York City. All have taken advantage of delicious food and beverages from Pier 1's café with concessions from local purveyor, RICE, along with picnic tables, benches, bike racks, landscaping with trees, a sand area, and grass.

The 26,000 square foot site, designed by landscape architect Susannah Drake's dlandstudio, extends 315 feet out onto the East River and offers picture-perfect views of the Manhattan skyline. Visitors can also observe construction of the larger Brooklyn Bridge Park through a transparent safety fence at the western edge of Pier 1, and renderings and descriptions illustrating the future park's design which are displayed throughout the site.

The BBPDC broke ground on the piers area of Brooklyn Bridge Park on February 13, 2008, and demolition has continued throughout the summer. Twelve acres of the park, between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges, are currently open. The first sections of the park south of the Brooklyn Bridge are expected to open by the end of 2009. Brooklyn Bridge Park will reconnect New Yorkers with the Brooklyn waterfront, replacing abandoned piers, parking lots, and storage sheds with opportunities to play sports, stroll, or lounge at the water's edge. When complete, Brooklyn Bridge Park, designed by the landscape architecture firm Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, will be an 85-acre park that stretches along the Brooklyn waterfront from Atlantic Avenue to Jay Street, north of the Manhattan Bridge.

"We're thrilled by the success of *Summer '08 @ Pier 1*. We encourage all tourists and New Yorkers to come out to Pier 1 and discover what an amazing and unique destination Brooklyn Bridge Park will be," said Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer. "We've reached major milestones this year that include the start of construction, and we anticipate opening the first parts of the park by 2009. BBPDC remains committed to revitalizing Brooklyn's waterfront and giving its residents and visitors the park they deserve."

"We are delighted that so many people have come here this summer to admire the views, sip a glass of wine, and enjoy the waterfront," said Marianna Koval, President of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy. "We're looking forward to extending Pier 1's operations through the end of September so that even more visitors can get a taste of what Brooklyn Bridge Park will bring." The Conservancy is overseeing Pier 1's operations this summer.

Summer '08 @ Pier 1 is open through September 28, seven days a week. Beginning September 2 it will be open from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays the park will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Pier 1 is located on the East River at the base of Old Fulton Street and Furman Street and is accessible by subway via the A/C at High Street, the 2/3 at Clark Street, and the 4/5 at Borough Hall.

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation is an subsidiary of Empire State Development, New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.nylovesbiz.com.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy is a non-profit organization which has worked for twenty years to ensure the creation, adequate funding, proper maintenance, public support, and citizen enjoyment of Brooklyn Bridge Park through partnership with the public sector, development of programming, and active promotion of the needs of the park and its constituents. Since 2000, more than half a million visitors have enjoyed the Conservancy's free, public programs in the beginnings of Brooklyn Bridge Park. For more information, visit www.brooklynbridgepark.org

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