

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation

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BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY ANNOUNCE THE BUILDING OF A NEW WATER TAXI DOCK AT PIER 6

New dock will allow direct ferry service between Governors Island and Brooklyn Bridge Park

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation today announced that it has received a \$1 million grant from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to build a new water taxi dock at Pier 6. Located at the foot of Atlantic Avenue, the new dock will provide a point of access for the City's commercial ferries, and establish the first-ever direct route between Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island. City Councilman Bill de Blasio (D-Brooklyn) also pledged \$400,000 to fund the project, the result of a joint request by both the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy and Development Corporation. Chris Ward, Executive Director of the Port Authority was joined by other elected officials and community advocates at the today's announcement at Pier 6.

"The Port Authority has a longstanding commitment to the residents of Brooklyn and the preservation of their waterfront. Surrounding neighbors, visiting tourists, local businesses and the region will benefit from the unique open space of Brooklyn Bridge Park and easy access to ferry service to historic Governor's Island," said Chris Ward, Executive Director of the Port Authority of NY & NJ.

"I am proud to have played a leading role in creating a new hub for water taxis in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Thanks to the support of the Port Authority, my office and the City Council, we will now have a new dock for the City's commercial ferries, establishing the first-ever direct ferry from Brooklyn Bridge Park to Governors Island. I will continue this work to expand Brooklyn's waterfront and encourage modes of convenient transportation from our borough to New York City's many historical sites," said Councilmember Bill de Blasio.

"Empire State Development is pleased to join the Port Authority in announcing plans to connect two of New York City's greatest recreational assets, Governor's Island and Brooklyn Bridge Park," said Empire State Development Chairman & CEO designate Dennis L. Mullen. "Governor's Island is on course to a record-breaking season of visitors, and Brooklyn Bridge Park is well on its way toward making 25 years worth of visionary design and planning a reality along the Brooklyn waterfront. Construction on the dock will be underway over the next few months, as Phase I of park development nears completion. Once finished, the park will boast rolling hills, civic plazas, a bicycle path, restored marshland, athletic courts and fields, playgrounds and open green spaces."

"We are grateful to the Port Authority and Councilman de Blasio for making the new dock at Pier 6 a reality," said Brooklyn Bridge Park President Regina Myer. "The dock is a crucial step forward in the development of Brooklyn Bridge Park and will provide an additional amenity at Pier 6 which will feature new playgrounds, volleyball courts and a café. This is a terrific opportunity for Brooklyn residents to reconnect with their waterfront."

"We are very committed to providing long-term connectivity between Brooklyn and Governors Island," said GIPEC Chair Avi Schick. "We are pleased that Brooklyn residents will soon be able to reach Governors Island in a quick, three-minute ferry ride to experience all there is to do there."

"The construction of Brooklyn Bridge Park is well underway and the addition of a water taxi dock will be one of the park's innovative features," said New York City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "I commend the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation and the Port Authority for their commitment to provide another means of sustainable transportation."

"Governors Island is a great resource for all New Yorkers to enjoy," said Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, whose district includes Governors Island. "I am so pleased that this new dock will provide even more New Yorkers with greater access to the Island's acres of open green spaces, free, family friendly activities, and cultural programs."

"This ferry landing will be a point of connection between Brooklyn and the entire region, and a step toward a Central Harbor Park for the center of our city. I have long pushed for direct ferry access to Brooklyn Bridge Park, and I applaud this progress toward such a vital goal," said State Senator Daniel Squadron.

"Since the earliest stages of development, we have been focused on finding alternative ways to get people to Brooklyn Bridge Park without increasing traffic. The new ferry dock at Pier 6 will do just that, enabling more residents and visitors to experience everything that the park has to offer," said Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, who secured \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct the transportation study for Brooklyn Bridge Park completed in 2008.

"Congratulations to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation on this great opportunity," said Congressman Jerrold Nadler. "Soon, thanks to the Port Authority and Councilman de Blasio, a new dock at Pier 6 will further transform the new Brooklyn Bridge Park into a truly integral New York City park, and a destination for locals and visitors alike."

"First of all, thank you to both the Port Authority and Council Member Bill de Blasio for their financial support for this much needed water taxi dock," said New York State Assemblywoman Joan Millman. "The community has long called for a water taxi at this site. This dock will provide us with the possibility of a water connection between Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island and will provide Brooklyn residents with greater access to recreational activities on Governors Island. In addition, this dock provides the potential for water taxi service as an alternative for Brooklyn residents commuting to Manhattan. I want to congratulate Regina Myer, President of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation for the outstanding job she has been doing on the park. I also want to thank her for the leadership and vision she has exhibited in striving to bring this water taxi dock to Pier 6."

"The addition of a new water taxi dock at Pier 6 is yet another jewel in the crown of Brooklyn Bridge Park with its parkland, beaches, recreation, bikeways, historic structures, breathtaking views and a spectacular new playground on the pier which I am extremely proud to support," said Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. I am also thrilled the dock at Atlantic Avenue will allow the first-ever direct route between Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island, which Brooklynites will always embrace as an extension of our borough—another one of our great neighborhoods. Bravo to Regina Myer, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Council Member Bill de Blasio for helping to ensure that just the way Prospect Park became an enduring model for urban parks in the 19th century, Brooklyn Bridge Park will set the standard for the 21st."

"This announcement represents yet another step the Port Authority and ESDC are taking to revitalize the Brooklyn waterfront, stimulate economic activity, and create jobs," said Council Member David Yassky. "It is the perfect complement to the Park and will create important links between waterfront destinations through actions that are forward-thinking, progressive, and green."

"Our community is so pleased to see increased ferry access from Brooklyn," said John Dew, Chair of Community Board 2. "This new dock will allow Brooklynites unprecedented access to the attractions of Governors Island and New York Harbor."

"We have long advocated for more ferry service from Brooklyn, and increased access between Brooklyn and Governors Island," said Craig Hammerman, District Manager of Brooklyn Community Board 6. "Now, this new dock will allow our residents to enjoy a direct link to all the exciting activities Governors Island has to offer."

"The Conservancy thanks the Port Authority, along with Council Member Bill de Blasio, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and the Brooklyn delegation of the Council for funding this important initiative," said Nancy Webster, Acting Executive Director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy. "A water taxi stop linking the park to Governor's Island next summer and other points in the future will enable New Yorkers to more fully experience the beauty of Brooklyn Bridge Park and the surrounding harbor district."

"We are so pleased that this new dock will provide increased access for Brooklyn residents to directly travel directly to Governors Island," said Ken Fisher, Chair of the Governors Island Alliance. "We are grateful that the Port Authority and Councilman de Blasio are making this ferry connection between Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island a reality."

Visitors will be welcomed to the first open sections of the park – Pier 1 and Pier 6 – in winter 2009. Pier 6 will add about 7 acres of new park, including a 1.6 acre destination playground with water play areas and innovative play equipment built into the park landscape. Two sand volley ball courts, a concession and dog run will also be constructed, as well as a promenade featuring incredible views of lower Manhattan and the New York Harbor. The dock at Pier 6 will be open for ferry service in the summer of 2010.

For those City residents eager to get their first look at the park, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation is hosting an open tour of the site every Tuesday evening this August. For more information on "Tuesday Tours" and to RSVP, please visit <http://www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org/>.

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The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey operates many of the busiest and most important transportation links in the region. They include John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, LaGuardia, Stewart International and Teterboro airports; AirTrain JFK and AirTrain Newark; the George Washington Bridge and Bus Station; the Lincoln and Holland tunnels; the three bridges between Staten Island and New Jersey; the PATH (Port Authority Trans-Hudson) rapid-transit system; Port Newark; the Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal; the Howland Hook Marine Terminal on Staten Island; the Port Authority Auto Marine Terminal; the Brooklyn Piers/Red Hook Container Terminal; the Greenville Yard-Port Authority Marine Terminal; and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown Manhattan. The agency also owns the 16-acre World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan and is a partner in the Access to the Region's Core tunnel project.

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation is a 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 <http://www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org/>.

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