



Harlem
Community
Development
Corporation

For Immediate Release: July 14, 2011

Contact:

Austin Shafran (ESD) | ashafran@empire.state.ny.us | (800) 260-7313

Elizabeth Mitchell (ESD) | emitchell@empire.state.ny.us | (800) 260-7313

HARLEM RIVER PARK TASK FORCE TO HOST ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN HARLEM RIVER PARK

Events to be staged from seven different points on New York's waterways

Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) today announced that the Harlem River Park Task Force will host the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance's annual City of Water Day Festival in Harlem River Park on July 16.

Now in its fourth year, the City of Water Day Festival is one of the largest waterfront events in the region and highlights one of New York's most celebrated resources: its waterways. Run by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance—a partnership of more than 500 organizations with ties to regional tributaries—the festival offers a wide range of events at various locations throughout the City.

"Our community has been blessed to be surrounded by water," said State Senator Bill Perkins. "The City of Water Day Festival allows us to recognize and regard what the waterways mean to us and focus our attention on making them more accessible for play, transportation, educational opportunities and to just enjoy."

"Efforts like the City of Water Day will go a long way toward encouraging New Yorkers to take advantage of activities on our waterfronts and even out in our rivers—everything from fishing to rowing, to just enjoying the views on a nice day," said Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chair of the City Council Parks and Recreation Committee. "Though we live in a city made up of many islands, the water is an untapped recreational resource for many of our residents. As a member of the Harlem River Park Task Force, I have been a long-time supporter of improving the quality of our waterfronts and strengthening access to the Harlem and East Rivers."

"Harlem as a neighborhood is defined by water," said Assemblyman Keith Wright of Harlem, Chairman of the Harlem Community Development Corporation. "Whether it is the Harlem

River, the East River, the Hudson River or the Harlem Meer, our 'Village in the City' is finally unlocking the potential of our once inaccessible waterfront. As Chairman of the Harlem Community Development Corporation, I have been pushing to revitalize our waterways to make them the vibrant spaces that our residents demand. From the cliffs of Inwood to the newly minted Harlem River Park, Northern Manhattan has hundreds of water-related activities for everyone to enjoy. On City of Water Day and throughout the summer, I encourage everyone to surf on up to Harlem and enjoy some of the coolest waters the City has to offer.”

“On behalf of the Harlem Community Development Corporation, we are pleased to partner with the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and the Harlem River Park Task Force to bring City of Water Day to Harlem River Park,” said Curtis Archer, President of Harlem Community Development Corporation. “This undiscovered gem along the eastern banks of greater Harlem is ready for such events to become commonplace. Harlem CDC continues working closely with the local community and city, state and federal agencies and elected officials to build and maintain this new park, enhancing the quality of life for area residents, tourists and businesses alike.”

“The Harlem River Park Task Force is pleased to join our partners in hosting this year’s City of Water Day,” said Richard Toussaint, event coordinator and member of the Harlem River Park Task Force. “The festival will provide an opportunity for New Yorkers and visitors alike to participate in the ecological, educational, cultural and recreational events available to them free of charge, and to acquaint themselves with the New York waterfront in a new and meaningful way.”

Harlem River Park is located from 132nd to 145th streets between the river and the Harlem River Drive. To enter, use the pedestrian walkway at 135th Street and Madison Avenue, or visit our website (www.HarlemRiverPark.com) for more detailed directions. The festival will occur between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Events include:

Family Picnic

Ruth Williams Dance Foundation

10:00 a.m.

Location: 135th Street in Harlem River Park

Walking for Health

New York Walkers Club/East Side Racewalk Team

10:00 a.m.

Location: 135th Street in Harlem River Park

East & Central Harlem OEM CERT Teams

Emergency Preparedness Information

10:00 a.m.

Location: 135th Street in Harlem River Park

Arts Exhibition

Local Artists Exhibiting Their Work

10:00 a.m.

Location: 142nd Street in Harlem River Park

Large-Scale Art Murals Tour

Creative Arts Workshops for Kids

11:00 a.m.

Location: 135th Street in Harlem River Park

Historical Tour

Tour Guide Richard Toussaint

11:00 a.m.

Location: 135th Street in Harlem River Park

369th Harlem Hellfighters

Tour of Armory's Historical Society

11:00 a.m.

Location: 142nd Street in Harlem River Park

"Cast a Line" Fishing Contest

New York City Parks and Recreation

12:00 p.m.

Location: 139th Street in Harlem River Park

Learning How to Row

Instructor Tracy Eberhart

1:00 p.m.

Location: 139th Street in Harlem River Park

Harlem Community Development Corporation, a subsidiary of Empire State Development Corporation, serves the greater Harlem community through planning and implementing a range of community development and revitalization initiatives for restoring Upper Manhattan as an economically stable and culturally vibrant community. For more information on Harlem CDC and its role in Harlem River Park, please visit

http://www.harlemcdc.org/Planning/planning_hr_park.htm.



###