

Empire State Development News

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NEW YORKERS AND TOURISTS CAN SPEND SUMMER '08 @ PIER 1!

A portion of Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 opens for the first time this summer, offering 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 thrilled to announce *Summer '08 @ Pier One*. Beginning June 26, a portion of Pier 1, in the future Brooklyn Bridge Park, will be open to the public for the first time. Together, the BBPDC and the Conservancy are building and operating a summer interim use on Pier 1, which will provide public access that includes spectacular views of New York Harbor and "The New York City Waterfalls" by Olafur Eliasson, a temporary public art work presented by the Public Art Fund in collaboration with the City of New York.

This 26,000 square foot site, designed by landscape architect Susannah Drake's dlandstudio, extends 315 feet out onto the East River, and will include a café with concessions from local purveyor, Rice, along with picnic tables, benches, bike racks, landscaping with trees, a sand area, and grass. Visitors will be able to 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 will be displayed throughout the site. The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy is overseeing the Pier 1's operations this summer.

"We want New Yorkers and tourists to spend their summer with us. *Summer '08 @ Pier 1* will allow visitors to experience what an amazing and unique destination Brooklyn Bridge Park will be," said Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer. "Brooklyn Bridge Park is now a reality, with major milestones reached this year that include the start of construction. The park will contribute to the remarkable revitalization of waterfront in the New York Harbor, serving as a bridge from the commercial uses of previous centuries to the recreational uses of the future."

"We're pleased to partner with the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation to open a portion of Pier 1 to the public this summer," said Marianna Koval, President of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy. "The Conservancy has worked for over 20 years to support the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, and we are excited to welcome Brooklyn's, and the world's, citizens to the magnificent waterfront that will become Brooklyn Bridge Park."

The BBPDC broke ground on the piers area of Brooklyn Bridge Park on February 13, 2008, and demolition is expected to continue 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 waterfront park that stretches along the Brooklyn waterfront from Atlantic Avenue to Jay Street, north of the Manhattan Bridge.

Summer '08 @ Pier 1 will be open to the public from June 26 through Labor Day, seven days a week, from 10am to 10pm. 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.

The Downtown Brooklyn Waterfront Local Development Corporation (DBWLDC) will operate a free shuttle bus service from the Borough Hall area. The shuttle service, modeled on last year's buses that brought people to the Floating Pool at Brooklyn Bridge Park Beach, is a program of the DBWLDC with funding secured by Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez. The free shuttle bus service will run from Friday, June 27 through Labor Day, with stops at Borough Hall and High Street at Cadman Plaza West. Shuttle service will operate Fridays 5pm-10:30pm, and Saturdays and Sundays 12pm-10:30pm.

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 www.nylovesbiz.com.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy 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 a quarter of 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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