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BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK CONSTRUCTION SET TO BEGIN THIS WINTER

BBPDC announces first construction contract for phase 1 of park development

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) today announced the first construction contract for phase 1 of Brooklyn Bridge Park. The announcement of the \$47 million contract with Skanska USA Inc. was made at its board meeting Wednesday morning. The construction of Brooklyn Bridge Park's phase 1, which includes Pier 1 and the park entrance at Old Fulton Street, is set to begin in November. 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.

The first phase of park construction will include about 1300 feet of promenade along the East River and 2.5 acres of lawn with breathtaking views of the New York Harbor and the Brooklyn Bridge. Also included on the site will be the creation of the first portion of the Brooklyn Greenway, which will ultimately link to a future borough-wide bikeway network. Pier 1 will include lush planted areas with approximately 700 new trees, water gardens and a playground at the northwestern edge of the pier.

The landscape design of Pier 1 incorporates a number of sustainable initiatives, such as underground water storage tanks for irrigation to capture water from the water gardens and park buildings, as well as a series of "river steps" overlooking the harbor. These steps will be constructed from salvaged granite sourced from the Roosevelt Island Bridge. Once completed, Pier 1 will add 9.5 new acres of park to the already existing Empire Fulton Ferry State Park and the Main Street City Park, and is expected to be open to the public by the end of 2009.

"This is a major milestone for Brooklyn Bridge Park," said ESD President & CEO Marisa Lago. "I'm pleased that one of the City's most popular development projects is underway. Brooklyn Bridge Park will contribute to the resurgence of Brooklyn, serving as a bridge from the maritime industrial uses of previous centuries to the recreational uses of the future. This summer, nearly 200,000 **visitors** came to Pier 1's interim park, and discovered what an amazing and unique destination Brooklyn can be. We have no doubt that, once complete, Pier 1 will continue to lure people to this special corner of Brooklyn."

"We are thrilled that the construction of Brooklyn Bridge Park will begin this November," said Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer. "Over the course of the next year, New Yorkers will see the unique transformation of a vacant pier and the development of a new landscape along the water's edge. Pier 1 will provide recreational opportunities and a peaceful oasis that will offer stunning views of the New York Harbor. When finished, the park will span 1.3 miles from DUMBO to Atlantic Avenue and will contribute to the extraordinary revitalization of waterfront in the New York Harbor."

This summer, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy hosted *Summer '08 @ Pier One*. The interim park at **Pier 1 welcomed nearly 200,000 visitors from 440 different zip codes during its 13.5-week season**. All took 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 BBPDC broke ground on the piers area of Brooklyn Bridge Park on February 13, 2008. Twelve acres of the park, between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges, are currently open.

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.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org

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