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Mayor Bloomberg and Secretary Jewell Announce Agreement on New Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay

On Monday, August 12, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and United States Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced the selection of a consortium led by the City University of New York to lead a new Science and Resilience Institute, a top-tier research center to promote an understanding of resilience in urban ecosystems and their adjacent communities through an intensive research program focused on the restoration of Jamaica Bay. To help realize the City and NPS’s vision for a revitalized, restored Jamaica Bay, the Institute will integrate cutting-edge research efforts from across the natural and social sciences; draw upon climate science, engineering, and sustainability and resilience studies to create a comprehensive program of research, monitoring and education; as well as outreach. The Institute, which will host visiting scientists, provide lab facilities for students and researchers and convene events to share and disseminate research findings, will be formally established by the fall of this year with a temporary space on the campus of Brooklyn College. The Institute’s first undertaking will be the ‘Urban Resilience in an Era of Climate Change: Global Input for Local Solutions’ Symposium October 17-18. The symposium will bring global and local expertise together to examine what urban resilience means and ways to achieve it.

The Institute will develop a framework and programs in partnership with academic institutions, non-profits, the community and the many other entities and public agencies actively engaged in research in and around Jamaica Bay including NYC Parks, the National Park Service the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The consortium, that is under development and led by the City University of New York, includes Columbia University’s Earth Institute and its Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Cornell University, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York Sea Grant, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stony Brook University, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The Mayor and Secretary also announced a public-private partnership called the Jamaica Bay – Rockaway Parks Conservancy, established to raise funds for the planning and development of the Jamaica Bay-area parklands and waters.

This announcement follows the July 2012 announcement of the Cooperative Management Agreement that allows the National Park Service and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to work on each other’s property, combine resources, and undertake joint planning to better connect urban communities to 10,000 acres of federal and city-owned parks in and around Jamaica Bay .

For the full story, click [here](#).
 Learn more at CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities, click [here](#).
 To learn more about the Cooperative Management Agreement, click [here](#).

Mayor Bloomberg Announces Request for Proposals to Study Development of Seaport City in Lower Manhattan

On Wednesday, July 31, Mayor Bloomberg announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) to study the potential development of Seaport City, a resiliency project to protect Lower Manhattan from coastal flooding and provide opportunities for economic development. Proposed as part of “A Stronger, More Resilient New York,” the blueprint to make New York City more resilient to the effects of climate change, Seaport City would be part of a multi-purpose levee to protect a 1.5-mile area along the eastern edge of Lower Manhattan.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) issued the RFP to advance the project to the next stages of technical planning.

For the full story, click [here](#).
 Renderings of Seaport City are available [here](#).
 Read A Stronger, More Resilient New York [here](#).

Department of Environmental Protection Announces Plan to Build a Sponge Park™ Near Gowanus Canal

On Wednesday, July 31, NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Carter Strickland, City Council Members Brad Lander, Steve Levin and Sara Gonzalez, DLANDSTUDIO, the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation, and the Gowanus Canal Conservancy announced plans to build a Sponge Park™ adjacent to the Gowanus Canal. The 1,800 square foot park will be located where 2nd Street ends on the west side of the Canal.

Sponge Park™ will capture and retain stormwater that flows down 2nd Street before it reaches the canal. The roughly \$1.5 million park was developed through the grassroots efforts of DLANDSTUDIO and the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, with funding from the City Council. Grants administered by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission for design, construction, and environmental justice obtained by DLANDSTUDIO, principal designer of the project. The New York City Public Design Commission recognized The Sponge Park™ for its innovative design.

For the full story, click [here](#).
 To learn more about the Sponge Park design, click [here](#).

Department of Environmental Protection Distributes Rain Barrels in Staten Island

On Saturday, August 3, NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) distributed 60-gallon rain barrels to approximately 400 Staten Island homeowners. The Rain Barrel Giveaway Program, which launched in 2010 after a successful pilot program in 2008, is a part of the citywide green infrastructure program to improve New York City’s waterways by using natural systems to manage stormwater runoff. Rain barrels help mitigate flooding and reduce the pressure on the City’s sewer system and treatment plants. In addition, rain barrels reduce homeowner’s water bills as watering lawns and gardens can account for up to 40 percent of an average household’s water use during the summer months. Since 2008, DEP has distributed more than 2,300 rain barrels in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

The rain barrel program also builds on DEP’s efforts to conserve water as part of New York City’s Water for the Future Program, a \$1.7 billion initiative to ensure clean, reliable, and safe drinking water for more than nine million New Yorkers for decades to come. As part of the Water for the Future Program, DEP will

More Information:

Read the [2013 PlanNYC Progress Report](#)

Visit [GreenNYC’s website](#) to learn how you can help shrink the citywide carbon footprint and improve environmental quality.

Check out [GrowNYC’s website](#) to find a greenmarket near you that accepts EBT/food stamps, recycles rechargeable batteries and mobile phones, and accepts food scrap drop-offs for composting.

Visit [NYC Service’s website](#) to find volunteer opportunities to make New York City greener and greater.

Upcoming Events:

Tree Talks with Parkies and Friends: How Parks Procures and Plants Street Trees

Join us for a lecture series celebrating all the intricacies, challenges and decisions involved in urban forestry in New York City. NYC Parks Forester Nave Strauss presents: "How Parks Procures and Plants Street Trees," a lecture on how MillionTreesNYC works with nurseries and contractors to procure and plant new street trees.

Tuesday, August 20, 2013
 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

The Arsenal in Central Park Accessible
 830 Fifth Avenue
 Manhattan

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Brooklyn Bridge Park Green Team

Join this dedicated corps of volunteers who beautify Brooklyn Bridge Park every week. The Green Team provides essential horticultural care to the park, including planting, mulching, and removing invasive plants. The Green Team is a wonderful opportunity to learn about gardening, enjoy nature, and make the park look its best. No experience necessary.

Tuesday, August 20, 2013
 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Brooklyn Bridge Park
 334 Furman Street
 Brooklyn, NY 11201

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Advancements in Sustainable Envelope Design

The Center for Architecture Science and Ecology (CASE) is an inspiring new model of collaboration, combining the academic research of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) with the design and engineering skills of professionals. CASE faculty will lead a panel, hosted by the Urban Green Council, to focus discussion on innovative façade strategies such as integrated solar power, air purification, energy reduction, and more.

Thursday, August 22, 2013
 6:00PM to 8:00 PM

The Mohawk Group
 71 West 23rd Street, 18th Floor
 New York, NY 10010

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Hudson River Park Wild!

Hudson River Park brings attention to its vital role in creating one of the scarcest resources in all of Manhattan—wildlife habitat! Learn about Hudson River Park’s wildlife by joining experienced naturalists on guided nature walks along the Park’s esplanade.

Sunday, 25 August, 2013
 09:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Hudson River Park, Pier 84
 12th Avenue and 44th Street
 New York, NY 10019

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Spotlight on Roosevelt Island: Cornell NYC Tech Campus, Tidal Turbines, and Sustainable Buildings

New York is a city made up of islands. One of them is Roosevelt Island, the 2-mile long island in the East River, which features a wealth of unique systems and a rich history. The August Spotlight will feature the planned Cornell Tech campus which will break ground in 2014 and is proposed to be a net-zero campus. Hear about the tidal turbines that are grid-tied to the Island, and some of Roosevelt Island’s sustainable buildings.



repair leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct that supplies roughly half of the City's daily drinking water. In order to make repairs to the Aqueduct, the tunnel must be temporarily shut down between 2020 and 2021. Ahead of the planned shutdown, DEP aims to reduce citywide water consumption by five percent. In addition to encouraging homeowners to conserve water, DEP recently announced a partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to install activation buttons on spray showers in 400 playgrounds around the city that will save 1.5 million gallons of water a day during the summer months. DEP is also installing new, high efficiency fixtures in the bathrooms of 500 City schools to reduce water consumption by nearly 4 million gallons each school day.

To learn more about DEP's Rain Barrel Program, click [here](#).
To learn more about the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan, click [here](#).
To learn more about Water for the Future, click [here](#).



Department of Environmental Protection Announces NYC Water Wins Regional Taste Test Competition

On Wednesday, August 7, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Carter Strickland announced that the City's tap water received the top prize in New York State's Regional Tap Water Taste Test competition. Held at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, the competition pitted New York City's tap water against drinking water suppliers from Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. More than 80 museum visitors sampled tap water from the four suppliers and ranked them by taste. New York City's tap water received the award for best tasting, followed by water from Mount Vernon in Westchester, West Hempstead in Nassau County, and tap water supplied by the Suffolk County Water Authority. New York City tap water will next compete in a statewide contest held in Syracuse on Aug. 29.

New York City's tap water is internationally renowned for its quality. New York is one of only five large cities in the country with a largely unfiltered drinking water supply, due in large part to the City's comprehensive watershed protection programs. Since receiving a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency in 1993 to exempt the Catskill and Delaware systems from filtration requirements, the City has invested more than \$1.5 billion in watershed protection. Earlier this year DEP received the 2013 "Exemplary Source Water Protection Award" from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) which recognizes organizations that protect drinking water at its source.

For the full story, click [here](#).
To learn more about NYC water, click [here](#).

Thursday, August 29, 2013
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

REI Community Room
303 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Architecture + Sustainable NY: Lower Manhattan Walking Tour I

Do you have an interest in urban planning, architecture or the history of lower Manhattan? Ever wondered about the connection between the environment and architecture or asked how urban planning plays a role in either of these and the city we see today? August 4th is NYC: Arts+Culture+Festivals+Outdoors first fundraiser and first in a series of customized architecture tours offered to the public.

Sunday, September 1, 2013
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

National Museum of the American Indian
1 Bowling Green
New York, NY

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Fair Fashion Runway NYC Edition III

Started during New York Fashion Week 2012, the NYC Fair Trade Coalition, with support from Magnifeco.com, has created a new platform to promote Eco-fashion and Fair Trade in a collective and innovative show.

Tuesday, September 10, 2013
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The *New* Wix Lounge
235 W. 23rd St.
New York, NY 10011

For more information, please visit [here](#).

About us:

The Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability (OLTPS) is responsible for developing, implementing, and tracking the progress of PlaNYC, the City's growth and sustainability agenda. OLTPS also oversees energy supply and regulatory policy, as well as other issues affecting infrastructure and the environment that cut across multiple City agencies.

Find out more and get involved:
Visit us [PlanNYC](#) / [OLTPS](#)
Help us [GreenNYC](#)
Subscribe by [e-mailing us](#)
Follow us on [Twitter](#)



NYC Parks Opens Restored Stretch of the Broadway Malls in West Harlem

On Thursday, July 25, NYC Parks Commissioner Veronica White cut the ribbon on an eight-block stretch, from West 145th Street through West 153rd Street, of the Broadway Malls. The Commissioner was joined State Assembly Member Herman Farrell, City Council Member Robert Jackson, Broadway Mall Association Chair Robert Herrmann, Manhattan Community Board Vice Chair Arnold Boatner, and Community Liaison for the Manhattan Borough President Nina Saxon, and other members of the community. The restored area represents almost five miles of parkland running through West Harlem. Eight malls were beautified with new trees, shrubs and plants, with each mall having a distinctive look. Work included new game tables, improved ADA access and reconstruction of decorative pavements, walls and fences. The enhanced plantings will reduce storm water runoff.

Through PlaNYC, the City has sought to re-conceptualize and green streets and sidewalks. The eight-block transformation of Broadway Malls marked an important renovation for the city's urban streetscape and for the residential neighborhoods in one of New York City's most historic districts by supporting biodiversity, and vitality of natural areas through distinctive plants, trees, and shrubs.

For the full story, click [here](#).
To read the PlaNYC chapter on Parks and Public Space, click [here](#).

Mayor Bloomberg Announces Approval of Development that will Allow for Expansion and Funding of Brooklyn Bridge Park

On Wednesday, July 31, Mayor Bloomberg announced that the Brooklyn Bridge Park Board of Directors selected a joint venture of Alloy Development and Monadnock Development to design and develop a residential building at John Street in the District Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass (DUMBO). The building will accompany the new parkland, which will include pedestrian bridges over a tidal salt marsh, tree-lined pathways, and a 13,000-square-foot gathering lawn. The 1.5-acre site, formerly owned by Con Edison, is at the northernmost section of the park. The residential building will include 47 apartments and cultural and retail space on the ground floor, which will be occupied by the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

For the full story, click [here](#).
Renderings of Brooklyn Bridge Park are available [here](#).

