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**CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI, MAYOR**

**STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
GEORGE E. PATAKI, GOVERNOR**

CONTACT:
Mayor's Office
Sunny Mindel/Curt Ritter
212/788-2958

Governor's Office
Press Office
518/474-8418

GOVERNOR, MAYOR ANNOUNCE START OF HUDSON RIVER PARK PROJECT

Final Federal Permit Received, Construction on Public Piers to Begin

Governor George E. Pataki and Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani today announced receipt of the long-awaited federal permit for the five-mile Hudson River Park project, clearing the final hurdle for construction of the park's many public recreation piers and docks.

"The Hudson River is a magnificent national treasure that continues to make a dramatic comeback," said Governor Pataki. "As we continue our efforts to restore the Hudson River, we must also continue to provide the people of New York with the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful resource."

"The park will ensure that the Hudson River is part of our everyday lives, not just as that waterway we see from the car, but as a source of family fun, economic opportunity and inspiration. The Hudson River Park will allow New Yorkers and visitors to enjoy the Hudson River from Battery Park City to West 59th Street, providing a boost to tourism and the City's economy, while continuing to protect the River's aquatic environment."

Mayor Giuliani said, "The West Side of Manhattan, along with the rest of the City, has been looking forward to this park for a very long time. It is a great achievement for the City and State to finally reach this stage. From here we look forward to working with the Hudson River Park Trust to build a fantastic new park for all New Yorkers to enjoy."

Hudson River Park is a partnership between New York State and City, and is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor, the Mayor and the Manhattan Borough President. Created by New York State legislation in 1998, the park spans the waterfront area between Battery Park and 59th Street. Now that the final permit has been received, the Hudson River Park Trust can begin building the most important park to grace New York City since the creation of Central Park in the last century.

"As a Greenwich Village resident, it gives me great pleasure to learn of this approval," said James A. Ortenzio, Chairman of the Hudson River Park Trust. "It is a tremendous honor to re-open New York to its birthright, the Hudson River, and a privilege to return the open space and beauty of this American Heritage River to New Yorkers, young and old."

Robert P. Balachandran, President of the Hudson River Park Trust, said, "The Hudson River Park Trust has been working tirelessly toward this goal and will continue to do so until the park is finished. We are all extremely excited and now look forward to the next challenge which is putting this plan into action. For the next few years, our top priority will be constructing our new park."

In March 1998, the Hudson River Park Trust submitted a permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for approval to repair or replace many of the park's "in-water" features, including the historic bulkhead, piers and relieving platforms. Most of the park's proposed public piers are currently either fully or partially condemned. Without the Army Corps permit to repair the historic bulkhead and reconstruct /repair the piers, the park would be limited to the narrow "dry land" area between Route 9A and the historic bulkhead.

Hudson River Park will eventually encompass more than 13 piers dedicated to public recreation, and also a continuous waterside esplanade. Including the river area between the piers, this park will add over 550 acres of open space to New York City, and will feature multiple opportunities for recreation and education, including town docks, a river research center, kayak launches, ballfields and concession stands offering bicycle and beach chair rentals.

The Army Corps permit was the last approval necessary before the park's 13 planned public piers and continuous waterside esplanade can be constructed. The project has already received all other permits and certifications from the City and State.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New York District

News Release

Contact: Pete Shugert
Phone: (212) 264-1722
Fax: (212) 264-0614

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Army Corps of Engineers Issues Permit for Construction of Hudson River Park

New York -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District today issued a permit to the Hudson River Park Trust, authorizing work related to construction of the Hudson River Park along Manhattan's west side. When completed, the five-mile park will extend from Battery Park to West 59th Street.

The authorized work includes the repair and reconstruction of piers and bulkheads, and installation of new docks and balconies to enable public access to the Hudson River. More than thirteen piers will be rehabilitated to allow public access. Also included are facilities for water taxi service, the construction of public beach areas at Gansevoort Peninsula and south of Pier 76, and the construction of two ecological piers that will be planted with native plant species to enhance environmental diversity. To construct the park, incompatible uses – such as the New York City Department of Sanitation facilities, a municipal bus garage, and a natural gas station – would be relocated.

Today's action completes a public review process that included two Corps public notices, a public hearing, several meetings with federal and state resource agencies, proponents and opponents of the project, and a series of consultation meetings with interested citizens and parties with regard to the project's impacts to historic properties and natural resources. Public and agency comments were considered in the development of the project identified in the permit, which includes substantial reduction of more environmentally obtrusive features (including a large marina) that were first under the original permit application.

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