



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September 5, 2013 Contact: Karen Argenti, 646-462-4132

“HARLEM RIVER: CLEAN WATER IT, GREENWAY IT, MAINTAIN IT” ANNUAL BCEQ MEMBERSHIP MEETING & WATER CONFERENCE

(September 5, 2013, Bronx NY) The 41st Annual BCEQ Membership Meeting and the 12th Water Conference will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 from 5-7 pm at the Savoy building of Hostos Community College (120 East 149th Street, Bronx NY).

The program, entitled the *“Harlem River: Clean Water It, Greenway It, Maintain It”*, will include the following discussions:

1. An extraordinarily creative “best management practice” for capturing stormwater runoff from a major highway system with a “pop-up wetland” filled with GaiaSoil and ordinary native plants to *clean water* before it drains to the river.
2. The community’s a plan for a new park at Pier 5, including a *Greenway* connection.
3. The first completed section of the Harlem River Greenway, and use that as an opportunity to develop local economic methods to *maintain* this, as well as other borough Greenways.

Funding for these projects about the waterfront parks is made possible through a grant from the WCS-NOAA South Bronx Waterfront Partnership and Congressman Jose Serrano. Refreshments will be served courtesy of Con Edison, the corporate sponsor.

Other partners include: the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, dlandstudios, Gaia Institute, Highbridge Community Life Center, Sustainable South Bronx, U.S. Geological Survey, the National Parks Service, Greenbelt Native Plant Center, Harlem River Working Group, and others.

"President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative, calls on federal agencies to support innovative community efforts to provide safe, healthy and accessible outdoor spaces. The U.S. Geological Survey, through its Urban Waters Federal partnership, is working with the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality to assess the quality of water being diverted into the stormwater catchment basins. The goal is to better understand the types and relative concentrations of roadway contaminants that drain from the Major Deegan Expressway into the Harlem River. Results will provide a metric for accounting the amount of contaminated runoff captured for design and establishment of a recreational park at Pier V along the Harlem River near Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, N.Y. The USGS will also be involved with the community outreach programs scheduled for the coming weeks." Stated Shawn Fisher of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The public is invited to attend this free event. However, space is limited, so please RSVP to rsvp@bceq.org, or call 718-601-1460 and leave a message.

A schedule of meetings for the Fall will be on the web at www.bceq.org