



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/1/13

CONTACT: Karen Argenti 646-529-1990

CELEBRATE THE HARLEM RIVER - October 13 At Roberto Clemente State Park in the Bronx on the Harlem River

(Bronx NY, October 1, 2014) This year's **2014 Harlem River Festival** will be on the land and in the water. Plans include a week of events centering on the Bronx' own New York State Park: *Roberto Clemente State Park*, which has docks providing access onto the water. Students will paddle canoes on the river during the weeks before and after the Festival.

Wilderness Inquiry's Canoemobile (www.wildernessinquiry.org/canoemobile) programming will enable hundreds of school children to get into large (and supervised) 24' Voyageur canoes to learn firsthand about the river. And on Saturday, the community can join the "Party on the River." The public can paddle in canoes with Wilderness Inquiry throughout the day.

"These events aim to be a celebration of the Harlem River Greenway," says Chauncy Young, Coordinator for the Harlem River Working Group. "When completed, the Greenway will include parks, bike and pedestrian paths, and entirely new waterfront spaces for Bronx residents to enjoy. This will become the last interconnected link to the Putnam Trail, the South Bronx Greenway, the Randall's Island connector, the soon to be newly opened Highbridge and its connection to Manhattan, and the east-west Greenway through the large strips of parkland in the northern Bronx."

This is the fourth annual public event organized by the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG), a group of community organizations, governmental agencies, and other commercial stakeholders focused on improving environmental quality and access to and along the Harlem River -- from the Randall's Island to the Hudson River in Bronx County, New York City. Formed in 2009, they have met monthly to organize and develop goals to ensure that a green corridor is established along as much of the length of the Harlem as possible, with habitat buffer, bike and walking path greenways and river access points.

"It is important that people experience the wonder of the waterfront. Then they will fight for their right to have clean water and greater access in a linear greenway," stated Karen Argenti, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (www.bceq.org) Board Member. "The sooner we get the Greenway connected, the more people will come to own the waterway, and the cleaner our water will be!"

harlemriver@bceq.org / www.harlemriverrenaissance.org / www.facebook.com/harlemriver

Participants (in formation): *Bronx Children's Museum, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Bronx Health Reach, De La Salle Christian Brothers, Empire State Rowing Association, Friends of Brook Park, Friends of Sherman Creek, Friends of the Woods, Gaia Institute, Harlem River Community Rowing, Manhattan College, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, National Park Service (Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program), NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, NYPD 46 Precinct Community Council, NYC Soil and Water Conservation District, NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (Roberto Clemente State Park), Row NY, The Trust for Public Land, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Wilderness Inquiry,* check the web for updates