



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 10th Annual City of Water Day Returns July 15 to Governors Island and Dozens of *In Your Neighborhood* Locations across the Region

### The Region's Largest Harbor Festival Offers Free Boat Tours, Kayaking and Paddling, Disney Children's Activities, and the One-and-Only Con Edison Cardboard Kayak Race

New York, NY—The region's most popular harbor festival—[City of Water Day](#)—returns Saturday, July 15, 2017, to Governors Island and dozens of *City of Water Day In Your Neighborhood* locations throughout the five boroughs, Yonkers, and New Jersey. Celebrating the world-class potential of New York Harbor and its tributaries and water bodies, this city-wide, family-friendly event presented by the Waterfront Alliance will host tens of thousands of people to enjoy free boat tours, free kayaking, sailing, and paddle boarding lessons, and many other recreational and educational activities. Waterfront and environmental organizations will offer information, science experiments, games, and giveaways at the Waterfront Activity Fair on Governors Island. Disney will return with its popular children's activities and Con Edison will once again sponsor the Cardboard Kayak Race. New this year, Arm-of-the-Sea Theater will present "The Rejuvenary River Circus," a puppet and mask performance for children.

This is the tenth annual City of Water Day and the Waterfront Alliance's tenth anniversary. To mark the double milestones, the Waterfront Alliance is introducing City of Water Day anchor sites as part of the [In Your Neighborhood](#) component of the festival. Each of these sites will feature a cluster of community organizations striving to make their waterfront cleaner, more resilient, and more accessible, while offering free recreational and educational activities to the public. These sites include:

- **Bronx River Alliance River House** at Starlight Park (hosted by the Bronx River Alliance)
- **Castle Hill Park** on Pugsley Creek near Westchester Creek in the Bronx (hosted by the YMCA and Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice)
- **Kaiser Park** at Coney Island Creek in Brooklyn (hosted by the Coney Island Creek Beautification Project)
- **Riverbank Park** on the Passaic River in Newark, New Jersey (hosted by Riverfront Revival)
- **Socrates Sculpture Park** on the East River in Queens (hosted by Socrates Sculpture Park)

Check out this [interactive map](#) to view the more than 50 *In Your Neighborhood* events being presented on City of Water Day.

To promote the idea of waterfront fun tied to stewardship and advocacy at all 700 miles of the region's shoreline, the Waterfront Alliance is encouraging use of the region's first-ever [Harbor Scorecard](#), released earlier this month.

“On City of Water Day, we turn to the waters that surround us and we revel in the opportunity and beauty of this precious resource,” said Roland Lewis, president and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance. “It’s a day to play, and also a day to acknowledge our shared responsibility. We wouldn’t have cleaner water and fantastic new ferry service without hard work and advocacy—and we’ve still got a long way to go in terms of accessibility, resilience, and environmental health. According to our recently launched [Harbor Scorecard](#), more than 400,000 New Yorkers face a 50 percent risk of a major flood by 2060 and nearly half of them are socially or economically vulnerable. Despite being a city of islands, there is only one boating access site for every four miles of New York City waterfront. Billions of gallons of raw sewage are still discharged into our waterways each year. There’s much to do. Let this be the City of Water Day celebration that calls all of us to action.”

## **City of Water Day HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Free Boat Rides**

From fireboats to yachts, thousands of free seats on special boat tours are offered on City of Water Day. Boat tour reservations will open at the end of June and will be announced on the [City of Water Day website](#) and social media.

### **Con Edison Cardboard Kayak Race**

The fifth annual [Con Edison Cardboard Kayak Race](#) will take place at Governors Island during City of Water Day. At noon, 25 teams—including last year’s champion House of Cardboard Kayaks, plus squads from the Brooklyn Bridge Park Boathouse, Billion Oyster Project, and North Brooklyn Boat Club, as well as competitors from universities, high schools, and family groups—will gather on Kayak Hill to receive identical amounts of cardboard and tape. Starting at noon, the teams will take two hours to design and build vessels, and then climb in and race their vessels against each other in heats beginning at 2pm.

### **Arm-of-the-Sea Theater**

[Arm-of-the-Sea Theater](#) is a hybrid performance group combining art, ecology and social action. This year, Arm-of-the-Sea will perform The Rejuvenary River Circus, an allegorical tale featuring masks and puppet characters, a biomorphic set design, and live original music. The free performance begins at 12:30pm on Governors Island and is generously sponsored by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

### **City of Water Day is generously sponsored by (in formation):**

Children’s Activities – [Disney](#)

Cardboard Kayak Race – [Con Edison](#)

Captain – [New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program](#)

Fleet – [Brookfield Office Properties](#), [United Metro Fuel](#)

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The [Waterfront Alliance](#) works to protect, transform, and revitalize our harbor and waterfront.