



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2018

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# Dozens of City of Water Day *In Your Neighborhood* Sites Scheduled in All Five Boroughs, Yonkers, and New Jersey

## A Widespread, Multi-Faceted, and Free Celebration of the Region's Waterways and Waterfronts, City of Water Day is on Saturday, July 14

New York, NY—[City of Water Day](#), the region's largest and most popular harbor festival, organized by the [Waterfront Alliance](#) to get people onto and into the water, will take place this year on Saturday, July 14, at dozens of stretches of waterfront throughout the five boroughs, in Yonkers, and in New Jersey. These satellite festival sites are part of the [City of Water Day In Your Neighborhood program](#). The festival's main hub will be at the Seaport District in Lower Manhattan, presented by [The Howard Hughes Corporation](#).

City of Water Day is the fun family festival with a substantive thrust: our waterfronts and waterways are precious resources to protect and enjoy, our maritime heritage is what made New York City great, and equitable waterfront access is important to our collective wellbeing.

On City of Water Day, communities come together to paddle kayaks, cast fishing lines, explore wetlands, and simply appreciate and learn more about their waterways. Part of a sweeping grassroots movement to reclaim the waterfront, the [City of Water Day In Your Neighborhood locations](#) raise awareness about waterfront access and, importantly, connect fun to advocacy and stewardship. **In New York City, more than half of waterfront community districts have only one or, worse, no places for people to interact with the water.**

The Waterfront Alliance and the [New York–New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program](#) (HEP) held a competitive grant process for Alliance Partner organizations planning *In Your Neighborhood* events with an emphasis on highlighting access to the water and activating underutilized waterfronts. Eight programs received funding, listed below. "At the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program, we believe in fostering community stewardship and expanding safe access to our waterways," said **Robert Pirani, HEP director**. "The City of Water Day *In Your Neighborhood* program reacquaints thousands people with their waterfronts all around the region, and we're happy to support this effort."

"As we head to the city's edges on July 14 to enjoy the water, we need to remember there's still much to do to ensure safe and equitable waterfront access for everyone," said **Roland Lewis, president and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance**. "Consider visiting a waterfront stretch that's new to you on City of Water Day. Explore. Take it all in. Then

connect with an organization in your neighborhood that takes an active role in protecting our waterways. Together we can make a difference.”

The following *In Your Neighborhood* programs received grants from Waterfront Alliance and HEP to support programming. Please check the City of Water Day website for a [full list of In Your Neighborhood locations](#). More sites are added every week.

- **Jamaica Bay Festival (Queens):** Nature walks at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and Dead Horse Bay, kayak trips from Floyd Bennet Field, Canarsie Pier, Beach 88th street and Sebago Kayak Club, a surf casting clinic at Beach 108th Street, as well as a children’s fish casting game and arts and crafts.  
**Lead host:** Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy  
**Partners:** American Littoral Society, Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers, Sebago Kayak Club, Gateway Bike and Boathouse, Gateway National Recreation Area, Rockaway Artists Alliance, Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Hornblower, NYC Ferry, multiple local restaurants and businesses
- **City of Water Festival at Hoboken Cove (Hoboken, New Jersey):** Kayaking, paddleboarding, and educational opportunities related to the local ecology, water quality and other environmental issues at Hoboken Cove in Maxwell Place Park. Instruction on catch and release fishing techniques and use of the iNaturalist app. Water quality workshop and other environmental educational displays and workshops.  
**Lead host:** Fund for a Better Waterfront  
**Partners:** Hoboken Cove Community Boathouse, Resilience Paddle Sports, Hoboken Residents for a Public Waterfront, Hoboken Green Team, and others.
- **Speak to the Creek (Brooklyn):** Demonstrations, activities and giveaways will highlight the importance of Coney Island Creek at Kaiser Park for recreation as well as the ecological value to the neighborhood.  
**Lead host:** Coney Island Beautification Project  
**Partners:** New York State Marine Education Association, Partnerships for Parks, NYC Parks and Recreation, Coney Island History Project, other local organizations, schools, and community members
- **How Do You Get to Flushing Creek? (Queens):** Signage and sculptures directing people to Flushing Creek will be installed in public space in Flushing, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park as a performative act. Installations will include copies of a free publication including routes to the Creek, maps and photos of the Creek, and more. The location of the installations and the publication will be archived and made available through the Instagram @FlushingBayandCreek.  
**Lead host:** Flushing Bay and Creek  
**Partners:** Guardians of Flushing Bay
- **Community Rowing and Sailing (Bronx):** People of all ages will get on the water at Hunts Point Riverside Park and experience basic rowing or sailing instruction and information on the social and ecological history of the Bronx River.  
**Lead host:** Rocking the Boat  
**Partner:** U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- **Get on the Water! (Manhattan):** Free introductory rowing sessions aboard a stable eight-seat training barge at the Muscota Marsh Dock, Inwood Hill Park and the Harlem River. Hear experienced rowers talk about the sport, and check out real rowing shells.  
**Lead host:** Harlem River Community Rowing  
**Partners:** NYC Parks, Manhattan Community Board 12
- **City of Water Day at Pier 40 (Manhattan):** Learn about fish ecology in the Hudson River estuary at The River Project’s Wetlab on the south side of Pier 40 as well as on TRP’s floating dock. Take water samples, measure and weigh fish, and participate in hands-on scientific activities, games, and crafts. Tour the Wetlab and view water quality data collected throughout the day.  
**Lead host:** The River Project  
**Partners:** Interstate Environmental Commission
- **Rowing on Paerdegat Basin (Brooklyn):** On-site tours, on-land rowing instruction, and on-water rowing instruction at the Paerdegat Basin Launch, 1310 Paerdegat Ave North.  
**Lead host:** Row New York  
**Partners:** MyTime, Inc., PacPlex

At the City of Water Day hub in the Seaport District, festival-goers on July 14 will find familiar fun including the **Con Edison Cardboard Kayak Race**, **Disney Children's Activities**, and the **Waterfront Activity Fair**, where Waterfront Alliance partners will offer activities, games, giveaways, and more. A full roster of performances will keep kids of all ages entertained throughout the day, including the return of the Arm-of-the-Sea Theater, and new additions Galli Theater, New York Chinese Cultural Center, and Rablin Dan & the Freewheelin' Band.

New to City of Water Day in 2018 are the free, narrated **PortNYC Boat Tours** sponsored by the New York City Economic Development Corporation and taking place along the **South Street Seaport Museum Street of Ships**. Hosted by local vessel operators, the PortNYC boat tours honor New York City's maritime heritage and the historic "Street of Ships"—two miles of East River waterfront once lined with sailing and cargo ships—and remind festival-goers of the vital maritime services that continue to enrich our lives today. Also debuting this year at City of Water Day are **Canal to Coast** activities in celebration of the Erie Canal's bicentennial.

City of Water Day in the Seaport District will take place from 10am to 4pm. For more details on activities, check the [City of Water Day website](#), updated regularly.

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

Presenting Sponsor: [The Howard Hughes Corporation](#)

Children's Activities: [Disney](#)

Cardboard Kayak Race: [Con Edison](#)

Narrated Boat Tours: [New York City Economic Development Corporation](#)

In Your Neighborhood: [New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program](#)

Festival Partners: [New York State Council on the Arts](#), [South Street Seaport Museum and its Street of Ships](#)

Fleet Sponsor: [United Metro Energy](#),

Lieutenant Sponsor: [New York City Department of Environmental Protection](#),

Media Partners: [ABC7](#), [FiDi Families](#), [K-LOVE](#), [Yelp](#)

In-Kind Sponsors: [Bai](#), [Boxed Water](#), [Go-Go Squeez](#), [Honest Tea](#), [New York Cares](#), [Raw Elements](#), [Sam Schwartz Pedestrian & Traffic Management Services](#)

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

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