



For Immediate Release
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Photo/Video Opportunity

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GROUNDBREAKING FOR LAKESIDE

Phase I of the Restoration of 26 Acres in Prospect Park

Wednesday, December 9 at 11 a.m.

Phase I is Funded by the Leon Levy Foundation, and Other Generous Donors.

Brooklyn, NY – Work is ready to begin on the first phase of the most significant landscape restoration project ever undertaken in landmark Prospect Park. A 26-acre area of the Park will be restored in keeping with the historic design originally envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.

**On December 9 at 11 a.m. at the Wollman Rink at Prospect Park
NYC Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Adrian Benepe,
Prospect Park Alliance Board Chairman, Albert Garner,
philanthropist Shelby White of the Leon Levy Foundation,
and other honored guests will break ground on Phase I of Lakeside**

Lakeside will be a year-round destination for recreation, events, education programs and visitor amenities, as well as improved access to the Park's natural and historic landscape. Prospect Park Alliance landscape architect, Christian Zimmerman, FASLA, and the staff of the Alliance's Design and Construction office are responsible for the Lakeside landscape design and restoration plans.

Phase I, the first of three construction phases, will:

- Reconstruct a portion of Prospect Lake, improving plant and wildlife habitats
- Significantly enhance pedestrian access to the area
- Construct a boat dock and stone terrace at the lakeshore

Phase I of the project has been made possible through a \$10 million grant from the Leon Levy Foundation, with additional funding provided by the Environmental Protection Fund, as administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

"Prospect Park is the heart of Brooklyn and the restoration of 26 acres of its landscape will enhance the Park's natural environment while remaining true to the original vision of Olmsted and Vaux," said Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "Thanks to a spirited fundraising campaign from our partners at the Prospect Park Alliance, the generosity of the Leon Levy Foundation, a New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant, and a supremely talented creative team, we are thrilled to begin this first phase of the Lakeside Center project."

"This is an exciting day -- the first step in restoring the Olmsted and Vaux original design to the Prospect Park I remember playing in as a child growing up in Brooklyn," said Shelby White, founding trustee of the Leon Levy Foundation. "The Lakeside restoration will ensure that many more generations of children in Brooklyn will be able to enjoy the Park and its natural beauty."

(cont.)

Prospect Park Groundbreaking for Lakeside, cont.

“We owe it to the Olmsted and Vaux vision for Prospect Park to undertake the Lakeside restoration,” said Albert Garner, Chairman of the Prospect Park Alliance. “It is a transformational project for this park and for Brooklyn; a project that uses the past as a blueprint for the future. Lakeside will provide a greener environment for the millions of people who visit Prospect Park throughout the year.”

Later stages of the Lakeside project include relocating and replacing the winter-only ice rink with a year-round, environmentally sustainable building designed by architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. Lakeside is a vital continuation of the Prospect Park Alliance’s commitment to restoring and maintaining Prospect Park for the enjoyment of all. Pending funding, construction of the Lakeside Center will begin in 2010 with anticipated completion by late 2011 or early 2012.

\$28.5 million has been committed to the Lakeside Center by the Office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the City Council Brooklyn Delegation and Speaker Christine Quinn, and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. Federal funding has been secured by U.S. Representatives Yvette Clarke and Anthony Weiner. New York State Senator Eric Adams and Assemblywoman Joan Millman have both obtained State allocations for Lakeside. In addition, former Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden and former U.S. Representative Major Owens allocated funds for Lakeside prior to retiring from office. The Environmental Protection Fund, as administered by the New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation, has provided \$600,000 for Phase I of the project

The initial private funding for the Lakeside Center was received by the Prospect Park Alliance from the Brooklyn Community Foundation (formerly The Independence Community Foundation), with a \$1.5 million grant. Another \$3 million has been pledged by the Alliance’s board, for a total of \$47 million raised so far for Lakeside. The Prospect Park Alliance continues to work with these generous supporters of Lakeside, and looks forward to welcoming additional donors to help fully fund the \$70 million project.

The Leon Levy Foundation, founded in 2004, is a private, not-for-profit foundation created from the estate of Leon Levy, a legendary investor with a longstanding commitment to philanthropy. The Foundation’s overarching goal is to continue the tradition of humanism characteristic of Mr. Levy by supporting scholarship at the highest level, ultimately advancing knowledge and improving the lives of individuals and society at large. The Foundation supports the protection of natural landscapes and wildlife habitats, as well as the maintenance of botanical gardens and parks in the New York City area.

For more information on Prospect Park events, programs, membership and volunteering at the Park, call the Park Hotline at (718) 965-8999 or visit www.prospectpark.org

Dial 311 for all Parks & Recreation information

In partnership with the City of New York and the community, the **Prospect Park Alliance** restores, develops, and operates Prospect Park for the enjoyment of all by caring for the natural environment, preserving historic design, and serving the public through facilities and programs. Prospect Park’s 585 acres of meadows, waterfalls, forest, lakes, and athletic facilities comprise a masterwork of urban green space.

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