



Prospect Park Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 12, 2011

Contact: Paul Nelson
Off: 718.965.8954
Cell: 917.669.5391
pnelson@prospectpark.org

LAKESIDE “TOPPING OFF” CEREMONY

Prospect Park Alliance President Emily Lloyd, NYC Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, and other honored guests celebrate the “Topping Off” of Lakeside

Brooklyn, NY – On Wednesday, October 12th, Prospect Park held a ceremony to mark the “topping off” of Lakeside’s “green” facility at 28 feet in height. Lakeside is the most significant landscape restoration and construction project ever undertaken in landmark Prospect Park and this event celebrates an important milestone in the construction process.

The \$74 million, 26-acre Lakeside project, currently in construction, includes a 25,000-square-foot building designed by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects that will qualify for LEED certification. It features both indoor and outdoor space with two rinks (30,000-square-feet in total skating surface). By constructing the new facility on the site of the old Wollman Rink parking lot, five acres are being added to the lake as well as three acres of parkland. The rinks will host ice skating and hockey in the winter and roller skating and water play in the summer. It is anticipated Lakeside will accommodate three times the number of year-round visitors when compared to the old rink.

Lakeside is a project of the Prospect Park Alliance, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation and the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Prospect Park Alliance landscape architect, Christian Zimmerman, FASLA, and the staff of the Alliance’s Design and Construction office are responsible for Lakeside’s landscape design and restoration of the original Frederick Law Olmsted design for Prospect Park. Lakeside expects to be opened for ice skating in January 2013. For project updates please visit our website: www.prospectpark.org/lakeside.

Prospect Park Alliance President Emily Lloyd welcomed over 75 people to the event. “This project is a truly historic transformation of this park and it represents the restoration of Olmsted and Vaux’s brilliant vision but with the needs of 21st Century Brooklyn in mind,” said Ms. Lloyd. She added, “I’m thrilled that many of the people who made this project possible are here today, especially NYC Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, City Council Member Brad Lander, State Senator Eric Adams, State Assembly Member Jim Brennan, Marilyn Gelber President of the Brooklyn Community Foundation and

Kim Davis, President of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. Of course, this project would have never gotten off the ground without the generous support of the Prospect Park Alliance Board of Directors.”

In attendance was New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe. “Prospect Park is one of the great parks of the world, and it is being graced with a state-of-the-art work of green architecture and restored historic landscapes,” said Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. “A new rink complex with year-round activities and expanded recreational space will allow even more New Yorkers to enjoy one of our city’s most celebrated parks. I’d like to thank all of the private and public supporters of this project.”

The “Topping Off” ceremony concluded with a toast to the success of Lakeside and guests were invited to sign the beam that will become a permanent part of Lakeside. Said Ms. Lloyd, “Topping off a building usually involves reaching a height of greater than 28 feet, but I say it’s not the height of the building, it’s the height of its aspirations that truly matters.”

Lead private funding for Lakeside has been received from the Leon Levy Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Brooklyn Community Foundation (formerly the Independence Community Foundation), Birkrem Prospect Park Trust, Tiger Baron Foundation, the Henry and Lucy Moses Foundation and the Prospect Park Alliance Board of Directors. Approximately 85% of funding for the project is now secured from public and private sources. The Prospect Park Alliance continues to seek additional donors to Lakeside.

Lakeside has received strong support from the Park’s elected officials. \$40.5 million has been committed to Lakeside 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. Representative Yvette Clarke and former U.S. Representative 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, provided \$500,000 for the project.

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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