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Delaware River Waterfront Corporation Kicks Off Summer Season with Opening of Spruce Street Harbor Park and RiverRink Summerfest on May 22

Philadelphia's favorite summer destinations return with all-new on-the-water experiences and expanded programming across the Waterfront

PHILADELPHIA (April 2, 2026) –The [Delaware River Waterfront Corporation](#) (“DRWC”) invites visitors to kick off summer along the Delaware River with **Spruce Street Harbor Park** and **Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Summerfest** returning for the season on **Friday, May 22 for Memorial Day Weekend**.

This season, the Waterfront will debut brand-new “on-the-water” experiences at Spruce Street Harbor Park. Guests can pedal across the river on Chiliboats, glide beneath the stars on swan boat night rides, and take in skyline views from a floating double-decker barge, bringing visitors closer to the Delaware River than ever before.

“We’re extending the energy and excitement from land onto the water, creating new ways for people to experience and connect with the Waterfront,” said **Joseph A. Forkin, President & CEO of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation**. “From swan boat rides under the stars and Surrey cycles along the Trail, to fishing at Pier 68 or enjoying a cocktail aboard our floating double-decker barge, we’re making the Delaware River more accessible and engaging than ever before.”

Returning for its 13th season, Philadelphia’s urban Waterfront oasis, **Spruce Street Harbor Park**, blends laid-back relaxation with vibrant energy along the riverfront. The park remains free and open to the public, featuring its signature colorful hammocks, floating barges, twinkling lights, and lively free entertainment Thursdays through Saturdays.

New this season, guests can enjoy water activities, including:

- **[Chiliboats Adventures](#)**: A one-of-a-kind experience that feels like riding a bike across the water.
- **All- New Swan Boat + Glow Night Rides**: A brand-new fleet has arrived at Penn’s Landing Marina featuring larger swan boats (seat up to 5 passengers), upgraded comfort seating, and shaded canopies. Bring snacks, non-alcoholic drinks, and even your pup for the ultimate on-the-water outing. Plus, extended summer hours introduce unforgettable after-dark Glow Night Rides. For more info visit [Wheel Fun Rentals](#).

Returning favorites of Spruce Street Harbor Park include:

- **Floating Barge Experiences:** Multiple floating barges including the **Double-Decker Barge** with a bar, sand party area and elevated platform offering a unique perspective of the city skyline from the water.
- **Plentiful Outdoor Seating:** Featuring colorful hammocks, Adirondack chairs, picnic tables and more.
- **Food & Drink:** Serving seasonal cocktails, local food vendors, Philly-made snacks, drinks, and more.
- **Weekly Programming:** A full lineup of entertainment featuring *Live and Local Thursdays*, *Jazz Nights on Fridays*, *Summer Sounds Concert Series on Saturdays*, *Family Fundays with PopUpPlay on Sundays* and the return of monthly events like Cosmic Rhythms and Latin Night with Salsa and Bachata.

Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Summerfest will also reopen on May 22, offering a vibrant mix of roller skating, festival rides, boardwalk and arcade games, 18-hole mini golf, classic carnival fare, and a lineup of seasonal events. Independence Blue Cross cardholders receive free roller skating with a valid card. For more than 30 years, Independence Blue Cross RiverRink has welcomed families and visitors of all ages to take part in seasonal traditions along the Delaware River, set against the iconic backdrop of the Ben Franklin Bridge.

New Experiences Expand Across the Waterfront

Beyond Spruce Street Harbor Park & Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Summerfest, there are new ways to explore and engage with the Waterfront this summer season:

- **Surrey Cycle Rentals:** Guests can ride along the Delaware River Trail, managed by [Wheel Fun Rentals](#)
- **“Fishing” Fridays:** Visitors can cast a “fake” line and connect with the river during First Friday events at Cherry Street Pier
- **Fishing at Pier 68:** Held every third Saturday from April through October, this program invites visitors to learn fishing techniques and try fishing from Pier 68. In partnership with Riverways, it’s designed to connect more people with urban waterways through hands-on experience.
- **[American Cruise Lines](#):** The Waterfront will serve as a premier destination for American Cruise Lines which will begin a new docking schedule this season.
- **Water-Based Experiences:** The Waterfront continues to welcome a strong lineup of partners, including **Sea Philly, Spirit Philadelphia, and the Ben Franklin Yacht**, offering everything from sightseeing cruises to private charters. The **RiverLink Ferry** will also return.

Additional details on hours of operation, as well as food vendors, sponsors, and a schedule of Spring and Summer programming will be shared in the upcoming weeks.

Photos and videos from previous seasons are available for download in the [press room here](#) ([passord; aidemdrwc](#))

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About Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC):

The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) is the nonprofit responsible for planning, developing, and maintaining public spaces along Philadelphia's Central Delaware River Waterfront. With a mission to create a welcoming and connected Waterfront for all, DRWC blends design, culture, and community to transform formerly industrial land into beloved public destinations. DRWC's year-round programming, parks, and trails—including Spruce Street Harbor Park, Cherry Street Pier, Race Street Pier, and the Delaware River Trail—welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Through thoughtful placemaking and strategic investment, DRWC continues to shape a vibrant waterfront that reflects the spirit of Philadelphia and strengthens its future. Learn more at delawareriverwaterfront.com.

About Spruce Street Harbor Park:

Spruce Street Harbor Park (SSHP), Philadelphia's urban Waterfront oasis, is a vibrant retreat along the Delaware River that blends laid-back vibes with a distinct Philly flavor. Created and managed by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), the seasonal park offers free access to beloved outdoor amenities—including colorful hammocks, floating barges, beautifully lit trees, live music, and entertainment. **Spruce Street Harbor Park, 301 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19106**

About Independence Blue Cross RiverRink:

Managed by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), the Independence Blue Cross RiverRink is Philadelphia's premier Waterfront destination for skating, tradition, and memories. For over 30 years, it has welcomed families and visitors of all ages to enjoy seasonal traditions set against the scenic backdrop of the Delaware River and the Ben Franklin Bridge. Independence Blue Cross RiverRink is open seasonally, transforming into Winterfest, a cozy, holiday-themed ice-skating retreat in the winter – and Summerfest, a lively boardwalk experience with roller skating in warmer months. As part of a larger effort to create access to the Waterfront, it is a welcoming space for all, with programs to support community access to skating and free admission for Independence Blue Cross members, the region's largest health insurer, to promote greater accessibility. **Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Summerfest, 101 South Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19106**

About Cherry Street Pier:

An incubator for creativity, community, and connection, Cherry Street Pier ("CSP") is a reimagined creative hub on the Delaware River Waterfront. Jointly serving as a year-round venue, working artist studio, and gallery space, Cherry Street Pier brings people together through art, culture, and community. Originally constructed in 1919 as Municipal Pier 9, the reimagined space honors Philadelphia's industrial Waterfront roots while showcasing the city's creative future. Stewarded and managed by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), Cherry Street Pier plays a vital role in creating access to Philadelphia's Delaware River Waterfront. **Cherry Street Pier, 121 N. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19106**

Media contact:

Tamara Yvette Day, Signature 57
tday@signature57.com