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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA HAS A NEW PLACE TO FISH

The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation and Mayor Michael Nutter unveil the third pier park on the Delaware River Waterfront in Pennsport

Philadelphia, PA (October 1, 2015) – The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) and Mayor Michael A. Nutter today cut the ribbon for **Pier 68, the third permanent pier park to open on the Delaware River Waterfront** following the [Race Street Pier](#) in 2011 and [Washington Avenue Pier](#) in 2014. The **half-acre Pier 68**, located at the end of Pier 70 Boulevard at the Delaware River, is a place to relax and enjoy the distinctive views of the city skyline and the river, a place to learn about the tidal ecology of the Delaware River and its watershed, and a place for recreational fishing and public gathering. Each new park built by DRWC is tailored specifically to its location and to public input from the neighborhood, in this case, Pennsport. While each park is unique in its objectives and designs, they all share cutting edge landscape architectural design.

DRWC President Thomas Corcoran says, “With the opening of Pier 68, we’ve made the next step in advancing our goals laid out in the [Master Plan for the Central Delaware](#). This new park provides much-needed permanent public access and greenspace in South Philadelphia and focuses on a recreational activity, fishing, which was identified in numerous public meetings as an amenity needed along the waterfront.”

Mayor Michael Nutter notes that, “Pier 68 is the third permanent, high-quality, public greenspace to open along the Delaware River Waterfront over the last few years. This park, and the others like it, provides citizens who live in densely populated neighborhoods with relatively few parks the opportunity to benefit from our changing waterfront and enjoy recreation and relaxation. It also serves as an important point in the Delaware River Trail, which will eventually become a part of [the Circuit](#) and the [East Coast Greenway](#). Not only will these parks connect a neighborhood to a park, but it will also

connect our city to the region. Many thanks to DRWC for its leadership and all of the partners, including the City, for making this project possible.”

Pier 68 was designed in response to DRWC’s long-term programmatic goals for the area and shaped by the community’s desires, which were shared in multiple public meetings beginning in February 2014.

Design elements include:

- An **Entrance Deck** with whimsical painted poles and repurposed maritime bollards to create a distinctive gateway for the pier. Located just off the future trail extension, this space serves as a resting spot for those using the trail and as a place where shopping center visitors can quickly experience the Pier Park.
- A **Tree Canopy** that begins to conceal the parking lot and traffic to the west. These trees serve as a threshold, marking that visitors have crossed into a new environment. Along the southern edge of the pier, visitors will find a number of picnic tables which can be used for casual meals or table-top games.
- The **Aquatic Cut**, 4.5’ deep cut into the pier surface allows water to filter up through the lower wood deck to reveal the semidiurnal tidal activity of the Delaware River. Filled with native, aquatic plants, this space will be a focal point for educators and curious visitors, creating a microcosm of the Delaware River’s pre-industrial ecology.
- The end of the pier features an **Angled Lawn** for lounging and sun-bathing. With proximity to the water and restored concrete paving, the **Water-Side Walk** and the open **Pier Terminus** supports a variety of events and activities such as recreational fishing or gathering to watch holiday fireworks. Custom-designed wave-shaped benches create a unique and distinctive park element that visitors will remember long after they’ve left.

“Local residents had already been using this part of the waterfront for fishing and recreating, and we’ve now built a place for them to do this safely,” says Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Director of Commerce, and Secretary of DRWC’s Board of Directors. “In addition, Pier 68 has been designed to be enjoyable to non-anglers who might want to learn about the tidal ecosystem via the aquatic cut, relax on the angled lawn or under the tree canopy, or enjoy a stroll out to the end of the pier where they can get panoramic views of the waterfront.”

Pier 68 was designed by [Studio Bryan Hanes](#) following public meetings hosted by DRWC. Other members of the design team include [Digsau](#), [Azavea](#), [Anchor Consultants](#), [Stantec](#), and [TEND Landscape, Inc.](#) [Scungio-Borst](#) provided construction management services. The park was built over a period of seven months by [Bittenbender Construction](#) and [Hydro Marine Construction](#), **both women-owned companies with a total construction budget of about \$1.8 million.** It is a model for how a non-profit can work with multiple private and public funding sources to finance public space. DRWC has multiple organizations to thank, including:

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (\$500,000)
- William Penn Foundation (\$450,000)
- City of Philadelphia (\$325,000)
- Department of Community and Economic Development (\$250,000)
- Walmart (\$200,000)
- Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Service (\$75,000)

"Pier 68 is a stunning example of what can be achieved when public-private partnerships are formed to help Pennsylvanians access and enjoy their waterways and other natural resources," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Transforming Philadelphia's waterfront into a world-class recreational asset requires committed partners and we are proud to be counted among them."

Jason Klipa, Walmart Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations in Pennsylvania, said, "Walmart is thrilled to help provide this new amenity to the communities we love serving, and we're grateful for this opportunity to partner with the DRWC and the City of Philadelphia. This pier provides a relaxing and beautiful public space for our customers and employees, and will help to attract more visitors to the waterfront."

Michele Lawrence, Philadelphia Area President, Wells Fargo notes that, "Wells Fargo's Environmental Solutions for Communities Initiative is designed to support projects that link economic development and community well-being to the stewardship and health of the environment. This new pier park will help reconnect neighboring communities to their waterfront through recreation and education. Park visitors will leave having experienced the ecology of the river, something that was difficult in this section of South Philadelphia before Washington Avenue Pier and this new park were built."

Pier 68 and Washington Avenue Pier serve as bookends to the southern portion of the Delaware River

Trail. [A recent land acquisition](#) means that DRWC is one step away from building out the trail to its full specifications, including separate bike and pedestrian facilities, beautiful landscaping, and distinctive furnishings and lighting. [Natural Lands Trust](#), the region's oldest and largest land conservation organization, has played a critical role in helping to negotiate and acquire these parcels, and will continue to work with DRWC to acquire the final parcel and eventually create interpretive design and programmatic elements to enhance the entire southern section of the Waterfront.

Says Natural Lands Trust President Molly Morrison, "We are excited to continue our partnership with DRWC in connecting city residents and visitors to the waterfront. Whether city, suburb, or countryside, Natural Lands Trust believes we must value and protect the places that revitalize our spirit and bind our communities together."

The final trail will not only connect the two parks in the south, but it will eventually span much of the Central Delaware River Waterfront, allowing residents to travel north-south along the Delaware River.

The trail will connect with the [East Coast Greenway](#) and the [Spring Garden Greenway](#), making it an integral part of [The Circuit](#). Pier 68 also serves a community that has traditionally been cut off from the waterfront and creates a safe place for waterfront recreation.

"The energy around the development of these piers is remarkable, and the public is seeing what's possible along the Delaware River. Each time we increase public access to the riverfront, we create demand for more, which builds momentum toward realizing the entire vision for the Delaware River waterfront," said Shawn McCaney, Program Director for the William Penn Foundation. "Philadelphians can not only enjoy this new greenspace, but they can actually get close to the water and reconnect with the river in a setting that residents will cherish."

MORE DETAILS ABOUT PRESS CONFERENCE

Pier 68 speakers include

- Tom Corcoran, President, Delaware River Waterfront Corp
- Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Mayor, City of Philadelphia
- Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Director of Commerce, City of Philadelphia
- Shawn McCaney, Director, Creative Communities and National Initiatives, William Penn Foundation

- Molly Morrison, President, Natural Lands Trust
- Mike Piaskowski, Section Chief for Landscape Partnerships and Educational Services, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Michele Newman-Lawrence, Community Bank Area President, Wells Fargo, City of Philadelphia.
- Councilman Mark Squilla, City of Philadelphia

[DRWC](#) is a 501(c)(3) created in January 2009, exclusively for the benefit of the City of Philadelphia and its citizens. The fundamental purpose of DRWC is to design, develop, program and maintain public amenities such as permanent and seasonal parks, trails, and streetscape improvements to transform the waterfront into a vibrant destination for recreational, cultural, and commercial activities for the residents and visitors of Philadelphia as is consistent with the goals of the Master Plan for Central Delaware. Daily programming throughout the entire year is changing the way Philadelphians see and converse about the waterfront, and is helping to create spaces and communities that connect residents and visitors to the waterfront.

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