

# Reclaiming the Harlem River Waterfront

A photograph of the Hell Gate Bridge, a large steel arch bridge spanning the Harlem River. The bridge has multiple arches and is supported by tall stone pillars. In the background, city buildings are visible under a clear blue sky. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the bridge and the sky.

Envisioning a better future for the Bronx and  
the Harlem River  
with the Harlem River Working Group

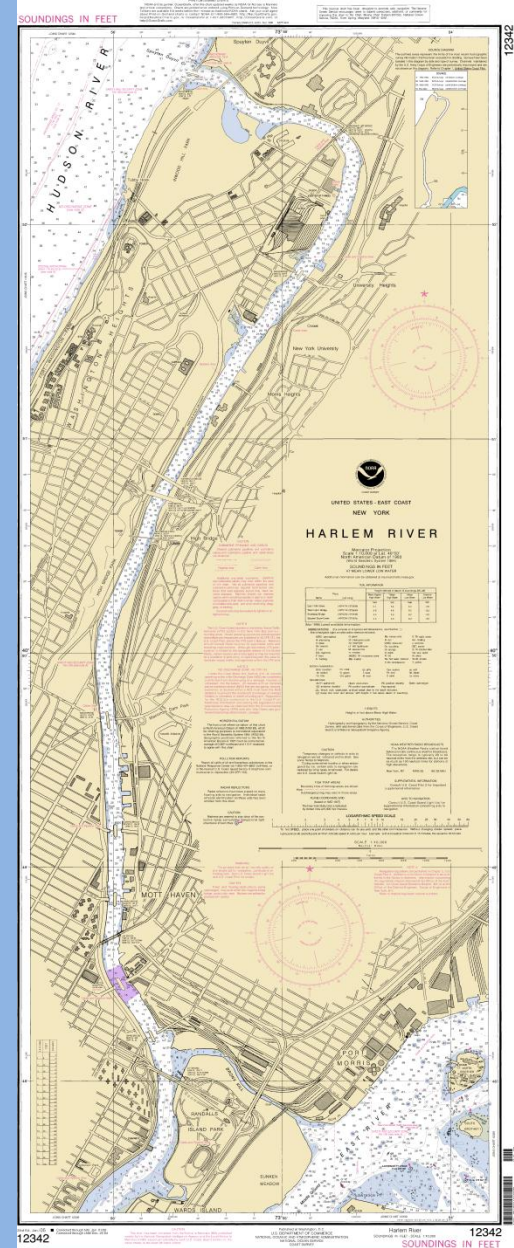


# Where is the Harlem River?

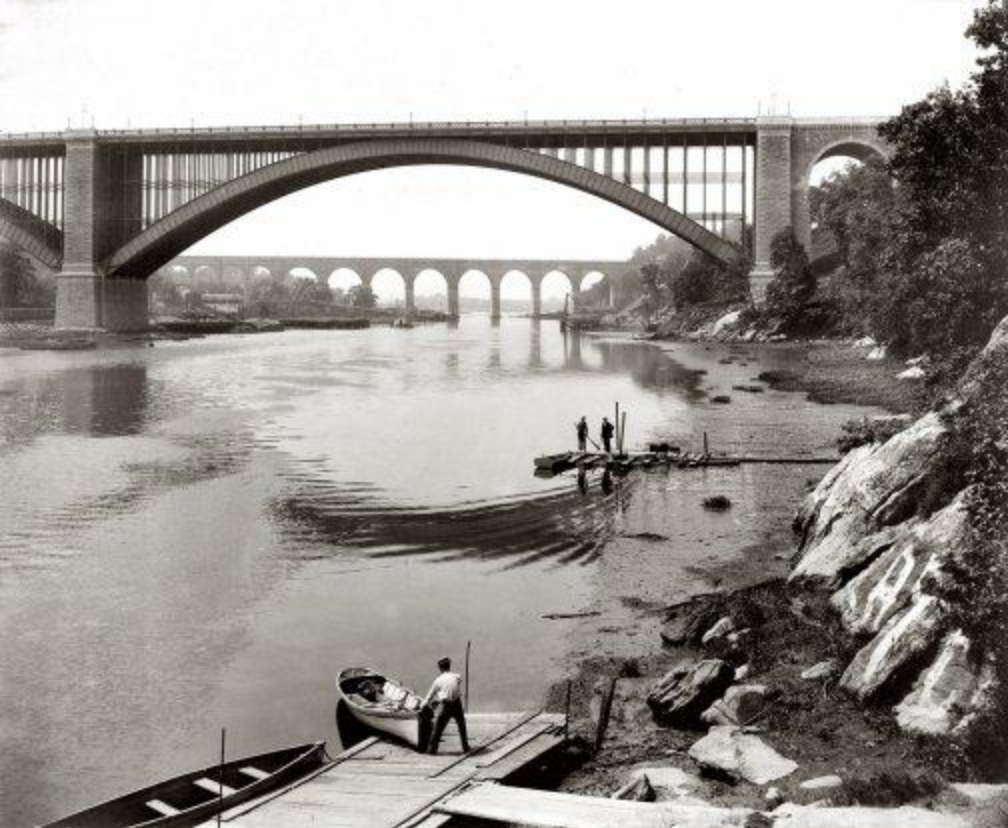


The Harlem River is located on the western boarder of the Bronx, separating it from Manhattan.

The Harlem is connected to the Hudson and East Rivers.

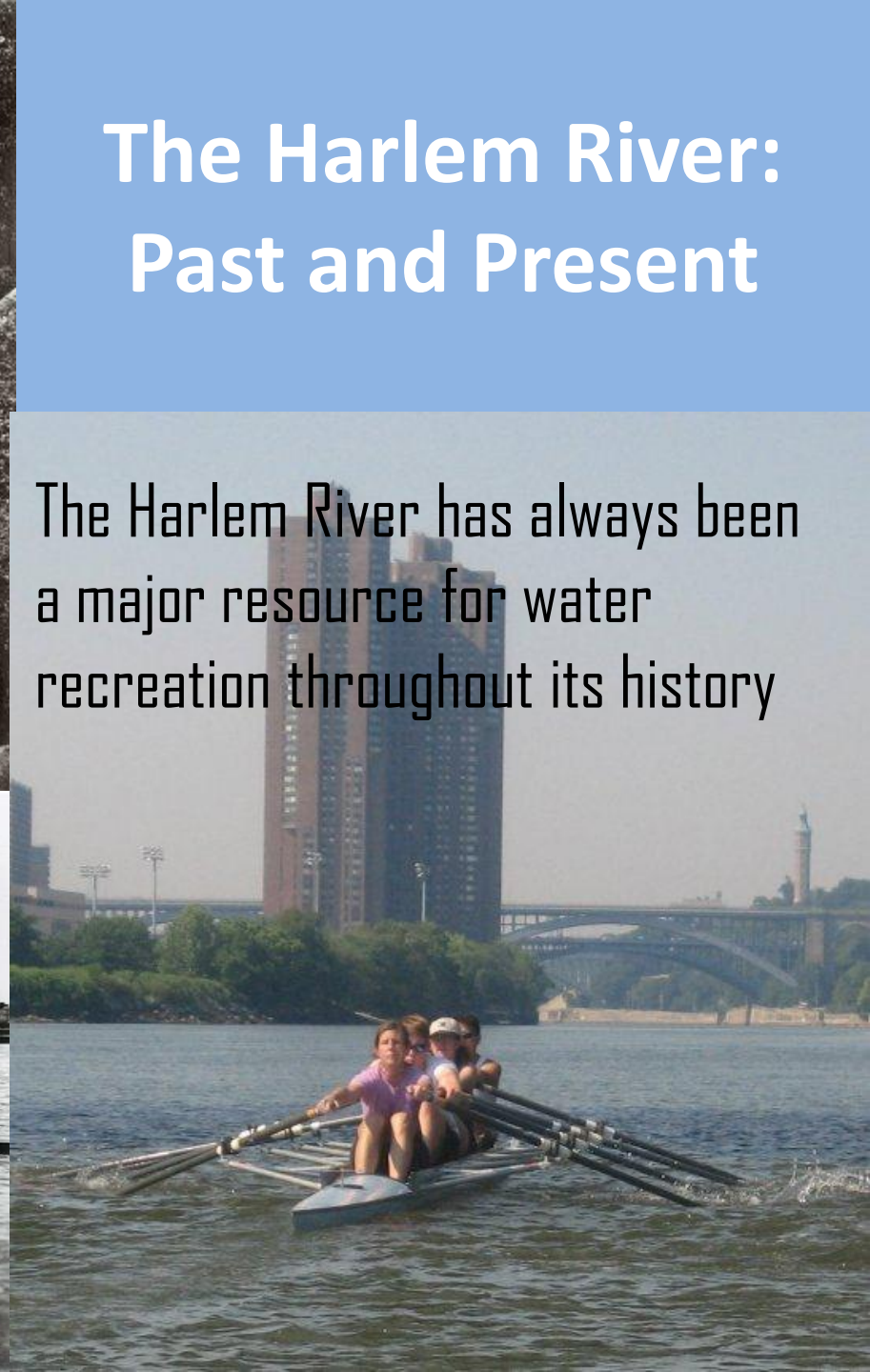






# The Harlem River: Past and Present

The Harlem River has always been  
a major resource for water  
recreation throughout its history



# The Harlem River Working Group

The Harlem River Working Group is a new group focused on improving access to and along the Harlem River -- an area stretching 9.3 miles from the Randall's Island to the Hudson River in Bronx County, New York City. There is currently only one very limited publicly accessible open space along the Bronx waterfront, no continuous system of bicycle and pedestrian pathways connecting the waterfront to upland destinations, and extremely limited boat access.

**The group's goal will be to work toward restoring the Harlem River; reconnecting the waterfront with the people; recreating the water's edge; and reinvigorating in-the-water recreational and commercial activities.**

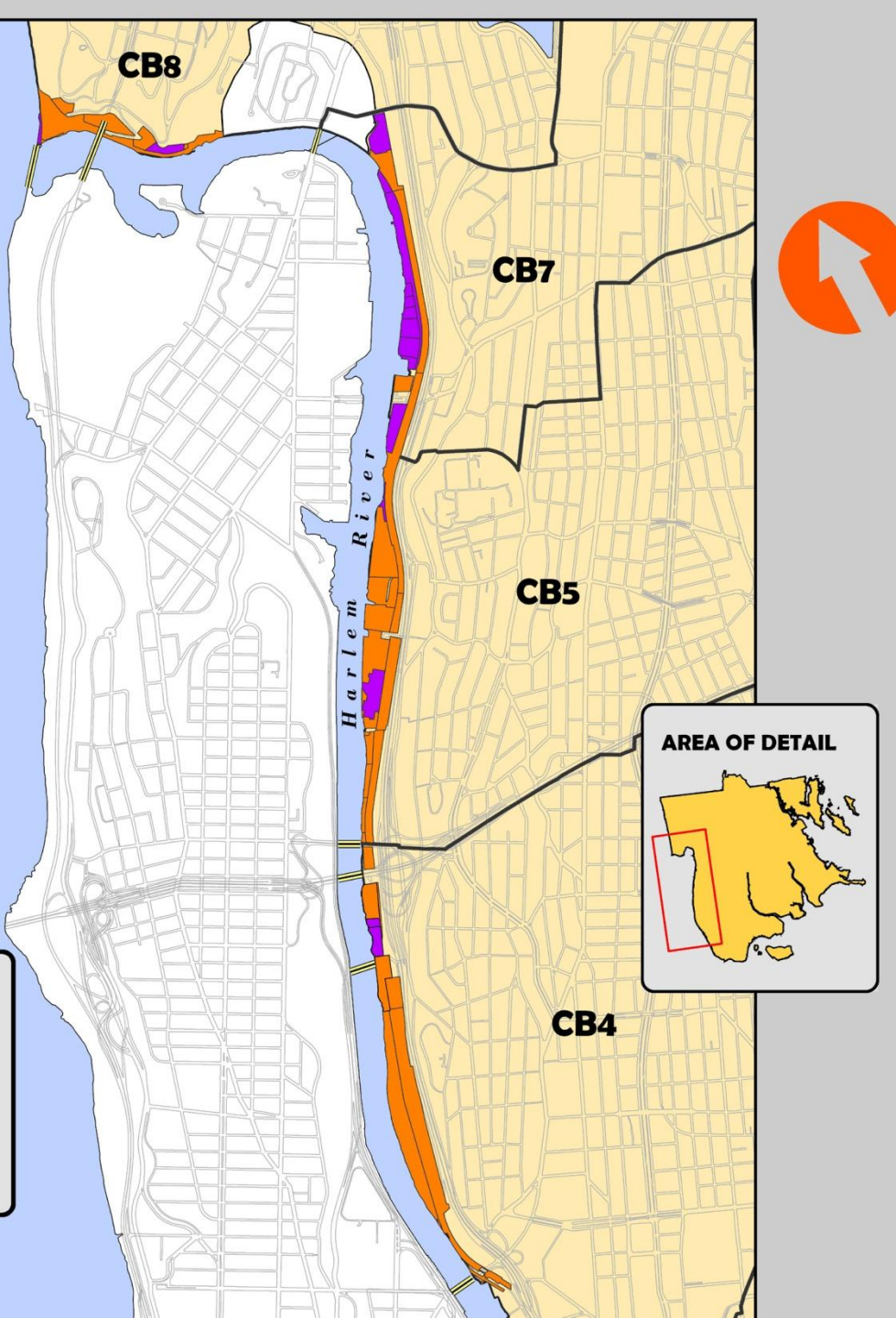
1. Create linear greenway routes linked to existing on and off street routes
2. Restore the river's water quality to swimmable/fishable
3. Protect and conserve natural habitats
4. Monitor and publicize water quality sampling
5. Create new parkland trails and parks both linearly and at waterfront access point

# The Harlem River Working Group

Working to Restore the Harlem River

- **Reconnecting the waterfront with the people**
- **Recreating the water's edge**
- **Reinvigorating in & on-the-water recreational and commercial activities**
  1. Create linear greenway routes linked to existing on and off street routes
  2. Restore the river's water quality to swimmable/fishable
  3. Protect and conserve natural habitats
  4. Monitor and publicize water quality sampling
  5. Create new parks & trails - both linearly and at waterfront access points





The Scope of the Harlem River Working Group encompasses five Bronx Community Boards with diverse populations with limited resources and access to parkland.

83% of the land along the waterfront is publicly owned land, providing the community in the Bronx with the perfect opportunity to develop these properties into parkland and creating a waterfront greenway connection along the entire Harlem River.

Community District 1

Number of Residents: 87,104  
Residents Younger Than 18: 31,022 (33%)  
Acres of Parkland: 60.79  
Median Household Income: \$19,714  
*Persons Per Acre: 1,432*

Community District 4

Number of Residents: 139,560  
Residents Younger Than 18: 47,450 (34%)  
Acres of Parkland: 175  
Median Household Income: \$25,255  
*Persons Per Acre: 797*

**Harlem River  
Community  
Profiles**

Community District 5

Number of Residents: 128,325  
Residents Younger Than 18: 46,197 (36%)  
Acres of Parkland: 46  
Median Household Income: \$24,392  
*Persons Per Acre: 2,789*

Community District 7

Number of Residents: 141,418  
Residents Younger Than 18: 43,839 (31%)  
Acres of Parkland: 312  
Median Household Income: \$30,782  
*Persons Per Acre: 453*

Persons Per Acre Citywide: 279

Median Household Income Citywide: \$48,750



# Potential Areas for Park Development along the Harlem River

Map developed by the Harlem River Working Group in conjunction with Planning Department of the Office of the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

These areas represent areas where parks currently exist along the Harlem River Waterfront and areas where city-owned or private property can be developed into park property.

Note that if all these properties are developed into waterfront parks that the Bronx Harlem River Greenway will become a reality.







Waterfront Park  
Development can transform  
our waterfront and our  
communities:  
Harlem River Waterfront  
before Mill Pond Park

Aerial Photo  
of Mill Pond  
Park taken  
after  
opening



But what are the  
obstacles to accessing  
this wonderful  
historical resource for  
our communities?



Is the river clean?

# Discharge of sewage into the Harlem River



Above photograph shows Spuyten Duyvil CSO site and to the right a CSO near the Broadway Bridge.

CSO stands for Combined Sewage Overflow and there are more CSO's in the Harlem River than in any other water source in NYC.





Can you reach the water?

# Expressways and Railway block access to the Harlem River Waterfront





How can communities  
help envision our new  
waterfront?



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image © 2010 TerraMetrics

©2009 Google





N

Horton River

Depot Pl Appr

87

Major Oregon Express Tollway

Sedgwick Ave

Undercliff Ave

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Google





The Harlem River Working Group's  
**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Harlem River Celebration**  
Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Over two hundred community members enjoyed the waterfront and shared their perspectives on connecting the waterfront with their communities.



*Highbridge Community Life Center* is a nonprofit located in the Highbridge Neighborhood of Bronx County in New York City. For over three decades, this group has focused its work on improving the lives of the residents of Highbridge and Bronx County. For the people of Highbridge, bringing about a better life means breaking the cycle of poverty and building assets for community change. Its mission is to empower the people of Highbridge through a rainbow of services that include: counseling for families and children, adult basic education, job training, after school activities for youth, community improvement, organizing and many other services through a vast network of collaborative organizations spread across the Bronx. Highbridge Community Life Center has been actively involved in parks and community restorations projects, having served as a board member for the High Bridge Coalition for nearly a decade and playing a key role in the parks replacements resulting from the Yankee Stadium Project. They have numerous staff and many community volunteers that volunteer with the HRWG. However, under a NOAA grant for the past 18 months, they have only one half-time coordinator working on the Harlem River Working Group. (<http://www.highbridgelife.org/>)

*The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ)* is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization located in NYC's only mainland borough — The Bronx. Founded over forty years ago, they are a diverse collection of volunteers all seeking to leave our great grandchildren better air, land, and water quality than we have at present. We are teachers, community activists, health professionals — environmentalists. (<http://www.bceq.org/>)

The *Harlem River Working Group (HRWG)* is a coalition of nearly fifty community organizations, city, state and federal agencies, and elected officials focused on improving access to and along the Harlem River -- an area stretching 9.3 miles from the Randall's Island to the Hudson River in Bronx County, New York City. The group's goal is to work toward restoring the Harlem River; reconnecting the waterfront with the people; recreating the water's edge; and reinvigorating in-the-water recreational and commercial activities. The HRWG plans to accomplish these goals by creating linear greenway routes linked to existing on and off street routes, restoring the river's water quality to swimmable/fishable, providing access points into the water body, protecting and conserving natural habitats, monitoring and publicizing water quality sampling, create new parkland trails and parks both linearly and at the waterfront access points, and organize the community by creating a unified Harlem River Working Group. (<http://www.bceq.org/category/projects/harlem-river-working-group-projects/>)

### **List of Partners – Active 2011**

Highbridge Community Life Center: Sr. Ellenrita Purcaro, [purcaroe@highbridgelife.org](mailto:purcaroe@highbridgelife.org)  
Urban Divers Ecology Center: Ludger Balan, [harlemriver.udec@gmail.com](mailto:harlemriver.udec@gmail.com)  
Friends of Brook Park: Harry Bubbins, [information@friendsofbrookpark.org](mailto:information@friendsofbrookpark.org)  
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality: Dart Westphal, [dartwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:dartwestphal@gmail.com)  
National Parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program: Jerry Willis, [jerry\\_willis@nps.gov](mailto:jerry_willis@nps.gov)  
New York City Soil and Water Conservation District: Shino Tanikawa, [shino@nycswcd.net](mailto:shino@nycswcd.net)  
NYC Partnerships for Parks: Maria Luisa Cipriano, [marialuisa.cipriano@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:marialuisa.cipriano@parks.nyc.gov)  
Manhattan College: Walter Matystik, [walter.matystik@manhattan.edu](mailto:walter.matystik@manhattan.edu)  
Gaia Institute: Paul Mankiewicz, [paul@thegaia institute.org](mailto:paul@thegaia institute.org)  
Friends of the Woods: Brandy Cochrane, [thewoods@inbox.com](mailto:thewoods@inbox.com)  
NYC Parks and Recreation: Ellen Macnow, [ellen.macnow@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:ellen.macnow@parks.nyc.gov)  
New York Council of Malians: Bourema Niambele, [nymalians@yahoo.com](mailto:nymalians@yahoo.com)  
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance: Louis Kleinman, [lkleinman@waterfrontalliance.org](mailto:lkleinman@waterfrontalliance.org)  
Trust for the Public Land: Clark Wallace, [clark.wallace@tpl.org](mailto:clark.wallace@tpl.org)  
Community Board 8 – Bx: Bob Bender, [bobbender@optonline.net](mailto:bobbender@optonline.net)  
Community Board 7 – Bx: Fernando Tirado, [info@bronxcb7.info](mailto:info@bronxcb7.info)  
Community Board 5 – Bx: Xavier Rodriguez, [brxcb5@optonline.net](mailto:brxcb5@optonline.net)  
Community Board 4 – Bx: Jose Rodriguez, [josrodriguez@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:josrodriguez@cb.nyc.gov)  
Harlem River Community Rowing: Jenny Sherman, [jenny@harlemriverCR.org](mailto:jenny@harlemriverCR.org)  
Friends of Sherman Creek: Obed Fulcar, [ofulcar@yahoo.com](mailto:ofulcar@yahoo.com)  
Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct: Charlotte Fahn, [czfahn@yahoo.com](mailto:czfahn@yahoo.com)  
Shorewalkers: Cy Adler, [mail@shorewalkers.org](mailto:mail@shorewalkers.org)  
Bronx Children's Museum: Carla Precht, [Carlaprecht@bronxchildrensmuseum.org](mailto:Carlaprecht@bronxchildrensmuseum.org)  
Waste Management: Rachel Amar, [ramar@wm.com](mailto:ramar@wm.com)  
Davidson Community Center: Angel Caballero, [angel.caballero@bldconline.org](mailto:angel.caballero@bldconline.org)  
Alexander Hamilton Bridge Community Liaison for NYS DOT: Zachary Campbell, [zcampbell@zetlin.com](mailto:zcampbell@zetlin.com)  
Transportation Alternatives: Aja Hazelhoff, [aja@transalt.org](mailto:aja@transalt.org)  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation: Jesse Krief, 718-482-6464  
Congressman Serrano's Office: Angela Fernandez, [fernandezangela@yahoo.com](mailto:fernandezangela@yahoo.com)  
Congressman Engel's Office: Lori Copland, [Lori.Copland@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lori.Copland@mail.house.gov)  
Borough President's Office: Wilhelm Rhonda, [wronda@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:wronda@bronxbp.nyc.gov)  
Assembly Member Vanessa Gibson: Edu Hermelyn, [edherme@hotmail.com](mailto:edherme@hotmail.com)  
Senator Jose M. Serrano: Angel L. Santana, [santana.nys@gmail.com](mailto:santana.nys@gmail.com)  
Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo: Joan Otero, [jotero@council.nyc.gov](mailto:jotero@council.nyc.gov)  
Council Member Helen Diane Foster: Jim Fairbanks, [jfairbanks@council.nyc.gov](mailto:jfairbanks@council.nyc.gov)



# Harlem River Working Group List of Meetings

7/15/2010	6pm	Mill Pond Park Planning Meeting
8/26/2010	6pm	Mill Pond Park Planning Meeting
9/9/2010	6pm	Mill Pond Park Planning Meeting
9/23/2010	6pm	Mill Pond Park Planning Meeting
9/25/2010	10am	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Harlem River Celebration Mill Pond Park
10/2010	6pm	CB7 Office
11/18/2010	4pm	BOEDC Office 851 Grand Concourse room 123
12/16/2010	6pm	Roberto Clemente State Park Conference
1/20/2011	4pm	BOEDC Office 851 Grand Concourse room 123
2/17/2011	6pm	CB1 Office (organized by Friends of Brook Park)
3/17/2011	4pm	BOEDC Office 851 Grand Concourse room 123
4/27/2011	6pm	CB8 Office -PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING - Please note change
5/19/2011	4pm	BOEDC Office or Mill Pond Park BP EnvironmentalMay 21
6/16/2011	6pm	CB7 Office (organized by BCEQ-Dart Westphal)
7/16/2011		City of Water Day - Local event or Citywide Event
7/21/2011	4pm	BOEDC Office 851 Grand Concourse room 123
8/18/2011	6pm	CB5
9/15/2011	4pm	BOEDC Office 851 Grand Concourse room 123
9/24/2011	10am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Harlem River Celebration Mill Pond Park
10/20/2011	6pm	CB4
11/17/2011	4pm	BOEDC Office 851 Grand Concourse room 123
12/15/2011	6pm	CB1