



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Washington, D.C.

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Office of Communications Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

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National Park Service, Friends Group host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Opening of Phase I of Georgetown Waterfront Park

WHAT: Ribbon- cutting ceremony to announce completion of Phase I of the Georgetown Waterfront Park, which is now open from Wisconsin Avenue to 34th Street, N.W. (Construction on Phase 2 continues).

WHEN: Saturday, October 4, 2008, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: 34th & Water Streets, N.W. (News media are advised to park on K Street, N.W., or underneath the Whitehurst Freeway).

WHO: Mary Bomar, Director, National Park Service;
Adrienne Coleman, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park;
Jack Evans, D. C. City Council;
Robert vom Eigen, President, Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park (FOGWP);
Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C. Delegate to Congress (invited);
Representatives from the family of the late Senator Charles Percy (D- IL).

BACKGROUND: The ribbon cutting ceremony will celebrate the completion of Phase I, the first of two construction phases of the Georgetown Waterfront Park. With the removal of a large parking lot and railroad tracks, Phase I has already transformed approximately 3 acres of what had once been a heavily concentrated industrial site along the river's edge into a beautiful multi- use urban park. Designed by world- renowned landscape architects Wallace Roberts & Todd of Philadelphia, the park contains a promenade along the shoreline punctuated with three overlooks with views of the Potomac River from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to Key Bridge, a separate bike trail that connects Rock Creek Park with the Capital Crescent Trail, a labyrinth containing intertwined pathways for contemplation, open lawns and informal gardens, an environmentally bio- engineered river edge that preserves native plants and enhances water quality, lights for evening enjoyment, and benches to relax and enjoy the setting.

Slated for completion in 2010, Phase 2 will join 225 miles of public parkland along the Potomac River, stretching from Mount Vernon, Virginia to Cumberland, Maryland and make the Georgetown Waterfront Park the largest public park constructed in Washington, D.C. since the completion of Constitution Gardens in 1976. It will include a large central plaza, with a

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fountain, pergola, and a river stair for viewing the Potomac River. Planning for the Georgetown Waterfront Park began more than 25 years ago and has been made possible by a public- private partnership with the NPS, the National Park Foundation and the Georgetown Waterfront Park Campaign. The park was also recently awarded a \$4.5 million Centennial Initiative grant, a dollar- for- dollar federal match of funds that the Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park have raised from private donors and the District of Columbia government.

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