

Grand Celebration & Ribbon Cutting Planned for Pleasant Hill Park & Fish Hatchery May 14th

By Patty-Pat Kozlowski

In 1683, William Penn was so smitten with the riverfront of his newly claimed land called “Penn’s Woods” (later becoming Pennsylvania), that he started construction of his home Pennsbury Manor on the banks of the Delaware River. He envisioned fellow colonists following suit where they too could enjoy life, business and recreation on the banks of the river.

In alignment with Penn’s vision, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) awarded Pleasant Hill Park \$318,000 in funding for ongoing development projects geared toward providing both greater access and increased recreational opportunities along the Delaware River.

Pleasant Hill Park is a 35-acre park, fish hatchery and public boat launch, managed by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, that is situated on the Delaware River in the East Torresdale neighborhood of Northeast Philadelphia.

On Tuesday, May 14, 2013, in conjunction with Love Your Park Week, a grand celebration and ribbon cutting is planned to showcase all the new construction, designs and hard work.

According to Barbara McCabe, Director of Volunteers and Stewardship, food, music, games and a fishing tournament for kids in Parks & Recreation’s after school programs is planned for the event on the banks of the North Delaware Riverfront. Dignitaries, elected officials and the local community of East Torresdale as well as park users and friends are invited to the big celebration.

“We’re very grateful for the DCNR Grant award for our Pleasant Hill Development Project and are eager to implement the funds into the riverfront public space,” said Michael DiBerardinis, Deputy Mayor of Environmental and Community Resources. “The Pleasant Hill Park Master Plan integrates open space, education, and recreation seamlessly, and the grant award will add to the final goal of providing excellent riverfront access to Philadelphians.”

With previous assistance from DCNR, the City of Philadelphia developed a Master Site Plan that addressed stormwater management and flooding relief as well as identified ways to make the park more user-friendly and accessible. Some previous park improvements guided by this plan include the installation of a riverfront pedestrian path and changes to the parking lot that included bioswales to prevent pollutants entering the river. DCNR’s most recent award was used to rehabilitate the site’s fish ponds, add new walkways, improve site fencing and create a new picnic area along with a shade pavilion.

“There has been a push by the City’s Planning Commission to increase access to the Delaware River, and the Pleasant Hill Park Project has taken the lead on that initiative,” said DiBerardinis. “This park will

become a major piece of public park land for Philadelphia residents to enjoy open space and their riverfront.”

All Parks & Recreation employees and supporters are invited to come up and visit Pleasant Hill Park and see how awesome and spectacular this riverfront park project has progressed. Bring your family and spend a “day on the river,” just like William Penn had envisioned for us.