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**BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK AND MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH ASSOCIATES  
RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD**

*Brooklyn Bridge Park Recognized for Analysis and Planning*

*Pier 1 and portions of Pier 6 are soon expected to be open to the public*

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation is proud to announce that Brooklyn Bridge Park has been named the recipient of an Honor Award for Analysis & Planning from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) at the ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO.

Each year, the ASLA Professional Awards honor the best in landscape architecture from around the globe and recipients are handpicked by a prestigious jury of peers. The respected awards recognize excellence in several categories and set the gold standard for landscape design and planning worldwide.

Brooklyn Bridge Park is one of three New York projects being recognized, including Tear Drop Park in Battery Park City, also designed by MVVA, and the Museum of Modern Art Roof Garden by Ken Smith.

The 2009 ASLA Professional Awards Jury deemed the plan for Brooklyn Bridge Park to be "Inventive, amazingly clear, and concise. This project is quite significant to the public realm, natural resources, and environmental planning. It uses a wide range of tools to solve urban problems and does a great job of communicating the ecological and social components to the public."

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer said, “I am thrilled that the master plan for Brooklyn Bridge Park is being recognized by the esteemed jury of the 2009 Professional ASLA awards and the Society. Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates has designed a stunning civic space that will become the emblem of 21<sup>st</sup> century park design in New York. The plan fulfills the opportunities presented by this extraordinary 85-acre site and it also successfully addresses the challenges inherent in re-imagining a park destination from an isolated and dormant industrial site. With strong community support, this powerful blueprint provided a compelling foundation for momentum, resulting in construction beginning in November 2008 and the park’s first sections opening in winter 2010.”

Founding Principal Michael Van Valkenburgh said, “The planning of Brooklyn Bridge Park builds on a strong legacy of visionary thinking undertaken by local community members and public officials from the City and State that goes back to the late 1980s. It has been a distinct honor to be involved in the transformation of this poignantly beautiful urban waterfront from an off-limits industrial facility into a socially and environmentally sustainable public landscape that creates new opportunities for recreation and relaxation. I’m pleased that the park plan has been distinguished with an award; the honor is shared among the many people who have worked so hard over the years to make it happen. Even more rewarding is the fact that the first phase of the park will be open in a short while.”

Brooklyn Bridge Park is an 85-acre park stretching 1.3 miles along the East River from John Street, north of the Manhattan Bridge to Atlantic Avenue to the South. Brooklyn’s largest destination park since Prospect Park nearly 150 years ago, Brooklyn Bridge Park will offer a spectacular landscape at the edge of the East River, inviting visitors to stroll, bike, boat, learn and play, all amid the backdrop of the stunning harbor and skyline views. Brooklyn Bridge Park is a sustainable landscape, featuring salvaged building materials, innovative storm-water management techniques, green roofs and restoration of wildlife habitat. Brooklyn Bridge Park, with its rolling lawns, safe water harbors, inventive playgrounds, generous sports facilities and cultural programming, will transform the borough’s East River waterfront and become a key destination in New York Harbor.

Visitors will be welcomed to the first open sections of the park—Pier 1 and Pier 6—in winter 2010. Pier 6 will add about 7 acres of new park, including a 1.6 acre destination playground with water play areas and innovative play equipment built into the park landscape. Two sand volley ball courts, a concession and dog run will also be constructed, as well as a promenade featuring incredible views of lower Manhattan and the New York Harbor. Pier 1 will add 9.5 new acres of park including 1300 feet of promenade along the East River, and 2.5 acres of lawn with breathtaking views of the New York Harbor and the Brooklyn Bridge.

**Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. (MVVA)** is a Landscape Architecture firm with offices in Brooklyn, New York and Cambridge Massachusetts. Founded in 1982, MVVA supports landscape architecture's leadership in today's increasingly complex urban landscapes, with sites and programs that exhibit a broad spectrum of challenges including effectively addressing the divergent needs of multiple constituencies, integration with surrounding urban contexts, coordination with infrastructure both old and new, and the imperatives of environmental and social sustainability.

**Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation** is a subsidiary of Empire State Development, New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit [www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org](http://www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org).

**American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)** is the national professional association representing landscape architects, founded in 1899. It began with 11 original members, and has grown to some 17,000 members and 48 chapters, representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 68 countries around the world. ASLA promotes the landscape architecture profession and advances the practice and sustainable design through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. For more information on ASLA, please visit <http://www.asla.org/>.

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