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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCES \$23.3 MILLION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
FUND GRANTS FOR WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROJECTS ACROSS NEW YORK  
STATE**

Governor David A. Paterson and New York Secretary of State Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez today announced more than \$23.3 million in funding from the State Environmental Protection Fund's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for 88 projects across New York State. These awards cover a variety of planning, design and construction projects that focus on economic, community, environmental and recreational improvements, reinforcing Governor Paterson's commitment to improving local communities and the environment.

New York's waterfronts extend more than 5,000 miles, encompassing all of Long Island, New York City, the Hudson River, the State Canal System, the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, and major inland waterways such as the Finger Lakes, Lake George, Lake Champlain, and the lakes of the Adirondacks.

"Waterfronts have historically been the centerpieces of many communities across the Empire State, and, in partnership with the State, 76 local governments have already completed Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs designed to protect and enhance these valuable resources," said Governor Paterson. "More than 200 communities are engaged with us to plan and develop projects that provide public waterfront access, protect and develop coastal resources, and improve quality of life."

Secretary of State Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez said: "Developing effective partnerships is key to enhancing waterfronts and revitalizing communities. In these fiscally challenging times, New York State is firmly committed to working in partnership with local governments and groups to revitalize their waterfronts."

"The Department of State is pleased to play a part in fulfilling the Governor's vision of thriving waterfronts and vibrant communities," continued Cortés-Vázquez. "Thanks to Governor Paterson's strong leadership and his continued commitment to waterfront revitalization through the Environmental Protection Fund, we are strengthening our partnership with local governments and communities to revitalize waterfronts across the State."

The Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources administers Environmental Protection Fund grants available to local governments for planning, design and construction projects that advance preparation or implementation of Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs, community revitalization strategies, watershed management plans, coastal education programs, blueway trails, and urban waterfront redevelopment. All grants are awarded on a 50-50 matching basis.

With these awards, 1,060 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grants have been awarded through the Department of State since 1994, totaling more than \$145.3 million. This year's request for applications issued by the Department of State drew 110 responses.

Senator Carl L. Marcellino, Chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, said: "For communities on Long Island, our water is an ever present and precious resource. As Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, I know the blight abandoned industrial sites have had on our communities. The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a great resource for municipalities to develop long term rehabilitation plans that will rejuvenate the natural beauty of our harbors and revive local economies."

Senator Antoine Thompson, Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Environmental Conservation committee, said: "Improving and protecting waterfronts throughout the state is good for not only the environment; but for the local and state economies as well."

Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Robert Sweeney said: "New York's waterfronts have always been an invaluable resource. These grants will help local communities reconnect, rejuvenate and showcase these public waterfronts, bringing new activity, business and recreation. The public will benefit from environmental upgrades, job creation, increased tourism, and recreation."

Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Ranking Minority Member of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, said: "While communities across the state are struggling to find enough money to keep property taxes down, these waterfront revitalization grants will help our towns and villages to focus on developing their economies and enhancing their environmental and recreational opportunities in order to bring in more revenue."

City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown said: "These additional resources will enable the City of Buffalo to continue the redevelopment of our waterfront and to ensure the great progress we have achieved in recent years continues forward. I thank Governor Paterson for reinforcing his commitment to Buffalo's revitalized waterfront through the investments made via state-funded programs like the Local Waterfront Revitalization program."

City of Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy said: "I want to thank Governor Paterson for his continued commitment to the Rochester area and Upstate. With this grant funding, we'll be able to continue our investments in the public spaces along Durand Eastman Beach, the Genesee River and the Erie Canal," Mayor Duffy said. "The return on this investment is immeasurable. Improving the scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, economic development and environmental quality of our waterfronts adds even more value to some of the city's most esteemed resources and provides a direct benefit to all of our residents and visitors."

City of Newburgh Mayor Nicholas Valentine said: "I am pleased to continue our strong partnership with New York State under the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. This program has been instrumental in Newburgh's ongoing Hudson River waterfront redevelopment success."

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe said: "The need for public park space in New York City, especially on the waterfront, is insatiable. I commend Governor Paterson and Secretary of State Cortés-Vázquez for their continued leadership in improving and increasing community access to waterfront parks and recreation across the city."

A complete list of the 2008-2009 grant awards may be found on the Department of State's website at [www.dos.state.ny.us](http://www.dos.state.ny.us).