

### Floating pool to be reintroduced to New York waterfront

In New York in the early 1900s and again in the 1930s, floating swimming pools made of wooden slats dotted the riverfront where tenement residents bathed. A next-generation floating pool, suited for more recreational purposes and reconstituted from a steel fishing barge, will open next year.

The project began seven years ago under Anne Buttenwieser, who founded the Neptune Foundation to build these public amenities as an antidote to the city's shortage of swimming facilities. In collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation, she commissioned architect Jonathan Kirschenfeld to design the pool as a migrating pier that docks at different underserved locations along the East River each summer. The Floating Pool Lady, formerly the barge The New Orleans, is slated to open at a not-yet-disclosed



**The reconstituted barge is a self-contained public park, featuring a swimming pool, changing pavilions, and zones for socializing.**

site in 2007 and will move to Greenpoint's new 16-acre park when it opens in the summer of 2008 or 2009.

The swimming pool includes

seven 25-meter lanes; its floor is made out of the original steel floor of the fishing barge, and the sides have been reinforced with new sheets of steel. The barge is more than three

times wider than the pool it contains. "I was not just designing a pool, but a public park space," Kirschenfeld says. With electrical, water, and waste systems, the barge also features a raised court and dining terrace, as well as locker rooms, showers, and a snack bar.

Steel work refurbishment was completed in Louisiana this September. Buttenwieser now is searching for a winter home for the barge before a tugboat escorts it to the East River this

March, she says, adding that she hopes the project will have a permanent warm-climate winter home to guarantee continual use.

*Dianna Dilworth*