

## BRONX

# Floating Pool Lady to splash into Hunts Point for long stay at Barretto Point Park

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The Floating Pool Lady docked at Brooklyn Bridge Park last summer, but is on its way to the Bronx, starting June 27.

The city's acclaimed floating swimming pool is coming to the Bronx for the summer - and is most likely here to stay.

The Floating Pool Lady, a seven-lane, 82-foot pool that docked in Brooklyn Heights last summer, is scheduled to open for business in Hunts Point June 27 as schools close and summer heats up.

But, unlike in Brooklyn, where the barge pool stopped by for a one-summer fling, the pool may be a summer regular in the Bronx.

"I think it is likely it will stay there for at least three years," said Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "It's probably the best place for it - the area with the greatest need."

In the past, Parks said the pool would rotate, but Benepe said the need for a pool elsewhere is less pressing given plans to reopen the McCarren Park Pool in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and the opening of a pool in Queens' Flushing Meadows.

Benepe said a second floating pool probably is in the city's future as well.

The city Department of Environmental Protection confirmed it is spending \$3 million, including sewer and water lines and upgrades to the Tiffany St. pier in Barretto Point Park, to prepare for the half-Olympic-sized pool. The state Department of Environmental Conservation is in the public comment stage of approving a three-year renewable permit for placing the pool in the East River.

"Community Board 2 in my district is the only community board in the City of New York without a swimming pool - public or private," said Rep. Jose Serrano, who campaigned to bring the pool to the area. "The floating pool will be a great destination along the route of the South Bronx Greenway and a spectacular complement to the projects we have already put in place."

And Ann Buttenweiser, founder of the Neptune Foundation, creator and funder of the pool, called Hunts Point a "long-term," "perfect site" that was historically used for swimming a century ago.

Plans for this summer include swimming lessons and partnerships with Rock the Boat and The Point, which runs a day camp nearby. The Point's teen advocacy group pushed to bring the pool to Hunts Point.

Buttenweiser said she hopes her creation will one day be obsolete.

"This pool can create a constituency to clean up our waterways, so some time 10 years from now we don't need a floating pool," she said. "We will just need something to keep people from getting lost in the tides and the currents."

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Happy kids will be a familiar sight at Barretto Point Park this summer.