



Contact: Sheri Hensley Public Information Officer
(201) 777-2420 office (201) 615-8378 cell
sheri.hensley@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 16, 2007

NJMC Eco-Cruises: A Great Way to Explore the Meadowlands

LYNDHURST, NJ -- It wouldn't be summer in the Meadowlands without the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's eco-cruises. These excursions are a favorite of people throughout the tri-state area in search of summer recreation and knowledge. While on a NJMC Pontoon Boat, you'll see some of the Meadowlands' 260 bird species, experience brilliant sunsets and learn about the region's history from expert narrators.

"With careful planning, the NJMC has preserved 8,400 acres of natural tranquility in the heart of a noisy, urban landscape. This summer, I invite you to take to the Hackensack River and discover the Meadowlands – one of New Jersey's most unique places," said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio.

Our staff, including research scientists and outreach naturalists, will tell you about the Wisconsin Glacier that shaped the region and the Lenni Lenape Native Americans who first lived here. Listen to tales of river barges, railroads and pirates hiding out in remote patches of reeds. Learn about NJMC's ongoing efforts to restore the District's ecosystem to balance. See how former landfills are being transformed into parks and other areas of passive recreation, as well as wildlife habitats.

Members of the media are invited to hop aboard and experience the Meadowlands from the Hackensack River. Pontoon Boat Cruises could serve as an excellent location for a reporter live shot on interesting people and places, and provide a great backdrop for meteorologists for their weather reports. NJMC staff members have quite a story to tell about this unique urban wilderness and would be more than happy to share their knowledge with your viewers.

Cruises depart from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt and last approximately two hours, depending on the tide. Evening cruises depart at 5 p.m. or 5:30 p.m., just in time to enjoy a breathtaking sunset. Morning trips are available on Saturdays and depart at 8:30 am. The NJMC can arrange cruises at other times to accommodate media crews with specific deadline schedules. For the more adventurous explorer, guided canoe tours are also available.

The 30.4-square mile Meadowlands District includes 14 municipalities in Hudson and Bergen Counties along the Hackensack River. The NJMC's mission is to promote responsible redevelopment while protecting the environment in the Meadowlands District.