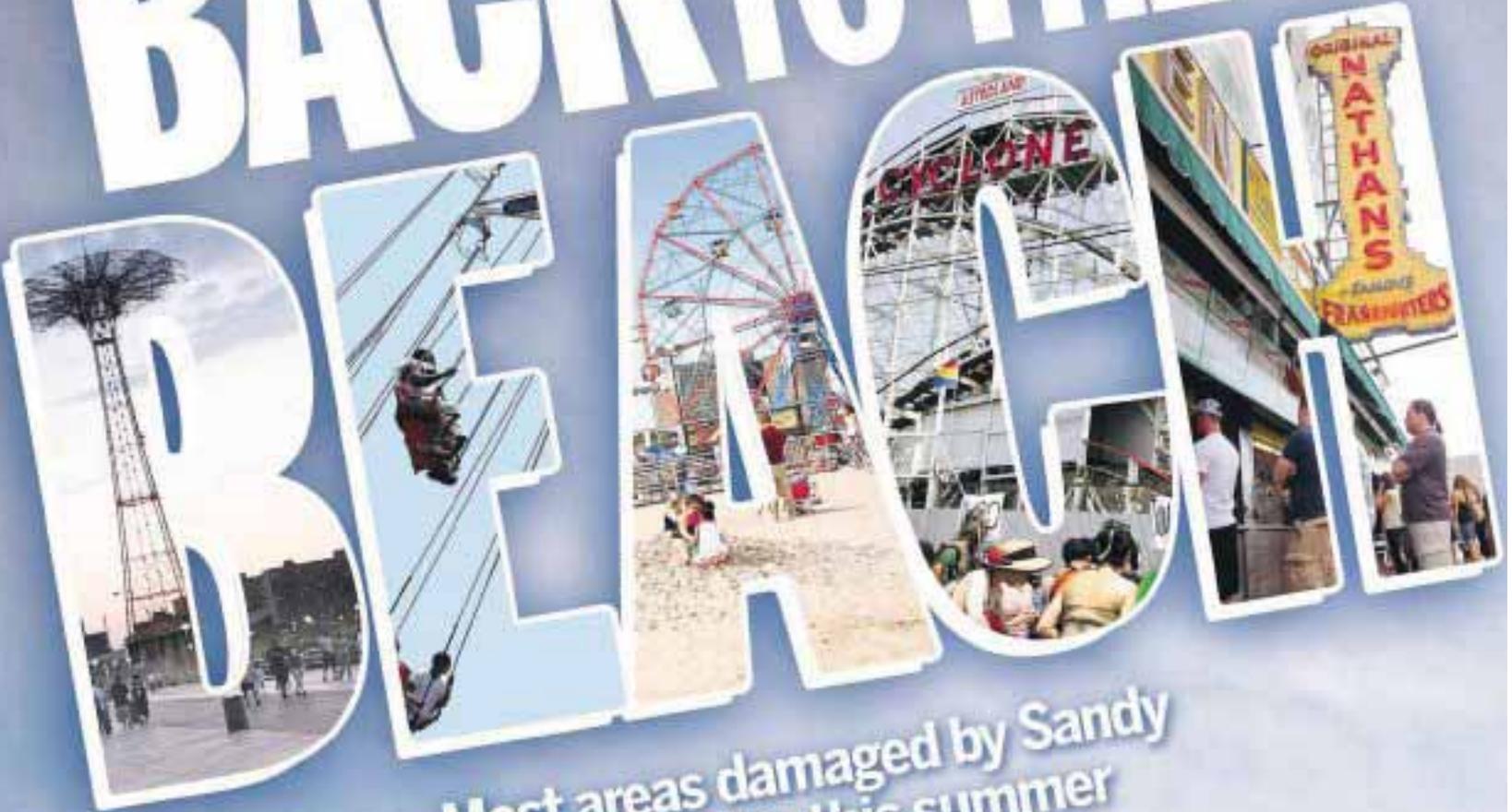


MANHATTAN'S HIGHEST DAILY CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER

BACK TO THE



Most areas damaged by Sandy
open for biz this summer
PAGES 67

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TODAY
HI 38° LO 32°
Snow

TOMORROW
HI 47° LO 34°
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WEDNESDAY
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HOT LIST



Children's store
My Little Sunshine opened a second location at 145 Hudson St. in TriBeCa over the weekend.



New exclusive Nets iPhones are on sale for \$34.95 at the Nets Shop by adidas at the Barclays Center this season.



Bring your kids to the Prospect Park Audubon Center this week to celebrate spring break with some educational fun, like studying insects and birds.

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Beaches on way

It's been a tough road to recovery, but most of NYC's summer spots will be ready for the season

BY TIM HERRERA
AND ANNA SANDERS
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The city is racing the clock to ready beaches and waterfront destinations heavily damaged by Superstorm Sandy for summer's Memorial Day kickoff.

Workers are rebuilding boardwalks and replenishing beaches with tons of sand. Some venues, such as South Street Seaport, are already coming back to life slowly — and the Statue of Liberty is set to open by July 4.

Other parks recovered sooner, like the Bronx's Orchard Beach, which reopened in December.

On its website, the Parks Department has been giving updates, with photos and video, on city-run beaches:

"Due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy, some properties will continue to be closed as we address conditions in the park," the state-

ment read yesterday. We looked at the city's classic warm-weather spots to see how Sandy recovery is coming along, and whether they will be ready for the swarm of New Yorkers this summer.

Coney Island

Open date: Opened yesterday

Sandy's damage:

One of the city's most iconic summer refuges was among the most badly hit during Sandy, with parts of the amusement area and surrounding businesses submerged in 6 to 10 feet of water.

The main location for Nathan's Famous was one of those areas, and it still remains closed. Its location on Boardwalk West opened last week, but it could be some time before the main location is open.

The New York Aquarium was flooded, costing a reported \$65 million in repairs, and the nonprofit Coney Island USA suffered some \$400,000 in damage.

Luna Park and the Cy-

clone both had extensive electrical damage, the repairs of which were added to the normal opening maintenance.

Recovery:

Despite the enormous damage, almost all of Coney Island opened this past weekend.

Only the aquarium and the main building for Nathan's Famous main building remain closed.

"Post-Sandy, we're particularly excited about this year, because they've worked really hard to get those businesses open, and they're opening just five months after the hurricane," said Johanna Zaki, director of operations for the Alliance for Coney Island.

She added: "They've pretty much been working around the clock with their repairs and recovery efforts."

But the aquarium will have only a limited opening this spring, and there's no timetable for the re-opening of Nathan's.

CONY ISLAND

Coney Island suffered extensive damage, but it reopened yesterday. The main location for Nathan's and the aquarium are closed.



Rockaway Beach

Open date: May 25

Sandy's damage:

Like Fort Tilden and Riis Park, Rockaway Beach is among the hardest-hit areas in the city, with Sandy causing more than \$300 million in damage and destroying more than 6 miles of beach along the peninsula.

Equipment such as benches and fences, the playground and the boardwalk were severely crippled or destroyed, and crews have been working since the storm to remove the debris.

One of the toughest tasks was moving sand that was carried away by the storm. More than 150,000 cubic yards of sand have been returned to the beach.

Recovery:

Officials said that 100% of the beach will be ready by May 25, and much of the amenities, such as bath-

rooms and concessions, will also be ready to go.

Already, sections of the boardwalk between Beach 80th and 84th streets and sections at Beach 32nd and Beach 39th streets have been put back into place.

In areas where bathrooms and lifeguard buildings are too damaged to open by the deadline, temporary units will be installed.

And, for the first time ever, the beach will get a wine bar, Capital New York reported earlier this month.



back after Sandy



Riis Park

Open date:

Memorial Day Weekend

Sandy's damage:

During the storm, water pushed through Jacob Riis Park's historic Art Deco bathhouse, the police building and lifeguard station. Sand and debris littered the buildings and the beach for weeks.

Complicating matters, cleanup crews around the city brought thousands of tons of sand and debris to a temporary dump site at the park's parking lot.

"The playground equipment was destroyed. They were under multiple feet of sand, same with the buildings themselves," said Geoffrey Croft, president of NYC Park Advocates, who visited the park a few weeks after Sandy.

He added that sand had gotten into the bathhouse and the doors of the concession stand were open with "water everywhere."

Recovery:

The Army Corps of Engineers filtered debris from sand in the parking lot. Once it was cleaned, the sand was sent to Rockaway beaches.

Though some debris remains, the lot is mostly cleared, officials said, and by the parks' scheduled opening over Memorial Day weekend it will be fully functional.

Still, some amenities will be closed, and as of a couple of weeks ago, fences still enclosed the park's main buildings.

They will be down soon, however, said Daphne Yun, a spokeswoman for the Gateway National Recreation Area, which includes the park.

The concession will be closed, but the National Park Service has coordinated with city officials to allow food trucks to serve visitors at Jacob Riis. The playgrounds were severely damaged and won't be open this summer. The old bathroom facility may not reopen. "But we will have bathroom facilities of some kind," Yun said.

She said some have questioned the timeliness of the federal parks' recovery, but noted that Hurricane Sandy aid was not approved until January.



Fort Tilden

Open date:

TBD

Sandy's damage:

Just down the road from Breezy Point, Fort Tilden beach is in the middle of some of the city's most severely damaged areas. Beach erosion is one of the top problems, officials said.

"The erosion brought up dangers that hadn't been evident before, and the debris on the beach is just so much that we can't safely open it," Yun said.

Recovery:

The damage was so severe that debris removal hasn't even begun and officials have shifted resources to other projects because Fort Tilden beach will require so much work. "There's no time frame for when debris removal might begin."



PHOTO BY ANTHONY LANZILOTE



PHOTO BY ANTHONY LANZILOTE

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Sen. Charles Schumer check out Cyclone cheerleader Erik Knapp's tattoo yesterday.

Summer comes early at Coney

BY IVAN PEREIRA
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Months after superstorm Sandy devastated Coney Island, the city's top summer spot is officially back.

As officials ushered in a new season for the beach and the amusements yesterday, dozens of eager fans of the Cyclone braved cold weather to show the world that the iconic ride and Luna Park weathered the storm.

"When you think about the Cyclone, you think about Coney Island. This is our Yankee Stadium," said Ulysses Bermudez of Red Hook.

The thrill-seekers on hand said they were a little concerned after the Oct. 29 storm that they'd have to wait longer to board the coaster, and were pleasantly surprised it didn't suffer serious infrastructure damage.

Pointing out that the Cyclone and Luna Park were Coney Island icons, Brooklyn Borough President Marty

Markowitz thanked the volunteers and crews that worked to restore the rides that were damaged storm and to clean up the debris.

Sen. Charles Schumer, who was also on hand for the opening ceremonies, said the federal government paid for the rebuilding efforts, which are still ongoing and include beach restoration.

Markowitz predicted that the revitalized Luna Park — which houses Deno's Wonder Wheel and other rides — would bring in even more visitors from all over the world.

"Truth be told, Brooklynites don't vacation in the Hamptons," he said. "Coney Island is where we vacation."

Some residents and business owners, however, said the community's recovery still has a long way to go. A group of civic organizations protested outside the Cyclone, urging the government to speed up the delivery of the \$60 billion in Sandy recovery aid.

"The park is great, and we need it back and running but down the block we've got nothing," said lifelong resident and civic leader Carol DeMartino.

Markowitz said he welcomed the protest and encouraged residents to keep raising their voices.

"It is going slow," he said of the recovery efforts. "[The protest] reminds us elected officials that we are not back yet."

Several Cyclone early birds waited seven hours in cold, windy temperatures before they could get on and personally give the coaster a post-Sandy shakedown. Jose Umana, 21, who has been faithfully coming to opening day for the last five years, said the roller coaster is one of the best rides.

It may not be the tallest coaster in the world, but the speed and age of the tracks get to you, Umana said.

"It's a real adrenaline rush," he said.