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**Lidl breaks new ground on the East Coast**

Leaders from Lidl broke ground on its future store in Washington, DC. This will be the first new supermarket to serve residents in Wards 7 and 8 in more than a decade.

The site is Lidl's first store in the district and it is scheduled to open by late fall 2022. The store will create approximately 45 new jobs.

"Today, we celebrate a significant milestone that brings fresh, affordable, and healthy food to the residents of Ward 7," said Mayor Muriel Bowser. "The new Lidl Food Market at Skyland demonstrates our commitment to delivering more grocery stores and food access points to neighborhoods East of the River. This grocery store has been a long time coming, and we are proud to be delivering for a community that has worked so hard to get to this groundbreaking."

Lidl established its U.S. headquarters in Arlington, VA, in 2015 and today operates more than 20 stores nearby in Maryland and Virginia. Lidl offers an award-winning assortment of fresh, high-quality products, including produce, a fresh bakery, beef poultry and fish, as well as a wide array of non-food household products that drop in stores on a weekly basis. Lidl has been repeatedly recognized for its shopping experience. In back-to-back editions Food & Wine Magazine ranked Lidl in its top 10 U.S. supermarket rankings.

"We thank Mayor Bowser and local leaders for their support and warm welcome to the district," said Michal Lagunioneck, president and CEO of Lidl US. "We are confident that DC residents will appreciate Lidl's unique and high-quality approach to grocery, which allows shoppers to save money on our award-winning selection of fresh and high quality products. We look forward to building a great team at Skyland and opening our store once construction is completed later this year.

Skyland is a development project years in the making, providing vital housing and retail to Ward 7, with the intent of generating jobs, tax revenues, and additional economic investments throughout the area. This development project, spanning multiple years and phases, began construction in 2018 and is projected to be completed in 2026.

"The Lidl groundbreaking is a major milestone for Skyland Town Center," said Henry Fonvielle, president of Rappaport. "We are proud to partner with Lidl to expand their brand at Skyland, their first location in Washington, DC. Lidl will bring high-quality grocery with a superb experience for the residents of The Crest and surrounding neighborhoods. We look forward to the day they open their doors and seeing many of our community partners, friends and neighbors shopping with their families. The addition of Lidl cements Skyland's commitment to bringing the best of shopping, dining, and living east of the Anacostia River."