



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council
September 17, 2024**

Design and Construction

Pier 25 Playground

The water features at Pier 25 were reopened in July after installation of the new safety surface and spray shower in place. As previously reported, completing this project took longer than expected due to some hiccups with the concrete pours, but were glad to be able to welcome children back into this portion of the playground in time for the first big July heat wave.

Pier 26 Science Playground

Monstrum will be returning to NYC later this month to complete minor repairs of sturgeon structures, as covered under their warranty. Alpine will also be replacing any defective or damaged plantings later this month.

Estuarium

The design team presented progress on the schematic design at Community Board 1's Waterfront, Parks & Cultural Committee on June 18. The meeting went well and the community provided constructive feedback on the design. The architects are refining the design with the community comments in mind. Estimates are being prepared by both the designers and construction managers based on the schematic design.

Pier 40

In July, the Trust's Board approved a \$25 million contract with Hudson Meridian Construction Group for necessary capital maintenance work at Pier 40 through a contract model known as "Construction Manager as Builder." This is a contractual model used by governmental agencies typically in situations requiring the efficient coordination of multiple trades in complex, large-scale settings or in situations requiring frequent field decisions. In a "CM as Builder" contract, the selected consultant is charged not just with performing construction management services but also with procuring and subcontracting for the required construction services. The Trust entered into an arrangement akin to CM as Builder after Hurricane Sandy in order to make simultaneous, numerous repairs to systems and structures in a timely manner.

Hudson Meridian will be tasked with completing the ongoing sprinkler system work, addressing a variety of structural repairs identified in the 2023 parking inspection mandated by state and city laws, and other on-call projects over a four-year period. There is a great deal of complexity involved in coordinating construction while keeping the parking garage, ballfields and the Trust's own operations open and in use as much as possible while needed capital maintenance work occurs.

Gansevoort Peninsula

The restrooms at Gansevoort Peninsula opened to the public on July 11 after the Trust received the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy from the Buildings Department. EJ Electric has also installed additional lighting on the sand bluff and south edge which was a suggestion from the Advisory Council

and that is intended to assist the Park's Operations Department with monitoring the site for public safety.

29th – 46th Street Landscape and Esplanade Design

In coordination with the Trust, Marvel met with Community Board 4's Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee on July 11 to introduce the project. The design team has also met with Circle Line and City Department of Transportation to introduce the project to these stakeholders as well. They are currently gathering and reviewing preliminary traffic data, topographic surveys, and analyzing the site in preparation for additional public stakeholder meetings this fall.

Pier 97

While construction of Pier 97 was mostly completed by December, with the majority of the pier open and in use by the public, we have encountered a number of difficulties during construction that have delayed completion. Chief among these was encountering a variety of obstructions that needed to be removed in order to install underground utilities. Additionally, the Trust identified a need for additional shade elements and some safety features for the playground, and had to work with some of the contractors on staffing challenges. At this time, we're hopeful that we'll be able to open the balance of the pier this fall. Nearby, work on the new restroom/park maintenance building is progressing well with electric, plumbing, and HVAC completed and interior finishes as well as the façade system continuing to be installed. We expect to open the building in winter.

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives

Science Leadership Program

For the sixth consecutive Summer, the Park's River Project hosted our Science Leadership Program. The internship serves female identifying students from communities that are historically underrepresented in STEM. This year, we expanded our recruitment efforts by partnering with Hudson River Community Sailing and extending the program to all Young Women's Leadership Schools. As a result, we were thrilled to welcome a diverse group of twelve interns from eight different schools across all five boroughs. Over the six-week program, these high school students were mentored by three City College of New York undergraduate students as they conducted research on the presence of plastic in gull boluses collected from Park floating docks. This year, the students came in-person one extra day a week, helping to add more field trips, field research, team bonding, and collaborative activities to the internship. They also had the opportunity to visit Consortium partner organizations such as the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and the Bronx Zoo, where they engaged with research and interns from other Consortium programs. Our network also helped lead professional development workshops preparing the students for public speaking, reading scientific literature, analyzing data, applying to college, resume writing, and more. The program culminated in a scientific poster symposium at AMNH, where our interns proudly presented their individual research projects.

Habitat Enhancement Long-Term Monitoring

This Summer we entered year three of researching Tribeca's Habitat Enhancement corridor and we launched Gansevoort's Habitat Enhancement research funded by a federal appropriation from NOAA through the support of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and Congressman Nadler. These two projects bring together experts from across the region to help the Trust evaluate the health of the oysters, understand how these enhancements provide habitat for benthic, epibenthic and mobile species, like fish and crabs, and assess impact on bottom type and water quality. New to year three of Tribeca: 1) we sampled sediment to characterize the benthic or infaunal community composition in the enhancement area; 2) we took GoPro video to assess settlement behavior of epibenthic species like oysters, mussels,

and barnacles on the textured piles in the Pier 32 pile field and biohuts under Pier 26; and 3) during our oyster monitoring, we also harvested oysters for disease and tissue condition analysis. These additional data are key to more comprehensively researching the ecological uplift of this restoration work.

At Gansevoort, the project kicked off with a sonar survey of the area and scientific divers took video of gabions and reef balls for the team to assess growth and coverage rates. Our sub consultant, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, used sonar technology that is more recently being used in oyster monitoring and new to the New York City area. The instrument's fine resolution will allow the team to more efficiently research change in reef height and coverage overtime. Also, in case you missed it, our oyster enhancement work was recognized in The New York Time's Newsletter on National Oyster Day. It's a fun piece that celebrates oysters in New York City and the Park!

Summer Program Recap & Looking Ahead to Fall

Our River Project team wrapped up another successful season of summer camp field trips and public drop-in programs – from catch and release fishing and nature walks to wildlife encounters and science lectures. Over 1,000 students from NYC camp programs joined us for hands-on field trip programming throughout the Park. Our public drop-in programs continue also to reach a wide audience, with well over 6,000 people joining us for events including our popular Big City Fishing workshops, Wetlab Look-in tours and Discovery Tank Guided Gallery exploration hours.

With the start of a new school year, our educators are getting ready to start another season of field trips and educational programs in the Park. Starting this week, schools from all over the city will be joining us to learn about fish ecology, shoreline resiliency, oyster restoration, climate change and more. As always, Title I schools have the opportunity for program fees to be fully waived when booking programs. Please feel free to share more about these programs with your networks. Any interested teachers can reach out to education@hrpt.ny.gov to learn more.

Looking ahead to other educational opportunities in the Park this fall, the Wetlab will continue to have open hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays where members of the public can join for a free tour of local wildlife. And then on Wednesday October 23, we will celebrate the end of another successful Wetlab season with the Release of the Fishes from 3-6 PM. Visitation was great this year and we were happy to be featured on Taxi TV!

We're also excited to share that we've been invited to be an exhibitor at the Emerson Collective Climate Science Fair, taking place on the High Line from September 21 to 23 from 10 AM to 7 PM. That event will be a celebration of climate solutions, where we will have a booth alongside other positive changemakers for the duration of the event. We invite you all to come visit us and other changemakers there.

And there's lots more happening in the Park too – including Ask a Scientist lectures, Painting Nature workshops, Science Storytelling and more. Be sure to check out our calendar for upcoming events.

Public Programs

When Pier 76 opened, "learn to bike" programs were identified by some community stakeholders as an opportunity for this large, paved expanse. We have had Bike NY at Pier 76 as a regular program partner at Pier 76 for the last few years. From May through August, Bike NY engaged over 1,000 New Yorkers, both adults and children, helping them learn to ride and enhance their biking skills. In addition to public programs, Bike NY conducted bookable workshops with local schools and community groups.

Recently, our seasonal bike programming concluded spectacularly over Labor Day Weekend with the NYC Unicycle Festival, thrilling over 1,500 attendees of all ages with one-wheeled excitement. This unique event combined circus magic with fitness and was the perfect culmination of our season-long bike programming.

Pier 76 also hosted vibrant events, including the New York Latin Food Festival, which offered savory dishes from over 45 vendors and lively music from across the Latin diaspora. Our popular Sunset Salsa attracted over 8,500 dancers, and our expanded partnership with Dance is Life welcomed 3,000 attendees and launched the Ladies of Hip Hop Festival on July 8th, showcasing female DJs, MCs, and visual artists.

The 24th Blues BBQ Festival on August 10th delighted over 11,000 attendees with performances from the Altered 5 Band and Alexis P. Suter and more, as well as a second stage featuring Gordon Lockwood and Tina Fabrique among others. BBQ enthusiasts enjoyed favorites like Jase's BBQ and Big Papa Smokem, along with newcomers such as La Newyorkina, offering refreshing Mexican paletas. This year introduced the Blues Dance Floor, where festival-goers learned moves from Blues Dance New York, and the Blues Marketplace, featuring an array of hot sauces from local vendors for perfecting barbecue recipes.

Jazz at Pier 84, in partnership with the Jazz Foundation of America, drew record crowds, with nearly 4,000 attendees enjoying local jazz talents throughout the six-week series. The Jazz Foundation also partnered with us to launch Blues by the Boardwalk at the newly opened Pier 97, where Blues enthusiasts relaxed and enjoyed top-notch performances in a beautiful new Park space.

Clinton Cove was transformed into Broadway's Backyard with Broadway by the Boardwalk, a Monday evening concert series that entertained close to 8,000 people with performances by Broadway stars such as Eden Espinosa and Ramin Karimloo. Tony Award Winner Alex Newell also joined for a surprise visit, adding a special touch to the intimate setting.

Sunset on the Hudson celebrated Pride on Pier 45 on Friday, June 28th with Randy Jones, the original Village People cowboy, and The Bad Judies, NYC's only all-drag queen band. This event marked a return to the West Side Piers for Jones, where he and his band mates filmed the iconic Y.M.C.A. video in 1978. Over 2,000 people joyously celebrated with the Bad Judies and Jones and leapt to their feet to spell out those famous four letters! Other events in the series featured Queer/BIPOC artists such as AERI, Batala NY, Resistance Revival Chorus and more!

June saw a rewarding new partnership with Hyrox, a global fitness race, hosting 5,500 competitors and 7,500 spectators at Pier 76. This event kickstarted the popular Healthy on the Hudson series, that offered a broad range of fitness classes, including yoga and HIIT, throughout the Park at Piers 25, 46, 64, 76, and 97, supported by partners like Tone House, Modo Yoga NYC and others. Healthy on the Hudson definitely had something for everyone this year.

Our fall season of free programming promises to be every bit as exciting and in fact has expanded significantly this year to respond to the park sometimes being even busier in the beautiful late summer and early fall weather. This season will feature the much-loved Bollywood and Bhangra dance series on Pier 63 leading into a Festival of Lights celebrating Diwali on Saturday, October 26 also on Pier 63. Matinee Music returns to 14th Street Park on Wednesdays in September. And our annual post-Halloween composting adventure, Pumpkin Smash, promises to have even more squashing, smashing,

and smushing fun in store for Pier 84 on Saturday November 2nd. Remember, it is BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin)!

Additionally, we are still confirming the date but tentatively on October 5, 12:00 - 4:00 PM, we are partnering with the Chelsea Waterside Park Association for a community celebration with Face painting, music, games and other exciting activities.

On Saturday, October 19th, from 1:00 - 6:00 PM, we are partnering with Friends of Pier 84 for the Pier 84 HONK! Community Celebration, with music, crafts, double Dutch and more. We will share flyers for both partner celebrations when we have them!

For more information on what else is in store for the fall, please visit hudsonriverpark.org/events.

Throughout the summer, the Park hosted over 25,000 people through various permitted events, from film shoots to special events, and small gatherings. Whether it was a marriage proposal, company picnic, Run/Walk, or corporate event we are happy that New Yorkers continue to choose Hudson River Park for their most important events.

Additionally, we have 56 permittees for our Summer field permitting season, with over 4,200 hours permitted across our fields. The Fall field season kicked off in the last week of August and runs through December 1st. This fall we are supporting 72 different permittees with over 7,200 hours and have welcomed several newcomers to our fields. Applications for the winter field season are now open with a due date of October 7 for a season that starts on December 2nd. Visit hudsonriverpark.org/fields for more information on how to apply.

Operations

Pride Sunday

Pride Sunday is a significant event for the Park, and this year was no exception. Thousands of celebrants flocked to the Park, beginning midday. This year's Pride was marked by thunderstorms and lightning, which caused both the early end to the parade and required us and the NYPD to evacuate the Piers to protect staff and public safety. We were happy to reopen the park a few hours later. Overall, our thousands of guests have a joyful day, though there are also always some incidents of fights and over intoxication. This year, late in the evening, a patron maced over 20 patrons and multiple PEP officers. The Park's water stations that were close by were used by the Trust's supplemental event EMS service to help provide care for affected individuals.

Independence Day

For July 4, the Park hosted Macy's for its Fourth of July Spectacular, and thousands of people to watch the fireworks show. The NYPD required significant closures as part of its security plan, although New York City was able to open multiple piers for public viewing, and our tenants were able to continue to operate with limited disruption. Beyond closures, the event is an enormous drain on staff resources, from planning to preparation, to execution and clean-up. That being said, it was a safe and successful event for New York, and we enjoyed seeing many of our neighbors enjoying the park that day.

Route 9A Improvements

SDOT has completed security updates to the North Moore St. area. A Barrier 1 gate was installed to provide a safe entry into the park for authorized vehicles. In addition, bollard arrays have been installed

along the service road layby and additional concrete security measures were removed, providing a cleaner and more open accessway for pedestrians and bikeway users.

HRPT staff is actively working with NYCDOT to ensure bikeway lights between N. Moore and Canal streets are repaired, as there have been reports of outages. HRPT will be conducting another bi-annual bikeway light audit from Chambers to 59th St. in October.

Dismount Signs

Additional dismount bike /skateboard / scooter signs have been ordered and placed throughout the park totaling 39 at key esplanade access points.

Facilities

As temperatures begin to drop, we will be turning off all the water features for the playgrounds, dog runs, Pier 45 and the Gansevoort trellis in the park beginning on October 14.

The Christopher Street Fountain, Pier 84 Fountain and the drinking fountains will remain on until November 15, weather permitting.

Horticulture

Two longtime employees of Horticulture and Maintenance Departments recently retired. Peter Kelly, Director of Horticulture worked for the Trust just under 20 years. First hired as a Project manager and working in the Design and Construction Department Peter helped construct and design Chelsea, Pier 84 and 25. Peter was a licensed landscape Architect with passion for working with plants and soon moved to the Horticulture Department as the Park grew. Eventually he would assume the role of Director of Horticulture before retiring. Peter Walsh was hired in the spring to take over Peter Kelly's duties. He started with the Trust as a seasonal back in 2015, eventually hired to work full time and working his way up to Senior Horticulture Technician before being promoted to Assistant Director of Horticulture. Peter maintained the space in Chelsea including the big lawn and display garden by the W 22nd Street Entrance for many years.

Kemraj Mangroo, Assistant Director of Maintenance worked here before the Trust started construction of the Park. He had over 20+ years working for the Trust and oversaw all general maintenance of the Park during his tenure. This included the contracts of Doe Fund and Fedcap who provide indoor and outdoor sanitation services as well as supporting all the events that took place in the park. Lakhram Bhuanlall was promoted in the spring to Assistant Director of Maintenance to take over for Kemraj. Lakhram also started with the Trust as a seasonal employee before being hired as a full time Maintenance Technician and eventually promoted to Senior Maintenance Technician. Lakhram spent many years working in the Maintenance Department alongside Kemraj Mangroo. Lakhram is a skilled handy man with many years of management experience.

The Horticulture and Maintenance staff are testing out small electric equipment to replace gas-powered lawnmowers, leaf blowers and more as part of our continuing efforts to reduce our use of fossil fuels. New commercial-grade electric products are slowly becoming available, and the Trust is working towards replacing all gas-powered small equipment with electric versions.

The Horticulture team supported Friends in hosting 26 corporate volunteer events with throughout the Park in June, July and August. Just over 900 volunteers came out during the events. The volunteers worked on weeding, watering, composting and cleaning up our garden beds. Horticulture will be aerating all the lawns in the next few weeks as we prepare for the winter season.

Maintenance spent approximately 105 hours cleaning graffiti around the Park over the summer months, down significantly from last year.

Public Safety

Overall, crime in Hudson River Park is down across the board, including petty thefts, fights and assaults, and graffiti. We have however, experienced an increase in disorderly or emotionally disturbed people in the park which required PEP interaction.

One such incident occurred on August 27th when an emotionally disturbed person sleeping in the park on the Little Island gangway assaulted two PEP officers that approached him, both of whom were injured. The perpetrator fled the area but was apprehended by NYPD after assaulting an NYPD officer outside of the Park two days later.

Another such incident occurred on September 11th when an emotionally disturbed person harassed a member of horticulture staff, chasing him and throwing things thrown at him as he cut the grass at the Pier 62 Lawn Bowl. PEP took the person into custody pending psychiatric evaluation.

While crime overall is down, there have been four chain/bag snatches that occurred in August, two on the bikeway, one on the esplanade of Pier 84 immediately beside the bikeway, and one at the Circle Line garage. In three of the incidents, perpetrators travelled on bicycles or motorized scooters snatching necklaces or bags as drove by. We have assisted the 6th, 10th and Manhattan North Precincts with these investigations and provided substantial video footage.

On July 24, the Park hosted the 6th Precinct Build the Block Meeting in the lobby at Pier 40. This was a meeting of concerned citizens and businesses focused on police related concerns in 6th Precinct. Build the Block meetings are an excellent way for people interested in safety to get involved and hear directly from the local Neighborhood Coordination Officers about crime trends and. You can learn more about how to join the Build the Block meetings on the NYPD's website [here](#).

On September 16, at approximately 12:30 AM, a female park patron was the victim of an attempted sexual assault while sitting on a park bench near the LGBT Memorial. Fortunately, the victim was able to resist the attack and quickly escape. The perpetrator forcibly removed the victim's cell phone and fled the park east across West Street at Bethune Street. The victim ran to her home where she called 911. PEP and NYPD responded to the location of the crime and began investigating the crime scene. The victim was taken to a local hospital in stable condition. This crime is now being investigated by the Manhattan Special Victims Unit. We have been working closely with the NYPD and have already provided valuable video footage to support the investigation.

As previously reported, the Trust continues to work with our local precincts on joint bikeway operations with the NYPD and PEP. We were able to schedule two with the 6th Precinct this year, in January and June, and hope to engage other precincts for joint operations in the near future.

Real Estate and Planning

Pier 40 Marine Operator

At Pier 40, our new concessionaire, New York Water Tours, began operating as of May 1, 2024, and is getting acclimated to the park. The Trust's real estate department has been working closely with the concessionaire on signage to help direct customers to their destination. HRPT staff worked carefully on the selection process to proactively address many issues regarding noise and other concerns that have intermittently disturbed park neighbors in the past, although we continue to monitor carefully. Unfortunately, last week there was a report of conflict in the waterway involving one of the concessionaire's boats and rowers from Village Community Boathouse. While thankfully no one was injured, the Trust is taking this seriously and immediately started conversations with the concessionaire on how they can prevent similar safety errors from happening again. It is important that all boaters, and in particular those operating in closely shared waters like those of the Park, follow safe boating rules and operations.

Chelsea Piers

Last meeting we reported that Chelsea Piers had received initial regulatory approvals for the expanded public walkway on the south side of Pier 58. Since then, Chelsea Piers has made progress and has excavated and repaved the public walkway. Additionally, new concrete planter seating was installed, and existing benches were removed to create a better open path of travel and enhanced experience of the waterfront. Chelsea Piers is hoping to mobilize the in-water construction to expand the public walkway to the south of Pier 59 later this fall.

Pier 26 – City Vineyard

City Vineyard has had intermittent issues with the restaurant's drainage, caused by clogs in sink drainage, which has resulted in some intermittent gray water seepage into Downtown Boathouse's premises. HRPT Facilities staff and City Vineyard contractors have both engaged in investigations. City Vineyard recently had their contractor perform a significant clearing out of lines and performed a CCTV inspection. Meanwhile, City Vineyard has implemented preventative maintenance to avoid additional flooding incidents. We are continuing to work with them to identify the origin of the clogs and long-term solutions.

Battery Park City Resiliency Project

BPCA is hosting a hybrid public hearing on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM at Stuyvesant High School and virtually over Zoom. The hearing is part of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which starts on August 28, 2024, and ends on October 7, 2024. During this public hearing, BPCA will give a brief overview of the DEIS before allowing registered participants, in person and via livestream, to share up to two minutes of testimony about the DEIS. More information on how to participate is available from the Battery Park City Authority [here](#).

The Trust staff is currently reviewing the DEIS, including the potential impacts to Hudson River Park due to construction and operation within Reaches 1 and 2.