



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council
May 20, 2025**

**Join us for the W 29th to W 46th Street
Esplanade & Landscape Design Engagement Meeting**

On Wednesday, May 28 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at Hartley House 413 W 46 St. (between 9th & 10th Avenues), the Park will be hosting the next design engagement meeting, continuing to focus on the upland area from W 39 St. to W 44 St.

Based on feedback gathered at the first meeting, Marvel will be presenting ideas to give for a greener and more welcoming park. We hope members of the Advisory Council will join to provide their input and hear from their neighbors and community members.

Community is at the center of what we do, and we want your input as design continues!

Design and Construction

Pier 97

The entrance to Pier 97 is now substantially complete and open to the public. Minor punch list items and final planting installation are scheduled to be complete by the end of May. The building continues to make progress towards obtaining a certificate of occupancy from NYC Buildings with the only remaining work being final signoff on the fire alarm by FDNY. Finished pavement has been installed to the immediate east of the building. Pending NYDOT approval to commence the bidding process of the federal grant-funded connection to Riverside Park South, the Trust has separated bikes and pedestrians with temporary measures.

W29- W44th Street Design Meeting

Based on feedback obtained at the January 2025 community design meeting, Marvel has been developing some initial conceptual program concepts for the upland area between Pier 79 and Pier 84, and for the portions of Pier 84 slated for improvement. We are looking forward to sharing these conceptual alternatives with the community and receiving additional feedback on May 28th, followed by a Community Board 4 Waterfront, Parks, and Environment Committee meeting on June 12th.

The design team has also been developing ideas to improve pedestrian and other circulation at the upland area between the privately owned Pier 78 and the NYCDOT Ferry Terminal at Pier 79 for continued discussions with NYCDOT, NYCEDC, NY Waterway and Pier 78. Solutions for this zone will depend on coordination and cooperation among all parties, and we look forward to sharing more information and gathering public input on this area at a future meeting.

Turf Replacement - Piers 46 & 25

Thanks to funding from Council Member Erik Bottcher, the Trust recently replaced the synthetic turf field at Pier 46. The project also included repairs to the stone surrounding the field, bench replacement

and a new bottle filler. The Pier reopened to the public on May 9th. The Trust plans to replace the turf at Pier 25 this fall.

Pier 40

The Trust has been working with our Pier 40 Construction Manager, Hudson Meridian, to prepare a baseline logistics plan and construction schedule for critical projects to continue upgrading the fire suppression system and complete other structural repairs related to code requirements. Procurement of sub-contractors via competitive bidding from qualified firms is currently underway and we expect to have price proposals for significant scopes of work in hand over the next few weeks. Designs have been value-engineered to the extent possible to minimize costs, but federal tariffs and related supply chain issues may become challenges for these projects given the volume of steel involved in the sprinkler piping, and cement in the garage repairs. Performance of work over the full pier footprint will require balancing costs against disruptions to building occupants and users, including the Trust. Staff will be coordinating with other occupants as more information about the work phasing and duration becomes available.

Marine Construction – Pier 76

As previously reported, the Trust recently entered into parkwide contracts with Reicon Construction and Construction Manager Hunter Roberts for marine repairs over a multi-year period. The initial project will entail some work on some supporting structures at Pier 76 including cribbing along the shoreline to maintain public access. We expect to commence work during the Summer or early Fall. Despite the location of the work, we expect that the areas impacted at any one time to be limited and we will see only minor interruption to the use of the Pier.

W26th Street Maintenance Building

All fire damage restoration work has been completed, and the building is fully operational.

Pier 45 Shade Structures

All metal support structures have been repainted, all lights have been converted to LED fixtures, and the fabric for the western most structure has been installed. The fabric for the mid-pier and eastern structures is supplied by a different manufacturer and is scheduled to be delivered and installed by the end of the month.

Art Restoration

The Trust's conservator, EverGreene Architectural Arts, is scheduled to clean the LGBT Memorial later in May. They will also be training Trust maintenance staff in best practices for cleaning outdoor sculptures. EverGreene will also restore the Two Too Large Tables at 29th Street later this summer. Mural restoration in the Pier 40 lobby was previously completed.

Real Estate and Planning

Pier 40 Youth Baseball Facility Operator

This Spring, the Trust issued a Request for Proposals seeking experienced not-for-profit organizations to operate and maintain the Premises to conduct and promote affordable, year-round youth Baseball (and softball) programming at scale for children at all skill levels. By providing indoor space for baseball training, the Trust intends to continue to support safe, four-season youth baseball to occur in the Park for players at all skill levels, and at greater scale than if only exterior fields were offered for play. The Trust is currently reviewing proposals and expects to make a selection in the coming weeks.

Gansevoort and Chelsea Waterside Park Concessions RFP

The Trust has finalized the agreement with Mavik Enterprises, Inc d/b/a Hudson Plate, to operate the Gansevoort concession space. Mavik is a small family-owned business that operates a local restaurant in Tribeca that serves the community while also supplying food at two other kiosks located in Flat Iron and Astor Place. The concessionaire will start their buildout work in few weeks and anticipate it will be completed in July. During the move-in period, Hudson Plate will have a temporary outdoor setup serving basic snacks and beverages.

The Trust is continuing to work with a potential operator for the Chelsea Waterside Park kiosk, and we hope to have an update at the next meeting.

Other Westside Planning

There are a couple of planning initiatives by other agencies underway on the Westside that the Advisory Council may be interested in.

- 1) The New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) will be hosting the 3rd and final virtual public workshop for the Manhattan Cruise Terminal Mater Planning process on June 2nd (6-8 PM). [Please register using this link](#).
- 2) NYC EDC is issuing [Community Traffic Mitigation Plans](#) for the [Brooklyn Cruise Terminal](#) and [Manhattan Cruise Terminal](#) in accordance with Local Law 54 of 2024. EDC is opening a public comment period running from May 6th to June 1st, and is seeking public input via this [form](#). The plans outline proposed measures to improve traffic circulation, reduce private or for-hire vehicle usage and encourage the use of public transportation in neighborhoods where a cruise terminal is located.
- 3) NYS DOT will be hosting an [in-person public meeting on May 20](#) and a [remote version on June 3](#) for the Route 9A West Side Highway Safety and Mobility Enhancements Study. The study aims to enhance the safety of all roadway users along Route 9A (West Side Highway) from Battery Place to 59th Street in Manhattan. This meeting is a key opportunity for community members, stakeholders, and transportation professionals to come together to identify corridor needs and issues and to collaboratively develop goal statements that will guide the next steps of the study.

Public Safety

As was previously shared with the Advisory Council, on May 2, an individual operating a motor vehicle entered the Park at the Canal Street entrance where Port Authority personnel enter the park to access the Holland Tunnel Vent Shaft at Pier 34. The operator of the unauthorized vehicle drove north on the esplanade striking one park patron near Pier 34 before colliding and being stopped by a protective planter on the north side of Pier 34.

PEP officers responded and quickly disabled the vehicle, detained the operator and rendered first aid to the woman that was struck. The victim sustained a possible broken ankle but was otherwise stable and was removed to the hospital by EMS. The operator of the vehicle who appeared emotionally disturbed was arrested by NYPD and removed for psychological evaluation pending criminal charges.

The planter that the vehicle collided with was strategically placed in that location to prevent a vehicle from passing and performed as planned. Both NYS DOT and the Port Authority are aware of the incident and have been exploring additional protective measures that can be implemented in this area.

On April 20, a stolen vehicle attempted to enter the bikeway at the north side of Chelsea Piers 22nd St. The vehicle collided with the protective bollards on site and was stopped. The operator of the vehicle

was arrested by NYPD. There were no reported injuries.

On the night of April 23, a 20-year-old female park patron was attacked by a group of teenage girls attempting to rob her as she entered Pier 97. The victim fought back and with the assistance of a passing good Samaritan, was able to retrieve her property. The victim was not seriously injured. The perpetrators fled the park across West Street before the arrival of PEP officers. Valuable video footage of this incident was recorded and provided to the NYPD Midtown North Detective Squad.

We recently learned through online news that earlier in the afternoon on April 23, a separate and unrelated attempted robbery of a bicycle occurred on the bikeway at W 24th Street. A group of teenage boys travelling north on the bikeway cut off a southbound bicyclist and then attacked the rider trying to steal his bicycle. The perpetrators were unsuccessful in obtaining the bicycle and fled north on the bikeway. The attack was captured by HRPT cameras, and the footage was obtained by the NYPD through the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative directly.

We were also recently made aware of some disturbing encounters with emotionally disturbed persons involving DUSC youth and parents at the Pier 40 Courtyard and Chelsea Waterside Park public restrooms. While no crimes were committed and nobody was injured, the situations are concerning nonetheless. We have spoken with some of the staff from DUSC regarding how to respond to these incidents and some additional precautions that can be taken, including ensuring youth are accompanied by adults when accessing these facilities, and reducing delays in contacting PEP so they can respond in real time. PEP staff have been made aware of these incidents and directed to remain vigilant. We will continue to monitor these conditions and work collaboratively with our field user community to maintain safety in the Park.

Otherwise, as warm weather returns and we see a vast increase in Park users, we have begun to see a corresponding bump in minor incidents, including petty theft of unattended property. Overall, the Park remains a safe environment for users.

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives

Spring Program Round Up

As the weather starts to warm up, we've had another successful spring of environmental programs. NYC students from all five boroughs have joined us in the field for outdoor programs including Salt Marsh Science & Shoreline Ecology, which focus on unique spaces in the Park like the Gansevoort salt marsh and Pier 26 Tide Deck respectively. The spring season of field trip programs is always our most popular session of offerings, largely rooted to the DOE's support of outdoor field trips as a culminating experience for students at the end of the school year. Looking ahead, later this month our team will be opening the calendar for the summer field trips, which largely serve local summer camps and community organizations to provide additional enrichment opportunities for those groups. To learn more, or refer a group to our mailing list please feel free to reach out to education@hrpt.ny.gov

Launch of Science After Dark

Last month, we launched Science After Dark, a new series of programs aimed at engaging adult audiences in STEM. These events include a variety of ways for folks to connect with local science including lectures from experts, science-focused storytelling and hands-on workshops. This year-round series kicked off with Back 2 School, a series which serves as an inspiring peek into local science. During this interactive workshop, participants joined us to dive into something small in size but mighty in impact in the river: plankton. Our River Project team taught participants how to collect live plankton

samples from the river, and then observe and identify specimens under a microscope. We look forward to continuing this series with engaging monthly events, both in our Pier 57 Discovery Tank and the Pier 40 Wetlab. Next up, we have our first Ask a Scientist of the season on Thursday, June 26! To sign up for these events, visit hudsonriverpark.org/events

Fish Receiver Installation

Earlier this spring Our River Project team collaborated with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to install a fish receiver instrument at Pier 25. This acoustic receiver array supports a river-wide initiative to detect fishes that have been tagged with a unique acoustic identifier. As tagged fish species swim past the receiver, a tag number, date, and time (like EZ pass for fish) are recorded. The Park's site is helping to improve the southern range of this network to identify more tagged fishes entering as exiting the mouth of the Hudson River. This data will inform understanding of fish dynamics for a variety of Hudson River species including Atlantic sturgeon, striped bass, blueback herring, and American eel. Our NYSDEC partners will share findings for us to then communicate in our Pier 40 Wetlab and fish ecology focused programs.

Public Programs

Events Season

With the season officially underway, Hudson River Park is buzzing with energy and excitement! We launched our full spring/summer calendar in mid-April, and we're bringing you hundreds of free events all season long—featuring beloved returning programs and brand-new cultural activations that make the waterfront shine.

Will be kicking off in spectacular fashion with the SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival on May 16 and 17. Pier 84 transformed into a hands-on science playground, welcoming school groups, families, and curious minds of all ages for two days of educational activities and pure scientific fun.

This year we are hosting two cultural celebrations in June to celebrate with local communities. On Friday, June 20 at 6:30 PM, we commemorate Juneteenth at Pier 45, curated by the Ladies of Hip-Hop, with performances and participatory moments that celebrate the legacy of Black freedom and creative expression. Then, on Thursday, June 26 at 6:30 PM, The Bad Judies and Papi Juice bring their signature blend of art, music, and nightlife to Pier 46 for a Pride Celebration—part dance party, part love letter to queer joy and visibility. All are welcome.

Broadway by the Boardwalk returns to Clinton Cove on Monday evenings from July 7 through August 11. This summer's expanded six-show season will spotlight top-tier Broadway talent. We'll be announcing the full lineup soon—stay tuned to see who's performing!

Our ever-popular Healthy on the Hudson series is back in full force and kicked off on May 12th with Doctor Jordan Metz's IronStrength workout at Pier 25 – hundreds attended and had a great time enjoying his uniquely curated class that focused on fun, peak performance, and preventive health. All summer long, you, too, can get moving with free classes including Conditioning, HIIT, Dance Cardio, and more thanks to powerhouse partners like Chelsea Piers Fitness, Tone House and 305 Fitness.

Events & Permits

On the permitted events front, Hyrox is back at Pier 76 for another high-octane weekend of elite fitness competition, running Friday, May 30 through Sunday, June 1. The main event sold out in record time, with a waitlist packed full of eager athletes. To meet the demand and, give more fans a chance to join the action, Hyrox introduced a special Friday Night Lights session. Not only did it sell out instantly,

but a portion of the proceeds from this exclusive event will directly support Hudson River Park Friends, helping to keep the Park healthy, active and energized.

As always, the Park plays host to a wide variety of permitted events—from birthday parties and festivals to concerts and community celebrations. Our permitting team works diligently to ensure every event is safe, smooth, and enjoyable for both permittees and everyday parkgoers. To learn more about permits, please visit hudsonriverpark.org/permits.

Run Clubs

We are proud that Hudson River Park is an incredibly popular place to run – and as a result we are seeing an explosion of organized running groups using the Park. A large number of these groups are put together by influencers, and have corporate sponsorship, or are hosted directly by businesses or nonprofits. Large running groups, particularly at peak hours on the esplanade, can cause safety concerns due to crowding, and can disrupt other Park uses and users. This Spring & Summer we are trialing a new permit specifically tailored for organized running groups, with the goal of safely hosting running groups and ensuring that they are not disrupting other Park uses. We hope to work with the running groups to encourage running etiquette – no more than two abreast, launching in limited waves among others – that we hope will allow for people to both enjoy running as a group in the Park and still maintain the esplanade as a safe, calm, and relaxing place to enjoy the waterfront for other patrons.

Field Permits

The Park’s athletic fields continue to be a hot ticket—our spring season saw sky-high demand, logging over 7,192 hours of play across 63 active leagues. From soccer to baseball, rugby to flag football, thousands of New Yorkers hit the turf each season, making our fields one of the most heavily used recreational resources in the city. Summer permits are now in progress, with the season launching June 16. That same day, we open applications for the fall season, due by June 30. By syncing our schedule with NYC Parks, we’re making the process smoother and more predictable for players and organizers alike—supporting active recreation and community connection along the waterfront.

Horticulture

Planting

The Horticulture team has supported several corporate volunteer events and three Green Team events since April 1. This time of year is busy as we prepare for another beautiful and green season in the Park. In April, the team planted 1322 annuals, 1448 perennials, 361 shrubs and 20 trees throughout the Park.

Lawn Care & Maintenance

Pier 63 Lawn Bowl was closed for the season to allow for the turf to rest and rejuvenate and reopened to the public on May 1. 14th Street Park also was closed for the season and has mostly reopened. There are small sections of lawns throughout the Park that are still closed while new grass establishes itself. It is important that lawns begin the season strong and the grass fully takes. Lawn sections that fail midseason are much harder to reestablish and can result in mud/dirt spots later in the year and through the Winter.

Operations & Maintenance

Graffiti & Vandalism

We have seen a meaningful decrease in graffiti this Spring. In 2024, between January 1 and mid-May the Maintenance team spent 247 hours cleaning graffiti; this year the same period has been 88 hours.

We are hopeful that our quick response times continue to discourage people from tagging Park facilities.

However, we are seeing an increase in vandalism in restrooms – intentionally clogged toilets, damaged sinks and soap dispensers, in-restroom tagging and the like. The Maintenance team and PEP are working together to identify ways to discourage and respond to bathroom vandalism.

Christopher Street Planting Bed

State DOT has completed the security upgrades to the Christopher Street area by replacing the pavement buffer with a raised plant bed and the concrete blocks with steel bollards. The Horticulture team is currently planning the planting scheme and will be filling in this new bed in the coming months.

DEP Outfall Cleaning

After reports last year of a strong sewage odor around the W 26th Street area of the park, NYC DEP completed several deep cleanings of the nearby sewage outfall over a two-week period this Spring. We are hopeful it addresses the concern and are continuing to monitor the issue.

Barrier 1 Gates

The Operations Team worked with Barrier 1 to evaluate and perform routine maintenance of all Parkwide security gates that provide access past the bollards for operations and maintenance. Two damaged arms for the gates at Pier 84 and W 13 Street are expected to arrive by end of May.

Pride Planning

Hudson River Park has long been a place of gathering on Pride Sunday, this year June 29. Every year, the Park hosts thousands of people who come together to celebrate Pride, particularly along the Park's West Village esplanades, and at Piers 45 and 46. The Operations team has begun preparation, and we again anticipate nearly 10,000 visitors.

We recognize the importance of this day for the LGBTQ+ community and we strive to ensure all our guests have a safe and enjoyable day. Special amenities provided by the Park to support this annual large gathering in Greenwich Village will include porta-sans, water fountains, additional safety lighting and private EMS support. PEP provides extensive support, and our Operations team works through the night to reopen the Park in good condition Monday morning.

Facilities

Pier 66 Boathouse Gangway

The Trust has engaged a contractor to repair the gangway at Pier 66 boathouse that has come partially detached from the pier structure. Repairs should be complete in the next two months barring any unforeseen issues. The Trust is coordinating closely with Hudson River Community Sailing to minimize any disruption to their operations.

Park Water

Drinking fountains are all on, although some were damaged over Winter and are awaiting parts so they can be repaired. All ground hydrants and dog run hoses are on. The display fountains at Christopher Street and Pier 84 will be on Mid-May. And dog parks and playground water splash features will turn on by Memorial Day Weekend.

Pier 83 Sinkhole

In Late April, the Trust made an emergency repair to a broken water main that serves Pier 83. The water main break caused a large sinkhole in the esplanade on the northern frontage of Pier 83. The Trust worked to minimize disruption to Park patrons and Circle Line and we established a pedestrian detour while the repair was effectuated. The area has been restored and returned to normal operations.

CWP Dog Park Handles

We have had numerous complaints about issues with the gates and closing hardware for the Chelsea Waterside Park Dog Park, and we recognize the ongoing issues with the handles. The Facilities Department continues to repair and monitor the situation and is working to figure out a better permanent repair solution that works with the gates.

Eyes in the Park

As the Park fills with people, we want to remind our Advisory Council that we can use your eyes in the Park! Far from being a bother, it is instead very helpful when the public calls or emails issues in so that we can respond to emerging issues faster. Do not assume we have seen something and wait for it to linger before reporting it.

If you see a condition that doesn't look right or seems like it should be addressed, please call the Operations Desk 24/7 212-647-6427 for urgent issues or email info@hrpt.ny.gov for things that may not be as time-sensitive. We're here to help!