



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council  
November 19, 2025**

**Staff Appreciation:** On October 7 a jogger collapsed near Little Island. Hudson River Park Trust Horticulture Technician David Loewenguth who was working nearby ran over and immediately began CPR using training he has received as an HRPT employee. Passersby called 911 and ran to summon FDNY Marine 1 members, who were able to takeover treatment until EMS was able to arrive to transport him to Bellevue. Due to the efforts of David and members of FDNY, the man survived and has returned to his family. The Trust is incredibly grateful to and proud of David for his life-saving efforts in service of a member of the public.

**Design and Construction**

*Capital Funding*

The Trust is pleased to be able to share that we have received notice of two capital grants to support our work.

Assembly Member Deborah Glick was able to secure \$1 million in funds for the future Estuarium through the Department of Environmental Conservation. This new funding continues to help close the funding gap as we advance closer to a final design for this building that will celebrate our Estuarine Sanctuary, advance environmental education, and support our scientific research goals.

State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal has directed \$100,000 in capital funding to support the rehabilitation of the Pier 51 Playground. Renovating a heavily-used and beloved playground in its twenty-second year of service, this project will replace play equipment and a play surface that have reached the ends of their useful life.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of these and all of our elected officials who consistently support the park financially, advocacy and legislative efforts.

*Estuarium*

Following the most recent community presentation in September, the team recently completed design development drawings, which represents about 50% design completion. Both the construction manager and design team are currently preparing estimates based on these drawings, and the impacts of tariffs and inflation are both potential concerns as we continue to strive to complete this important project. The Trust has also engaged a local expert in aquarium mechanicals and life support systems to assist in reviewing the design from an operational point of view. The Trust is currently reviewing the drawings in detail and will be providing comments to the design team as they move forward with the project.

### *Pier 97*

All inspections for the building have been completed for some time, and we continue to wait for the Department of Buildings to issue the certificate of occupancy so the building may be opened to the public. See below for more information on last week's fire in one of the portolets temporarily serving this area.

### *W29- W44th Street Design*

Based on input received from Community Board 4 and the NYC Public Design Commission on concept design, Marvel has been advancing schematic design for the section of the project north of Pier 79 inclusive of targeted sections of Pier 84. The design team has also recently received general concurrence from NYCDOT on modest conceptual improvements primarily focused on improving safety and the public realm setting for the Pier 79 frontage, with the next discussions occurring directly with NY Waterway and CDOT. Following this meeting, the design team will also present these potential improvements to the Pier 78 private owner, which owns not just the pier but also the upland area connecting to the bikeway, across which many pedestrians and all vehicles associated with the ferry terminal must traverse. Solutions for this zone will depend on coordination among all parties, and we look forward to sharing more information and gathering public input for this area at a future meeting.

### *Pier 40*

The first work towards upgrading the building's fire suppression and alarm systems started in October at the Southwest corner of the first floor. Work to address spalling concrete and similar minor structural issues throughout the building will begin next week in the same area. To minimize the impact to HRPT operations, the parking garage and tenants, the work has been broken into approximately twenty regions that will be phased over a period of two years. As we have previously noted, virtually every corner of this very large building will be affected at some point during this period, and the Trust will continue to work closely with contractors, garage customers, permittees, ballfield users, and ourselves as we try to coordinate efficiently and with an eye towards minimizing disturbances as feasible.

### *Pier 40 Rooftop Field #1*

In much-anticipated news, the Trust will be replacing the Rooftop Field #1 turf in the Spring season. The turf is more than showing its age, and we know it will come as a relief to many of our players, despite the needed disruption to field permitting and use. We will also be addressing the surface between Rooftop Field #1 and Rooftop Field #2 as part of this project.

Much like previous turf replacements that have taken place in the last few years, we will not be permitting the field until construction is complete. Rooftop Field #1 is a particularly complicated location, with the Trust needing to do structural repairs and waterproofing below the playing surface before the field can be installed. We are doing exploratory work as feasible in advance of the closure to prepare, but we will not know the true condition, nor the extent of necessary structural work, until the existing playing surface is removed. Additionally, much of the work is weather and temperature sensitive, and therefore cannot occur over the winter when we know the fields are less busy. Should the work conclude with time left in the Spring season we will let

leagues know. We expect that the turf will be ready for the Summer 2026 season, but we cannot guarantee an approximate date yet for these reasons.

Our permit coordinators are exploring the availability of alternative field locations and times for the permittees who will be affected by this field closure and we will do our best to accommodate as many leagues as possible, as we have successfully done in the past.

#### *Pier 25*

The initial contractor that the Trust expected to perform the turf replacement at Pier 25 is no longer able to complete the project. We have been working with alternative contractors and are now reevaluating the schedule to ensure the temperature sensitive project is able to be fully completed outside of the Winter weather.

#### **Public Safety**

While crime reports in the park have remained similar to the same time period of 2024, there have been some notable incidents that have taken place since our last meeting.

#### *Pier 40 Emotionally Disturbed Person*

First, on October 8, there was a disturbing incident between an emotionally disturbed man and a child soccer player at the Pier 40 field. About 7:33 pm that night, a group of children were kicking a soccer ball against the wall next to the bleachers on the walkway. An emotionally disturbed man walking past was apparently triggered when one of the children came too close to him with the ball. The person then grabbed the child by the arm and threatened him while the boy tried to break free. The emotionally disturbed man let go of the child when parents in immediate proximity interceded. Witnesses called 911 at 7:35pm and the Operations Desk at 7:41 pm. Both PEP and NYPD arrived on the scene within minutes and at 7:44pm the perpetrator was arrested in the Men's Room at Pier 40. The perpetrator is not a person who was previously known to PEP officers. The incident was captured by our camera system and footage was provided to the NYPD and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

We consulted with NYPD 6 Precinct regarding this incident and requested any uniform presence they can provide at Pier 40 during our busy times. They agreed to provide additional uniform patrols at the sports fields at Pier 40 and at Gansevoort for the next few weeks while they evaluate conditions at the locations. We have directed PEP to provide increased patrols of the sports fields at Pier 40, Gansevoort and Chelsea Waterside Park. Additionally, we have assigned an additional PEP foot post to Pier 40 for the evening shift and added additional signage to key ballfield areas. We have also followed up with our field permittees on safety best practices and steps they can take to protect themselves, and have communicated our openness to working with the youth leagues on additional ideas they might have within the context of public open space.

#### *Other Notable Incidents*

On September 11, at about 1:15 pm, a woman walking with a baby in a stroller was attacked and robbed as she was walking on the esplanade at Pier 45. The perpetrator, an emotionally

disturbed person who was also walking in the park, suddenly charged the unsuspecting woman, tackling her to the ground and stealing her cell phone. A good Samaritan intervened and retrieved the victim's phone. Passing PEP officers were informed of the incident and apprehended the perpetrator at Christopher St fountain. NYPD subsequently responded and processed the arrest. The incident was captured by our camera system and the video footage was provided to the NYPD and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

In the late afternoon of September 21, PEP was requested by Little Island staff to respond to an incident of a park patron who reported he was being harassed and followed by a man unknown to him for several blocks beginning outside of the park. When a Little Island staffer attempted to assist the park patron and lead the individual to a sheltered location, the perpetrator physically attacked the staff member. The emotionally disturbed perpetrator left the scene shortly before the arrival of PEP. The staff member was taken to the hospital by EMS for treatment of injuries. This incident was reported to the responding NYPD personnel.

On the afternoon of September 29th, a woman reported to the NYPD, that she had been groped by a male as she walked north on the esplanade at the Gansevoort Peninsula. After being notified by NYPD and then reviewing all available video footage, HRPT observed a perpetrator walking north on the esplanade from the Apple Garden to Pier 64 that day, touching or attempting to touch multiple women. At least three of these incidents meet the definition of a criminal action. Based on other complaints of groping that NYPD received from women that afternoon, NYPD 's 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct was able to arrest an emotionally disturbed male at Pier 64 on the day of the incidents. These incidents were captured by our camera system and HRPT provided the video footage to the NYPD 6th Precinct, 10th Precinct, and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

On the evening of Monday October 13th, multiple inflatable dinghies belonging to Pier 40 Mooring Field customers and stored on the floating dock were intentionally damaged by an apparently emotionally disturbed person. Over a period of 14 minutes, the perpetrator pulled equipment from the dinghies and threw it in the water, jumped on and off the boats and burnt the dinghies and pad locks with a lighter. The perpetrator fled on bicycle without removing any property. This incident was reported to the NYPD.

#### *Pier 96 Portolet Fire*

On November 11, the portolet located at Pier 96 was set on fire and destroyed. A review of available video footage reveals that there was a person inside the portolet who apparently started the fire while he remained inside the unit, possibly trying to stay dry. Smoke can be seen coming out of the portolet vent stack while he remained inside. Shortly after he exits the portolet, it becomes engulfed in flames and was completely destroyed. FDNY responded to a call and extinguished it. Managing public restrooms and their attractiveness as shelters for some people has remained a challenge throughout the year and we know that with colder temperatures, this will continue to be the case.

### *6<sup>th</sup> Precinct Update*

On September 29th, Chris McGann, who leads public safety for the Trust, attended the 6th Precinct Community Council Meeting which welcomed the new Commanding Officer, Captain Nicholas Minor. At that meeting, it was shared that following the conclusion of a long-term joint federal/NYPD narcotics investigation in Washington Square Park, the NYPD was devoting a significant amount of police personnel from throughout the City to patrol the park and surrounding area. The intent of this surge of personnel is to keep the park and surrounding area safe and not allow a new crew of drug dealers to replace the ones that were arrested as a result of the joint investigation. Based on our experiences, HRPT considers it likely that this surge of personnel at Washington Square will result in the displacement of criminals to other nearby areas. It will also likely result in homeless persons who frequent Washinton Square being displaced to other locations. HRPT PEP personnel are aware of these changes at Washington Square Park and are closely monitoring Hudson River Park for any major changes or impacts.

While we have seen some improvement, the petty thefts around the Park's athletic fields continue to be a matter of concern. Despite our warnings and efforts to share safety information, people continuously leave valuables unattended at the fields. Please help us keep Hudson River Park safe by securing your valuables and reporting suspicious persons to the Operations Desk. If we make it harder for people to steal things by keeping a close eye on valuables, people who come here to steal won't have cause to linger.

### *Federal Immigration Enforcement – New York State Resources*

With growing incidents of immigration enforcement by federal officials across the country, New York State has worked with the New York Immigration Coalition and the Hispanic Federation to help share information about individual rights and guidance on what to do if you are confronted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). More information, including sharable resources such as flyers and other training information, can be found [here](#). Please use your networks to share it. The Trust will be looking for additional ways to share this information with the broader Park community, including with our field users too.

We are also sharing that the New York State Attorney General Letitia James has launched the [Federal Action Reporting Form](#) as a tool for New Yorkers to share information about federal government actions in the state, such as law enforcement operations or potential violations of law. The form allows you to submit details, photos, and videos, though it notes that filing a complaint does not guarantee legal representation or start a lawsuit on your behalf.

### **Real Estate & Planning**

#### *Blue Highways & Pier 79 Ferry Terminal*

On October 31, the NYC Department of Transportation (CDOT) and NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) jointly released a [Blue Highways Action Plan](#) that includes a pilot freight program for Pier 79, in addition to Pier 11 and the Downtown Heliport. Pier 79 is within the Park but pursuant to the Trust's lease of city-owned park areas with NYC per the Act, HRPT recognizes the jurisdiction of CDOT to operate the pier as one of the City's official ferry

terminals. CDOT in turn leases Pier 79 to NY Waterway, and EDC also has a role at the pier as CDOT's lease administrator for certain business matters. As part of the Trust's planning for the park area between West 29<sup>th</sup> to West 44<sup>th</sup> Streets, the Trust has been studying this area with its design team. The area is currently chaotic, with pedestrians, buses, taxis, private hire cars, bicycles, Port Authority security vehicles, and more jockeying for space in a very limited area – much of it on the private property of Pier 78.

The Blue Highways Action Plan calls for scaling up to “5,000–7,000 parcels” (*parcels*, not necessarily trips) per day departing from Pier 79 on what appear to be e-cargo bicycles. When the current conditions at the Pier 79/Pier 78 frontage are viewed in context, including the inboard street grid affected by the Javits Convention Center, and the already extremely crowded Route 9A bikeway, it is not clear to HRPT how and where all of those e-cargo bicycles would safely be staged or travel without exacerbating safety and circulation concerns in this area absent elimination of other vehicles on the frontage road and a clear inland circulation and transportation plan.

The Trust has written to CDOT & EDC to seek more information, and as noted above, continues its planning efforts in this area. EDC is also expected to present on the plan at CB4 Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee on November 13.

#### *Manhattan Cruise Terminal*

As previously reported, EDC is currently exploring complete reconstruction of the Manhattan Cruise Terminal. EDC is expected to present at CB4's Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee on Thursday October 9 which can be viewed [here](#), and plans to provide more information to the public shortly. Reconstructing the Manhattan Cruise Terminal to meet modern community and environmental goals, while serving the needs of contemporary cruise ships, is going to be an enormous project, with multiple steps along the way. HRPT has notified EDC that we are eager to provide our expertise and experiences with certain aspects of the planning that relate to things in our realm – for example, plans that affect the 9A bikeway and pedestrian pathway. We look forward to learning more and working with EDC as its planning process continues.

#### *Gateway*

The Gateway Development Corporation has begun work in the Park. Besides the current activities within a portion of the heliport premises, park patrons will begin to see alterations in the area around W 29<sup>th</sup> Street, including the temporary removal of the *Two Too Large Tables* public sculpture to accommodate additional work area needed for Gateway. In-water construction of the temporary marine platform has begun too. The Trust continues to work with Gateway on detour signage, in preparation for the eventual shifting of the Bikeway & Esplanade that was presented at the AC's last meeting. To stay up to date on the latest developments, you can sign up for Gateway's regular construction notices [here](#).

#### *Battery Park City Authority's Northwest Resiliency Project*

The Battery Park City Authority has continued to refine its plans for the portion of the project

that intersects with Hudson River Park. Major work in this area will begin next year to provide for more time to engage on topics like the mooring field and the existing Memorial Plaque for the American victims of the October 31, 2017 Terrorist Attack, but some smaller activities requiring use of some Hudson River Park property such as relocating Verizon conduit will likely occur starting in November based on BPCA's requests. This work will cause disruption to the southernmost panel of the Park but we do not believe the esplanade or bikeway would be meaningfully impacted based on our current knowledge of their plans. As plans develop, we will encourage BPCA to return to the AC for an update.

### **Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives**

#### *Annual Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan Update to HRPT Board*

At the Trust's Board meeting on September 29, 2025, River Project leadership provided an annual update on the Park's Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan (ESMP). This management document and its accompanying Action Agenda identify needs and objectives in the areas of public access and resource management, environmental education, and research and habitat enhancement. During the HRPT Board meeting, staff highlighted progress in those three management areas including the success of our Science After Dark adult program series, impact of our STEM career pathway programs, growth of the Park's direct research portfolio, and learnings from implementing less invasive sampling methods to track habitat enhancement projects. Looking ahead, this upcoming January we will host the annual Science Technical Advisory Committee meeting which engages local research and restoration experts, followed by the annual meeting of the ESMP's full Technical Advisory Committee in February to discuss progress in all management areas and identify and discuss areas of focus for the coming year.

#### *Release of the Fishes & End of Wetlab Season*

Another wonderful Wetlab season came to an end with our annual Release of the Fishes celebration. This year, we were joined by 450 community members who helped us release over 100 fish and countless other critters back into the Hudson River in preparation for the winter season. New this year, the event featured our first fish slide – which was an exciting way to safely release fish and other critters back into our local waterways. We were also able to debut this new release method during a feature story live on NY1 with Roger Clark which you can [view here](#). We also love welcoming Cathy Drew – the founder of the River Project – back to Hudson River Park for this event every year.

As always, Release of the Fishes is also an important space to highlight the work of the Trust's Visiting Scholars. We were joined by two CUNY researchers: Dr. Ana Gonzalez-Nayeck of Baruch College and Dr. Yun of Laguardia Community College who both supported the event with hands-on demonstrations connected to their ongoing research happening in the Park. This year's event also featured presentations from the Trust's Junior Docents – a group of high school students that have been gaining experience and confidence in science by science by conducting research, learning science communication skills and sharing their work publicly in our Discovery Tank and at the Release of the Fishes. And lastly, we once again concluded the evening by sharing findings from the Community Water Quality Testing Program as a close to the 2025 pathogen testing program season in collaboration with Billion Oyster Project.

### *Winter Field Trips & Public Education Programs*

Last week, we opened bookings for our fall field trip season, which features a range of hands-on STEM lessons in our Pier 57 Discovery Tank classroom. These programs for kindergarten through college-aged students focus on climate change, plankton microscopy, local ecology and environmental justice. We're also continuing to offer a full fee waiver for Title I schools and keep these programs accessible for all NYC students. There's still space to sign up, please feel free to share with your networks or visit [hudsonriverpark.org/fieldtrips](http://hudsonriverpark.org/fieldtrips)

### **Public Programs**

#### *Events*

Autumn in Hudson River Park saw the continuation of fantastic historic programs and the inclusion of new series!

Fitness continued through the end of September, keeping folks of all skill levels motivated and moving in their West Side Backyard. Park lovers also kept moving with Sunset Salsa, back at Pier 45 for a more intimate fall season, and Bollywood and Bhangra Saturday morning classes on the new turf at Pier 46.

The Trust brought new neighbors to Chelsea Waterside Park and Hudson River Park's Pier 84 with the return of our popular community celebrations! In partnership with local community partners, Chelsea Waterside Park Association, Friends of Pier 84 and West 44th Better Block Association, we highlighted the Park in each location, bringing together dog owners, music lovers and bubble enthusiasts (kids!) for each event. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate with the local community.

Pier 84 also played host to KEIGWIN + COMPANY's Sundown Dances, welcoming community members in to collaborate in an open to all dance party, with multiple rehearsals, culminating in an event of movement, music and community. It was joyous to watch so many people – mostly non-professional dancers-- interacting with the fountain and each other during the original dance performances.

#### *Seneca Chief Visit*

In October, the Park welcomed the Erie Canal Boat *Seneca Chief* for its final stop on its Bicentennial voyage, with the the 73-foot replica of the original boat undertaking a 500-mile voyage in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal. The event included Governor Hochul leading a celebratory "wedding of the waters" ceremony with water collected at each of its 28 stops, and a tree planting with a member of the Haudenosaunee nation. The public was then welcomed to tour the boat and learn more about its history. The Trust was proud to be able to support the Buffalo Maritime Museum and the NYS Canal Corp for this exciting event which put a welcome spotlight on maritime history and its importance to New York and New York City. We thank the members of the Advisory Council who joined us for the celebration.

### *Pumpkin Smash*

Our season ended with a Smash! Our annual composting event, Pumpkin Smash, returned with an expanded compost education station, worm and pumpkin pipe cleaner crafts and over 2,000 pounds of pumpkins saved from the landfill. Attendees explored the hay bale maze, made memories under the Toadfish Arch and smashed, smithereened and split their good-natured gourds into a second purpose as compost, keeping the Park green and growing.

### *Fall Permitting*

Fall is a busy season for Run & Walk events in Hudson River Park. The Trust worked with a wide range of permittees host a number of events throughout the four miles. Notably, this year we were excited to be able to host EeeeeeeatsCon on Pier 76, a food festival by The Infatuation. With Gateway Construction next year, we are beginning the process of working with Run & Walk permittees on possible relocations or rerouting.

### *Sports Fields*

The Trust is currently completing Winter Season permits for our sports fields. With the coming closure for the reconstruction of Rooftop Field #1, the permitting team will be working with our Spring leagues to limit disruption to the season as much as possible. Much as we have during other renovations, we will issue additional permits if construction is completed before the Spring season ends. Spring applications open December 1. Learn more at [hudsonriverpark.org/fields](http://hudsonriverpark.org/fields).

## **Operations**

### *Parkwide/Bikeway Light Audit*

The Operations team conducted the biannual parkwide and bikeway light audit in October, with HRPT staff arriving hours before dawn to travel the entire length of the park and bikeway to document outages for ourselves and CDOT, which is responsible for lights on Route 9A and the bikeway. Within the Park, lighting concerns totaled (54) and were a combination of lights that needed repairs/replacements, landscape trimmings around working light fixtures, and Maintenance requests for debris clean up on/around lighting fixtures. We are actively working on these repairs.

Bikeway lighting outages totaled (175) and were communicated to CDOT for action. Major sections with light outages to note:

- Canal St. to Houston St.
- Houston St. to Bethune St.
- 17th St. – 22nd St.
- Chelsea Piers service road

### *Parkwide Security Lift Gate Maintenance*

Barrier 1 was on site in November and conducted maintenance on (8) of the Parkwide security lift gates to ensure all lift gates are performing to standards. These gates are vital to ensuring the integrity of the Esplanade while allowing vehicular access when needed.

## **Facilities**

### *Winter Dewatering*

All the Parks display fountains and water features have been turned off as of October 31st, and with the drinking fountains remaining on until November 14th. Winterization of these fixtures starting November 17th, we will be starting at Pier 97 and continue our way South, finishing at Pier 25.

### *Marine Repairs*

The team repaired some sections of the Pier 26 Science Dock in preparation for the *Seneca Chief*, including new boards in places, repainting and replacing the rub rail. As of October 31st Pier 40 Mooring Field is closed for the season, all boats are gone. The Trust completed repair work for the East and West docks at Pier 25 has been completed, and we are now in the process of scheduling to have the pavers restored.

## **Horticulture**

Hort staff has been busy doing a lot of fall planting, including the new bed by the Christopher Street Fountain installed by SDOT. This fall we have planted:

- 11,000 bulbs parkwide
- 3300 perennials and grasses
- 411 Shrubs
- 10 trees

We have received three generous donations for plants, including from Shorewalkers, Greenacre foundation and GreeneryNYC, which donated 450 perennials and shrubs donated and 25 small trees from their climate week display. Hudson River Park also benefited from the Hudson River Park Friends gala beyond financial contributions as the beautiful plants used to decorate the gala room were donated to us and then planted throughout the park. Upcoming, the team will be dewatering the many miles and miles of irrigation lines for the Winter.