



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council  
February 9, 2026**

**Design and Construction**

*Capital Funding*

The Trust is pleased to be able to share that through Congressman Jerrold Nadler, we have just received two new Congressional appropriations in the most recent round of federal funding. The first is through NOAA for \$1,031,000 to be directed towards a new habitat enhancement project north of 14<sup>th</sup> Street. This appropriation builds on a prior year appropriation of \$963,000, for which we have already begun engaging with our ESMP TAC on planning. The second is for \$850,000 directed for public bathroom rehabilitation through HUD which is exciting because City and State capital monies are typically not eligible for such projects. We are incredibly grateful to Congressman Nadler and his staff for their efforts supporting the Park and the many millions of dollars of federal monies they have secured for the public.

*Estuarium*

Both the design team and construction manager have prepared independent estimates for the work based on the design development drawings and the project has now advanced to the technical construction documents phase. Among other things, the team continues to monitor the impacts of tariffs and commodity prices as they develop the details of the design; prices continue to increase and there is still a funding gap for this project so the design team is working hard to seek efficiencies in the design while maintaining the vision for the facility and continuing to collaborate closely with the River Project team on all matters. The designers are also working to advance plans for the water-intake system, maintaining the flow-through model of the current Wetlab. This aspect of the project is critical, but is challenging, because of eventual permitting requirements as well as installing the needed infrastructure within an already-complete portion of the park.

*Pier 51 Playground*

The Trust has awarded a contract to PMY Construction to replace the outdated play equipment at the Pier 51 playground. The existing playground layout—including the water play features and river run—will remain unchanged. The new equipment, manufactured by the same company that produced the play structures at Pier 25, will offer a similar play experience for children of all abilities. Construction is expected to take place from April through June of this year. We thank former Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal – now of course our Manhattan Borough President – for his efforts to secure \$100,000 of state funding for this project prior while he was still our State Senator.

*Pier 97*

The building has received its Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (a precursor to the Final Certificate of Occupancy) from the NYC Department of Buildings. Trust operations staff have

begun moving into the facility, which will serve as a maintenance hub for the northern end of the Park. The public restrooms are expected to open to the public as soon as our Facilities team can catch a break with freezing pipes in facilities throughout the Park as well as ensuring that a few final punch list items are complete. Our Real Estate team has begun the process of exploring possible concession operator models.

#### *W29- W44th Street Design*

Marvel continues to advance schematic design for the section of the project north of Pier 79 inclusive of targeted sections of Pier 84. Additionally, following concurrence from NYCDOT, the design team is also advancing design for the Pier 79 frontage, focusing on improving safety and the public realm setting. These improvements have subsequently been discussed with NY Waterway, which has provided helpful info on operational needs and is further guiding design. The design team has also presented 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. The Trust obviously cannot alter private property without consent, so we are pleased that we have been able to engage in discussions to date, but conversations will continue.

#### *Pier 40*

The first zones of fire sprinklers and structural repairs located in the southwest ground floor corner of the building have been completed, and the areas are being returned to parking and storage uses as the contractors move on to the next zones. Work is substantially on-schedule and on-budget and will hopefully continue smoothly for approximately the next two years. All progress is being regularly coordinated with garage customers, permittees, ballfield users, and Trust operations to minimize disturbances and keep things moving efficiently. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of our tenants and the efforts they have had to make with respect to their own spaces and programming to accommodate this essential work. This project will eventually touch every space at Pier 40, and we are working hard to accommodate the many differing uses and users while minimizing disruption as best we can.

In addition to those primary projects, our contractors, engineers, and construction managers are developing plans for the replacement of Rooftop Field #1, upgrading courtyard sports lighting, and removal of obsolete materials and equipment from the building.

#### *Pier 40 Rooftop Field #1*

Replacement is tentatively scheduled to begin after April 1st and be complete before June 15th, during which time no permits have been given for use of the field. The existing turf will be removed, exposing the waterproofing and the concrete roof slab beneath. Any damage to the concrete will be repaired and a new waterproof layer will be installed to protect the office below before new turf will be installed. The area immediately to the west with bleachers and open space will also be repaired with new waterproofing and lightweight pavement. The Trust will use our Pier 40 contractor to perform this work so it can be more easily coordinated with other work going on throughout the building.

### *Pier 25*

Good news: the Pier 25 Turf was able to be replaced in January, before the most recent winter weather and in time for some of the Spring permittees who will be displaced by Rooftop Field #1's replacement. The contractor will have to come back in warmer weather for touch ups around the edges. The permitting team will be working with events that have previously been permitted on the field to shift either their location or operations to better maintain the longevity of the turf.

### **Public Safety**

We are happy to report that in our year-end public safety review for calendar year 2025 in Hudson River Park, we saw an overall decrease in the number of criminal incidents including robberies, burglaries, larcenies, sexual assaults, criminal mischief, and menacing. However, there was a small increase of three additional misdemeanor assaults as compared to calendar year 2024.

As reported at the last AC meeting; in early October, the NYPD concluded a long-term joint narcotics investigation centered on Washington Square Park and implemented measures to improve safety in the park and ensure that the narcotic sales did not return. These measures included a substantial increase in uniformed foot patrols in Washington Square Park and the surrounding area. We remain in regular communication with the 6th Precinct and continue to closely monitor Hudson River Park for any displacement impact that may occur as a result. As of the time of this report, we have not observed any such displacement impact.

### *Freezing Temperatures Code Blue*

During periods of severe weather and particularly during the winter months, unhoused persons that frequent Hudson River Park and use our facilities are more vulnerable to exposure to the elements. During these periods, PEP implements the Citywide policy called Code Red (extreme heat) and Code Blue (freezing temperatures). More specifically, between November 15th and March 15th, when the temperatures drop below 32 degrees or during inclement winter conditions (i.e. strong winds, forecasted precipitation for more than two hours, extended periods of cold, sudden cold after a warm period), known locations where unhoused persons frequent are visited during each tour by PEP officers and those present are checked for wellness including, hypothermia, frost-bite, and/or any other cold-stress related issues. These wellness checks can result in people accepting medical assistance, other services, referrals, moving to safer locations, and/or moving off park property when the park is closed to the public. During calendar year 2025, PEP conducted 1769 Code Blue/Red visits. During January 2026 PEP conducted 438 such visits. PEP has also collaborated with DHS, Breaking Ground, and Goddard Riverside, to make individual referrals and conduct multiple outreach operations in Hudson River Park during 2025.

### **Real Estate & Planning**

#### *DeWitt Clinton North ULURP*

At the March 2025 meeting of the Advisory Council, the Trust shared a presentation related to the prospect of two potential future development rights transfer opportunities in the Hell's

Kitchen area at 629 W. 54th Street and 891 Eleventh Avenue that were under discussion including between the property owners and the Department of City Planning. In December, City Planning certified the ULURP applications, and the ULURP process began officially.

The Trust attended the recent January 14 meeting of Manhattan Community Board 4's (CB4) Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee and responded to various questions about the project as relates to the Trust. While Community Board 4 has other questions and concerns about the proposals that are still under discussion, the Trust's focus with both the property owners and CB4 relates specifically to the aspects of the proposals related to future transfers.

As has been discussed, the ULURP applicants and owners of the proposed receiving sites have indicated that they cannot commit at this time to closing dates for the contemplated purchases of development rights. For this reason, the Trust has worked with the developers to establish a process that protects the Trust's financial interests while ensuring meaningful community input on the use of any sales proceeds. This process is consistent with the Hudson River Park Act and the requirements of the Special Hudson River Park District. The attached letter from HRPT to Community Board 4 documents this process and the protections and commitments made and secured to date, including but not limited to commitments that the Trust has made to the community regarding eventual use of any proceeds if the transfers are ultimately approved. The Trust believes that while the timing is unknown, this is nevertheless an important opportunity to secure scarce resources for critical Park needs, such as further financial support for public infrastructure at Pier 76.

#### *Pier 40 ICE Parking Contract*

In addition to emails we sent to the full Advisory Council and to various of its member organizations in January, we have also talked to a number of you directly by phone about this contract and its circumstances, and also some safety fears that have stemmed from it. We certainly understand that people are upset, and we acknowledge that we have received a letter from our local elected officials asking us to end the contract immediately. We will be at the meeting to discuss and answer questions as best we can.

#### *America's 250 US Coast Guard Proposed Restrictions*

The US Coast Guard has issued proposed regulations for before, during and after Sail 4th 250 events, the U.S. Navy's International Naval Review 250 and International Aerial Review, Independence Day fireworks displays, and U.S. Navy Fleet Week events to be held between July 1, 2026 and July 9, 2026 and is seeking public comment. The official Federal Notice can be found [here](#). All stakeholders are invited to submit formal feedback via the official public docket found on Regulations.gov by searching USCG-2025-0903-0001 and available [here](#). The comment period closes at 11:59 PM on February 17, 2026.

Our understanding is that the proposed regulations include restrictions for all non-motorized boating activities in the Harbor from July 1 through July 9. The Trust is planning to submit a comment highlighting the ongoing non-motorized boating activities in the Park, which we will share once it is complete.

### *New York Classic Motor at Pier 76*

The Trust entered into a concession agreement with New York Classic Motors LLC d/b/a Classic Car Club in 2016. Classic Car Club provided a variety of experiences for their members only club which included events, opportunities to rent and drive rare automobiles, and dining. As of February 2, 2026 Classic Car Club has ended their occupancy in Hudson River Park. While we look towards the redevelopment of Pier 76, our team is currently focused on getting a handle on the maintenance of the building. We are currently exploring the possibility of pop-up events or other short-term activations in the space in the interim.

### *Gateway*

You have probably read that the Gateway Development Corporation is suspending work including in Hudson River Park due to the withholding of federal funds. We have appreciated their collaboration, and hope to see the project restarted soon. In the meanwhile, we are working with them on an orderly (hopefully short) plan to suspend operations and secure the site.

### *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. Work has begun in the southernmost panel of the Park to prepare for construction, including relocating utility lines. As plans develop, we will encourage BPCA to return to the AC for an update.

## **Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives**

### *Winter Field Trips & NYC Educator Expo*

We're starting off 2026 with a winter field trip season that will invite NYC students of all ages to explore hands-on STEM programming in our Pier 57 Discovery Tank classroom. This season we're offering a wide range of programs focused on climate change, environmental justice, plastic pollution, plankton and local marine life. As part of each field trip experience, these programs also incorporate the Discovery Tank's digital learning exhibits as a key way to showcase life in our local waterways. We

Beyond field trips, we hosted another valuable enrichment opportunity for NYC educators on Wednesday February 4: the NYC Environmental Education Expo which was held at Pier 57. The Park's River Project team hosts this annual free event, in partnership with the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District and NYU as a local showcase of environmental education for DOE teachers and informal educators, in hopes that more children will have the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural features of our city. At this event, almost 50 local organizations joined us to share information about environmental education programs, resources and opportunities available for NYC teachers, students and families.

### *Grants Update*

We are pleased to share that the Trust was awarded \$100,000 from The Pinkerton Foundation for our 2026 Science Leadership Program. This is an increase from the \$75,000 that we have

received in past years as we explore extending high school science internship opportunities into the academic year. We are grateful for Pinkerton's continued investment in the program and look forward to building new pathways that introduce NYC high school students to local environmental science, research, and communication, using the Park as both a field lab and professional development site. The Park's River Project was also invited to reapply as a host site for a 2027-2029 FAO Schwarz Fellow. This competitive Fellowship invites graduating college seniors from across the nation to take part in a two-year paid work experience at organizations that center social impact in Boston, New York City, and Philadelphia. Host sites receive funding to prorate the salary of their fellow who supports both direct service tasks and a special project throughout their term. Lastly, the Park was invited to submit a full proposal to Hudson River Foundation's Champlain Hudson Environmental Trust habitat restoration grant. We proposed trialing direct setting of oyster larvae to existing Park habitat structures, the first trial of its kind in the Hudson River, and will be hearing by early spring if our proposal was funded.

#### *Annual Sanctuary Science Meeting*

In January we hosted our fifth annual Sanctuary Science Meeting welcoming 60 science experts, partners, and visiting scholars to review the Trust's research progress in 2025. The Trust was excited to start the meeting by introducing our new Science & Stewardship Coordinator, Dr. Beryl Kahn, a CUNY Graduate Center alum and recent NOAA Fellow.

After Trust staff reviewed 2025 Park-led research projects and findings from the Tribeca & Gansevoort Habitat Enhancement Projects, we brought together a panel of partners researching climate impacts on Park habitat and wildlife. Panelists included Dr. Karin Block-Cora of City College, Dr. Monica Mowery of York College, and Dr. Khue Nguyen of Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory who shared preliminary findings on projects covering topics including: sclerochronological analysis of oysters to identify the influence of environmental conditions; wet weather impacts on terrestrial invertebrate populations at three unique Park sites; and micro and nanoplastics concentrations during storm events at a combined sewer outfall point in the Park. The meeting also highlighted the work of Dr. Ana Gonzalez-Nayeck (Baruch College), Dr. Emlyn Resetarits (Barnard College), and PhD candidate, James Herlan, (CUNY Graduate Center) who presented an update on their projects, emphasizing the scope and breadth of the Park's robust Visiting Scholar program serving 31 scholars from 22 institutions last year.

The meeting concluded with a discussion in two thematic areas: 1. Designing a new habitat enhancement project, 2. Translating Park data into learning spaces and online resources. Carrie Roble shared an update on the Park's new habitat enhancement design project sited for the nearshore area between Piers 94 & 96 and discussion offered ideas for considering the inclusion of natural materials, wetlands, mussels, and repurposed rock.

Participants also had much to offer with considering ways to refine data sharing and made some suggestions around clarifying key questions that students could help answer through their analysis, opportunities to share student findings in journals tailored to undergraduate research, and highlighting potential career pathways within our environmental field to help

showcase the variety of jobs for young professionals. Overall, this was another fruitful Sanctuary Science meeting and the Trust remains grateful for the valuable expertise and collaborative spirit that this community contributes to the Park's research and habitat enhancement efforts.

*Visiting Historic Vessel R/V Robert Gray:*

Through the end of February, R/V *Robert Gray* will be berthed in the Park as a visiting historic vessel on the north side of Pier 25. Since arriving at the end of 2025, they have been offering a robust series of free, immersive tours where guests can go aboard the deck of a working research vessel and discover how ocean science, exploration and innovation come together to deepen our understanding of the sea. Schools and organizations also have the opportunity to schedule a free vessel tour, bringing the excitement of ocean exploration right to NYC students. To learn more, and sign up for a tour today visit [here](#).

**Public Programs**

With upcoming construction and major events like the World Cup and America's 250, we are expecting to see a surge in event requests for the coming year. The Permitting team has been working with the many non-profits, local organizations, festivals and more that are looking to host their event outside. We weigh a number a factors, including closures, impacts on surrounding Park use and neighbors, frequency and more when reviewing applications. This year, we had to plan around Gateway's construction (prior to the news of the temporary, we hope, halt), which means that many of our longstanding Run/Walk events – which the Park is uniquely suited to host – will need to shift their routes. Our season is already looking very full, w

*Sports Fields*

The Trust is currently completing Spring Season permits for our sports fields. With the coming closure for the reconstruction of Rooftop Field #1, the permitting team has been working with our 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. Summer applications open April 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.

#### **Horticulture**

##### *Snow Operations*

Our team has been hard at work clearing and de-icing paths since the storm on January 25. It was the fourth snowfall this Winter. The Park purchased a new suite of cots to support staff who continued the response overnight, and who may not be able to safely leave during a storm. We are very appreciative of our dedicated team and the members of Doe Fund who helped quickly clear our miles of paths and many crosswalks.

Horticulture staff participated in the annual Plant-O-Rama event at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, hosted by Metro Hort Group, which included a career fair and continues to be an important recruitment opportunity for seasonal staff.

Beginning February 3, staff will resume weekly Neighborhood Gardeners programming, hosting indoor and outdoor gardening activities throughout the winter. Volunteer engagement – led by Hudson River Park Friends – in 2025 remained robust with 2,668 total volunteers contributing 6,740 hours across Neighborhood Gardeners, corporate events, Green Team activities, and compost volunteering. We are enormously grateful to Hudson River Park Friends for the huge amount of work that goes into planning and coordinating all of these events to make them both positive experiences for volunteers and productive opportunities for park betterments for the Park.

##### *2025 Parkwide Plant installation Numbers*

- 30 trees
- 1,398 shrubs
- 8,301 perennials
- 2025 annuals
- 28,100 bulbs