



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council  
March 17, 2026 Meeting**

**Design and Construction**

*Pier 40*

As discussed at the February Advisory Council meeting, the Trust is currently managing phased structural repairs and comprehensive sprinkler system work throughout Pier 40. We are working closely with the Pier 40 community, and recently were able to time a first wave of repairs with the Village Community Boathouse to take place during its offseason, alongside work in the Pier 40 Wetlab. We appreciate VCB's flexibility, and are pleased that we successfully met our goal of restoring the space in time for the spring rowing season. We will be working with P3 in a similar fashion to schedule the needed work to reduce disruptions to the extent possible this summer.

Work will continue throughout the building 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. It is a huge task given the number of users at Pier 40 and the fact that the building's many legacy systems and infrastructure are in poor condition. These conditions occasionally result in unpleasant construction surprises and the need for us to do reactive repairs. For example, in February, our team successfully executed emergency overnight and weekend work in the VCB space to resolve a major water leak caused by a section of pipe corrosion coupled with prolonged low temperatures. 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.

*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The Trust has awarded a contract to PMY Construction to replace the outdated play equipment at the Pier 51 playground.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 begin on March 30 and should run through approximately the end of June. We thank former Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal – now our Manhattan Borough President – for allocating \$100,000 of state funding, and former-Borough President Mark Levine - now our Comptroller -- for allocating of \$250,000 for this project.

**Public Safety**

With the approach of Spring and the enormous increase in park visitation that comes with it, we can unfortunately also expect to see an increase in petty crimes and thefts. PEP officers

have already begun to educate and warn field users at Pier 40, Gansevoort and Chelsea Waterside about leaving bags, cell phones and other property unattended. We will be working with our field community to help remind them of the need for organizers, coaches, players and parents to be vigilant – no warning sign can do the work of a coach or parent noticing and addressing unattended bags.

We encourage Advisory Council members with programs in the Park to please remind attendees: **DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES UNATTENDED**. As always, if you see someone acting suspiciously in the Park, please notify the Operations Desk at 212-242-6427.

## **Real Estate & Planning**

### *Gateway*

The Trust continues to work closely with Gateway as work has resumed after the resolutions to its funding disruptions. In-water work that began outside the boundaries of Hudson River Park is approaching the Manhattan shore, and the temporary marine platform abutting the Park's bulkhead is advancing too. Once that structure is complete, the Gateway team will be able to implement the temporary bike and pedestrian lane shifts that have been previously presented to the Trust and the broader community.

Meanwhile, Gateway has identified a need to refine its planned methods and schedule for aspects of the work within Hudson River Park to address the challenging construction conditions related to working within the river of which the Trust is certainly aware. Gateway is expected to present to Manhattan Community Board 4's Waterfront & Park's Committee on these proposed modifications to its workplan on Thursday, March 12 at 6:30PM. Details on how to join or to find the recording after can be found [here](#). The proposed modifications require additional evaluation under NEPA review, along with a public comment period. Please see the attached notice for more details.

The most recent update includes an expanded temporary cofferdam that would now extend into Hudson River Park's Estuarine Sanctuary area within the tunnel alignment in lieu of removing long-buried piles as well as allowances to manage unforeseen or emergency measures. Gateway has been coordinating directly with Hudson River Community Sailing at Pier 66 to ensure that boating operations regarding these plans, with Gateway continuing to strive to be as minimally disruptive as possible.

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

As shared in past reports, Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) has begun some initial site work in the southernmost portion of the Park, including utility relocations. The work is expected to continue through June and is largely confined to the lawn panel, although the esplanade has also been minimally narrowed as well. Much like Gateway, as BPCA has refined its plans, they have been working closely with us and other agencies to secure all approvals and permits, including advancing the NYS Office of General Services easement for the generally 6-foot wider esplanade that encroaches into Hudson River Park's Estuarine Sanctuary area along Battery Park City's northern edge before meeting the Park's esplanade in a curved fashion that will

make it easier for pedestrians to travel between both parks. The Trust's Board of Directors is expected to issue its consent to the easement at its upcoming meeting. As a reminder, Battery Park City Authority has also committed to contribute funds toward the construction of the Estuarium as mitigation for the approximately four years of expected construction. As designs and methods are refined and are closer to being finalized, the Trust will encourage BPCA to come to another AC meeting to provide additional update on their construction plans and what people can expect to see on the ground.

## **Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives**

### *ESMP Full TAC Meeting*

In February, we hosted our fifth annual ESMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for a review of our 2025 progress and discussion on priorities and projects for 2026. We welcomed our TAC experts in all three management areas representing organizations like Hudson River Foundation, Army Corps, NYS DEC, NYC City Planning, CUNY, NYC Parks, Billion Oyster Project, NYSOI, NYS DOS, Little Island, NYU, Downtown Boathouse and the Intrepid Museum. Hudson River Park's River Project team kicked off the meeting by sharing successes in Public Access & Resource Management, Environmental Education, and Research & Habitat Enhancement. Park staff also shared an update on the Park's new habitat enhancement design project, which is being considered for the nearshore area between Piers 94 & 96. Our TAC reviewed project goals and suggested a few potential labs, partners, and habitat features that the Park is beginning to explore with their lead consultant Moffatt & Nichol. There was an opportunity for questions and discussion at the conclusion of each management area presentation.

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to a group discussion. Park staff facilitated an engaging feedback session focusing on how to improve understanding of programming impacts and how to reduce barriers to support greater use of Park data and science. Related to understanding impact on attitude and behavior, members discussed various evaluation metrics including participant retention, the importance of both quantitative data and stories/more personal experiences, how to ease the burden of conducting surveys and receiving feedback, and potential avenues for social science grant proposals to conduct evaluations on such shifts. Members also offered ideas for maximizing the use and access of Park data including how to provide more context to help students understand parameters and proposing questions to guide critical thinking, creating both data and metadata sets for use, potential collaboration with Open Data week / BetaNYC, further connecting Park patrons through social media and physical signage, and making the data on the Park's website more easily findable. The meeting also focused on partnerships and opportunities for strengthening existing relationships and building new partners, especially to help advance the Park's internship network and development of novel restoration techniques. Overall, this was another productive and insightful meeting with our TAC experts and we look forward to keeping them engaged with our work and progress throughout the year.

### *CUNY Spring Interns & Seasonal Hiring*

The River Project team's summer hiring process is underway for 2026, with both 12- and 30-week seasonal positions that will support our department's extensive education programs and

research projects. These roles are tailored for current college students, recent grads, and young professionals who are taking some of their first steps into careers in ecological science and education. Each year, we partner with many of our environmental and academic partners to share the opportunities and recruit applicants, including NY/NJ HEP, CUNY, the LifeSci NYC Network, Park Visiting Scholars, and other local institutions.

This season we are also entering the third year of our Spring CUNY Internship Program, recruiting three students (one each from John Jay, BMCC, and CUNY's Climate Scholar program) to support the River Project's early-spring programming at the Pier 57 Discovery Tank, our year-round Fish Ecology Trap Survey, and opening prep for the Pier 40 Wetlab Aquarium. These students will also produce an educational activity or interpretive for use at the Discovery Tank's Guided Gallery, using the data that they gather during weekly fish and water quality sampling.

### *SUBMERGE & Spring Field Trips Registration Opens*

Planning for the 2026 SUBMERGE Marine Science is already underway and we're excited to share that we are currently accepting festival field trip requests from local teachers. This year's festival will be held on the Park's Pier 84 on Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16. On Friday, the festival is reserved exclusively for schools during organized field trips. In groups, students will rotate through the festival activities to build an understanding and appreciation of our local waterways. On Saturday, the festival is open to the public with science shows, wildlife encounters, catch-and-release fishing and science experiments with local experts. We're welcoming back a wide range of partner organizations to exhibit at the festival, including NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Billion Oyster Project, NYS Parks, CUNY and SUNY institutions, and the Monmouth University research vessel. We hope you will join us for this year's festival. Visit [hudsonriverpark.org/submerge](http://hudsonriverpark.org/submerge) to learn more!

In addition to SUBMERGE field trips, our suite of spring field trip programs is available for teachers to book this spring season. Teachers can choose from nine different STEM programs with themes ranging from shoreline resiliency, plankton microscopy, and oyster monitoring. Our team is excited to host students in engaging outdoor locations throughout the Park once the weather starts to warm up in April, including the Gansevoort Peninsula salt marsh and the Pier 26 tide deck. These learning experiences offer an opportunity for students to dive into local ecology by utilizing the Park as a classroom and learning lab. To learn more and to book a trip, visit [hudsonriverpark.org/fieldtrips](http://hudsonriverpark.org/fieldtrips)!

## **Operations**

### *Parkwide Barrier 1 Security Gates*

This season, our Parkwide Barrier 1 Security Gates underwent a comprehensive round of routine maintenance. Beyond standard servicing, several gates were adjusted to ensure they perform at peak safety levels which is especially important now, as the gates will see much higher usage during the warm season.

### *Contract Staff Appreciation Brunch*

HRPT staff kicked off the season by saying a huge thank you to the third-party contract staff

that keep the park running. We hosted an Appreciation Brunch on March 11th, thanking the teams from the DoeFund, FedCap (through Industries for the Disabled), and NYC Parks Enforcement Patrol for the maintenance, janitorial restroom support, and security work they perform tirelessly year-round. Staff members from various HRPT departments decorate, cook and do clean-up work to show support for these additional team members.

#### *Warm Weather Readiness*

The Operations team is actively coordinating with other departments to ready the park facilities and spaces for the warm season. The Pier 97 restroom will be opening next week if all stays as planned, and restroom hours will begin to adjust accordingly, and cleaning schedules for the public facilities will be adjusted in accordance to increase usage and tenant operations.

#### *Bi-Annual Parkwide & Bikeway Light Audit*

The Operations team will be performing the bi-annual Parkwide and bikeway light audit the third week of March. Any Parkwide lighting concerns will be addressed by the Trust's Facilities department, and all bikeway and Route 9A lighting concerns will be communicated with the respective teams at NYCDOT and NYSDOT. We know NYSDOT is still working through some concerns in the Village section of the Park from previous audits, and we will continue to follow up.

### **Horticulture**

#### *Snow Operations*

While you may have wiped it from your memory given the recent warm weather, our team was hard at work clearing and de-icing paths the past month with the most recent massive snow storm. This season, we have spent nearly triple the amount of time clearing snow as we did in the 2024-2025 season.

The team is beginning a quick switch to Spring preparation, including clearing drains and beginning horticulture prep such as pruning the willow trees in Chelsea.