



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council
April 21, 2026 Meeting**

Design and Construction

Pier 40

As previously shared, Rooftop Field #1's synthetic turf field will soon be replaced. We are still aiming to complete the replacement before the start of the Summer permit season. At the moment, we are able to keep the field open for unscheduled play on a day-to-day basis until the contractor has all materials on site and is ready to mobilize and complete the project. Meanwhile, structural repairs are continuing throughout the pier, requiring intensive and coordinated management of work throughout the pier. Much like Village Community Boathouse this Winter, and P3 and others upcoming this summer, HRPT itself is not exempt from the disruption, and our horticulture staff had to be temporarily relocated within the building as a precursor to doing Rooftop Field work.

Pier 51 Playground

Due to delays in the delivery of the core play equipment, we pushed back the start of removal and preparatory work for the Pier 51 Playground rehabilitation originally scheduled to begin last month. There is a significant amount of removal and site prep work that needs to occur before the new play equipment is installed, and we will continue to try to coordinate the timing of that aspect of the project with the expected play feature delivery date to ensure that the playground is offline for the least amount of time possible. We will provide a new date for the start of work when feasible.

Boathouse Roofs

The Trust is continuing to advance repairs to the roofs of our boathouses at Piers 66 & 96 this season using the same system successfully deployed in Tribeca last year. Work is not expected to impact boathouse operations, and we are hopeful the new roofs will support many more years of successful programming.

Pier 76 Marine Repairs

Later this summer, the Trust expects to perform some necessary stabilizing work on a deteriorated section of the eastern portion of Pier 76. As we've previously reported, the Pier is supported by wooden piles and when we inherited the pier in 2021, many of the piles and supporting platform structures were in poor condition, with the outermost ring of the pier already having significant load restrictions such that not even small boats can tie up to the pier. The work involves shoring repairs to the pilings and cribbing on the upland along the fence line and southern side, closest to W 34th Street. Given the location of the repairs and the scale of the pier, we expect only a limited impact to the public's use, although closures of limited areas will be necessary.

Public Safety

With the arrival of warm weather, we are again seeing the explosion of park use, with huge increases in pedestrian (including running) traffic in the park and the corresponding increased use of the park facilities. We are again taking a proactive approach to crime prevention, reassessing security measures and signage throughout our facilities.

During the morning of April 1, an emotionally disturbed woman jumped into the river from the west end of Pier 66. Gateway Tunnel construction workers noticed this and immediately began rescue efforts, calling 911, and lowering their work boat into the water. Some of the workers were able to grab the woman and pull her from the river. She made inconsistent statements about someone else in the water and FDNY searched the area with negative results. The woman was in stable condition but was transported to the hospital by EMS for psychiatric evaluation. We commend the Gateway team for their quick action to save a life.

While crime overall in the park remains down, there was one assault that occurred recently. During the evening of Wednesday, March 25, a female park patron was the victim of an unprovoked assault while she was walking south on the esplanade near Pier 51. An apparently emotionally disturbed man ran up behind and hit her. The victim was knocked down and sustained lacerations and swelling to her face. The victim was treated by and transported to the hospital by EMS. The 6th Precinct Detective Squad is investigating this case and was provided with video evidence captured by our camera system.

Field Theft Prevention

As mentioned in the last report, the Trust and PEP officers have begun another push to warn field users at Pier 40, Gansevoort Peninsula and Chelsea Waterside about leaving bags, cell phones and other valuables unattended. We continue to spread the message; DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES UNATTENDED AT THE FIELDS. If you see someone acting suspiciously on the fields, please notify the Operations Desk at 212-242-6427.

Real Estate & Planning

Pier 40 Mobile Coffee Cart

In response to requests from field users and other visitors, we are finalizing plans to trial a mobile coffee cart at Pier 40. The cart will operate during the peak season (May through October), offering a highly requested amenity during the park's most active months. Patrons will soon be able to enjoy Americanos, Café au Lait, and a selection of local pastries.

Pier 84 Food & Beverage Carts

Because a significant portion of the area surrounding and near the Pier 84 park building is expected to be under construction as part of the W 29th – W 44th Street park improvement effort as early as next year, the Trust determined that we need to hold off on seeking a new permanent concessionaire for the W 44th Street building at Pier 84. Being surrounded by construction would be detrimental to a new business attempting to establish itself, particularly in the already weather-challenged park food concession industry. We also believe the Park will receive a better response from potential operators if we wait until construction is further along

so that prospective respondents can see the benefits of the planned enhancements. We know the community has been disappointed by this continuing vacancy and are committed to seeing that space thrive again.

With that in mind, and to ensure visitors still have access to some dining options along with trying to enliven the space, we have been reaching out to multiple mobile vendors and expect to have three to four carts operational early this season. We will be establishing a zone by the building – in the same area used by the previous operator for outdoor seating - with the goal of creating a small outdoor food-market like feel. The Trust will be watching monitoring these small concessions carefully including in part to inform a future concession RFP. We will be interested in community feedback as well.

Pier 97 Seasonal Food Pilot Program

In a similar vein, we are also looking at a seasonal food activation for the new concession area at Pier 97. As Pier 97 is a new addition to our waterfront, this seasonal activation will serve as a market test. The data gathered will allow us to better position the site for a formal RFP and ensure long-term secondary services align with park-goer needs. Anecdotally, we believe Hudson Plate, at Gansevoort Peninsula, has seen a strong start this season, and we are hopeful to have a similar success story at Pier 97.

July 4th Planning

The Trust continues to work with a wide range of partner agencies and stakeholders on planning July 4 celebrations. While much of the planning work remains focused on the water and air side of things for the International Naval Review, Sail4th Boat Parade, and International Aerial Review, we are beginning to see an increased focus on the landside planning. We are also still awaiting information from Sail4th on what boats they are hoping to dock in the Park, and are in active conversations with them about their needs. We will share information with our stakeholders, tenants and community as it becomes available in the coming months.

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives

HRF CHET Grant Award

We are pleased to share that the Trust was awarded \$151,800 from The Hudson River Foundation's Champlain Hudson Environmental Trust Habitat Restoration Grant. The award will fund testing methods for direct setting of oyster larvae onto existing Park habitat structures, scheduled for summer 2027, followed by monitoring and evaluation over the course of 2027 and 2028. Our River Project team will be joined by two long-time colleagues and experts, Drs. Allison Fitzgerald (Kean-NJCU) & Matt Hare (Cornell), to assess the efficacy of the direct – or in situ – seeding. As opposed to the standard, remote seeding, where oyster larvae are introduced to the enhancement structures in large setting tanks off-site, direct seeding involves deploying the larvae onto structures already in the water, whether via diver or by using a temporary barrier curtain. This summer, our team will connect with hatcheries and collect baseline data to inform our direct setting methods with the goal of adapting existing protocols to the dynamic conditions of the Hudson River. Direct setting is a valuable potential technique for adaptive management of enhancement efforts and marine infrastructure that could allow

for more widespread introduction of juvenile oysters throughout our urban estuary.

Earth Day Events

The Trust invites Park patrons to celebrate Earth Week with a few terrestrial-themed events. Next in our Science After Dark series is a special workshop on April 23rd entitled, “The Fungus Among Us” featuring Victoria Bayevskiy from NY Mycological Society (and former Trust seasonal staff member). This event will focus on some of the under-appreciated organisms that keep our earth healthy (fungi) and participants will be able to learn how to identify different mushrooms while enjoying refreshments at the Pier 57 Discovery Tank. Celebrations continue on Saturday, April 25th, with our first annual “Dig into Earth Week” at the Habitat Garden. Participants can enjoy nature walks, led by our Park naturalists, scavenger hunts, native plant crafts, seed potting, and more! Please spread the word to your networks and consider joining these new programs in the Park.

FAO Schwarz Fellow Visit

Earlier this month, River Project had the opportunity to host 12 FAO Schwarz social impact fellows, representing non-profits in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. During their visit, which was led by our own FAO Schwarz fellow, Jenevieve Joseph, fellows built an understanding of Hudson River Park’s ecosystem and Sanctuary waters through hands-on environmental science lessons and a meet and greet with River Project Vice President, Carrie Roble. Following a natural history tour of Gansevoort Peninsula, fellows explored local environmental justice issues through a Park educator-facilitated lesson. The visit concluded with a reflection of each fellow’s personal impact on urban climate solutions and their wishes for a more resilient future. This site visit and program was an excellent opportunity to share with regional funders and partners how the Park’s science programming integrates unique Park design features, current research, and the health of our Sanctuary waters.

Operations

Water Fountains

Once the threat of frost had passed, Operations staff began the annual seasonal activation process of restoring water to drinking fountains. Between April 6 and April 17, most fountains were successfully brought online, just in time for this week’s unexpected heat. Several fountains in Tribeca and Chelsea require repairs, with Chelsea work expected to be completed shortly. The drinking fountains serving the tennis courts and the Harris Street basketball court require more extensive underground repairs, with completion anticipated by the end of May.

Lighting Upgrades

The Pier 96 boardwalk lighting was successfully converted to lower energy LEDs in early April. Replacement of the Pier 40 courtyard field light bulbs – a challenging task given the height - are scheduled in the next few weeks. We are expecting to upgrade the Courtyard lights to LEDs this fall as part of the larger Pier 40 construction project, and are working with Hudson Meridian on approaches to the work that minimize impacts to field use.

Turf Maintenance

Routine turf field maintenance is scheduled to take place later this month, with work planned for the Pier 40 field on April 27 and at Gansevoort and Pier 97 on April 28 to prepare the fields for the spring and summer seasons. We will be keeping the Chelsea Lawn Bowl closed for approximately one more week to ensure this popular grass area has its best chance of thriving through the busy late spring, summer and fall months.

Marine

The Trust's vessel is scheduled to return to service during the first week of May in preparation for the active boating season. The Pier 40 Mooring Field was inspected last Friday and is scheduled to officially open on May 1. Dock infrastructure work is ongoing, including upcoming pile guide and dock maintenance at Piers 25 and 26. We are also planning fender repairs at Pier 84 this year, and are working with the contractors to determine timing.

Horticulture

With the arrival of spring, plantings throughout the Park are blooming, including the 28,100 bulbs installed during the 2025 planting season in large measure thanks to Hudson River Park Friends' successful volunteer program. Notable displays can be seen at the Christopher Street Fountain area, planted during a Trust-wide staff event, as well as at Pier 97, where large plantings of daffodils and tulips from last fall's Bulbfest volunteer event are now in full bloom. The Horticulture team has also welcomed eight seasonal staff members who have recently joined the department as preparations continue for the busy growing season. In addition, staff hosted the first Green Team volunteer event of the year on the Gansevoort Peninsula last weekend, with 52 volunteers participating in stewardship activities. Other volunteer events will now be occurring multiple times per week.

Operationally, all irrigation systems have been activated park-wide, with ongoing repairs and adjustments being addressed as needed. Horticulture staff are currently aerating lawns throughout the Park to support turf health ahead of the summer season. Maintenance staff have also installed new garbage cans in the West Village area and are distributing and setting up seasonal furnishings daily across the Park in preparation for the warm season.