



Report on Operations and Accomplishments in 2017-18

During Fiscal Year 2017-18, the Hudson River Park Trust (HRPT) was able to advance several important initiatives that have been years in the making. Programmatically, the Trust also continued to expand the reach and caliber of its environmental, educational and public programming, reaching hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors.

Construction and New Projects

Pier 26 and Adjacent Upland Area

In 2017-18, the Trust continued to advance design of Pier 26 located in Tribeca, with the goal of commencing construction in summer 2018. The local community, represented by Community Board 1, has continued to express strong support for the design vision, which uniquely includes a number of features focused specifically on the Hudson River environment and environmental education of the Hudson River Sanctuary. The most notable of these features is an “ecological get down” at the western end of the pier. Just inland, plans are advancing for a science playground featuring creative interpretations of sturgeons as play features, as well as the “estuarium” – a long-planned environmental education facility expected to be operated principally by Clarkson University, in partnership with other organizations including the Trust.

Pier 40

Pier 40 is the largest property in the Park and home to athletic fields, administrative and operating facilities of the Trust, a commercial parking garage, and commercial excursion vessels. Parking and other revenue generated at Pier 40 nets the Trust approximately \$7.2 million annually, but this is before consideration of growing capital maintenance costs for this deteriorated structure.

In 2016, a City Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process was completed that allowed the Trust to transfer 200,000 square feet of unused development rights from Pier 40 to the St. John’s Terminal Building site. The Trust entered into a \$100 million sales contract with the St. John’s developer and the proceeds from that agreement are now devoted to pile repair.

In FY2017-18, the Trust completed the design and conducted the public procurement and permitting processes for approximately 3,600 individual pile repairs at Pier 40. The estimated cost in pile repairs to the approximate 15-acre-area is \$100 million – a vital undertaking needed to ensure the long-term integrity of this essential recreational and financial park asset. Work on the first two phases of pile repair began in Spring 2018.

Morton Street Esplanade

In 2016, HRPT began working on a large project to restore a length of historic bulkhead centered near Morton Street. This restoration work has continued through FY2017-18. The project entails stabilizing the historic bulkhead wall, followed by restoration of the adjacent paved esplanade and landscaped areas.

West 12th Street Esplanade

Hudson River Park was selected as the location for the LGBT Memorial pursuant to Executive Order No. 158 to stand as an international symbol against ignorance, hate, bigotry, and gun violence, and to honor the victims of the June 12, 2016 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The Memorial Commission appointed by Governor Cuomo selected artist Anthony Goicolea Studios as the winner of its design competition. The Trust has been working in partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to advance design, fabrication and installation of the memorial in the vegetated area between the Esplanade and Route 9A bikeway at 12th Street for an expected opening in June 2018.

Pier 55

Tremendous effort was devoted to ongoing planning for the signature “Pier 55” project. Philanthropists Barry Diller and Diane Von Furstenberg, and their family foundation, had previously pledged more than \$180 million to build a new public park pier and cultural facility in the area near 14th Street. After withdrawing from the project in Fall 2017 due to delays from litigation, the donors renewed their commitment to it after Governor Cuomo pledged his support for advancing construction for remaining portions of the park, resulting in the withdrawal of the previous litigation. As a result, the Trust re-secured required permits for construction, and construction has commenced.

Adjacent to Pier 55, the Trust has continued to advance construction of the new over-water pedestrian platform and adjacent bikeway improvement between the Gansevoort Peninsula and 14th Street as part of a federally funded transportation grant. An associated cross-walk project, located on City and State property to the east, is currently being constructed by the State Department of Transportation with funding support from the City.

Pier 57

Pier 57 is located within the Park at approximately West 15th Street. The pier, which is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is currently being redeveloped privately through a partnership between Young Woo & Associates and RXR Realty. Pursuant to the lease, the developers are creating more than 3 acres of new public open space at the pier, while also incorporating office space for Google as well as space for a new public market and other cultural, entertainment, retail and maritime

uses. The lease will generate critical new income for Hudson River Park's operations, but it will also enhance an area of the park that has long been inactive. Construction is currently well under way on the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of Pier 57.

Chelsea Waterside Playground

In FY17-18, the Trust began reconstruction of the new Chelsea Waterside Playground, located near 23rd Street, which has a projected opening date of early Summer 2018. Hudson River Park Friends conducted a successful fundraising campaign for this project, and Council Member Corey Johnson and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried also made significant contributions to it.

Superstorm Sandy

Superstorm Sandy caused tens of millions of dollars of damage throughout Hudson River Park, and the Trust has continued to work on a recovery plan that will make the park more resilient while simultaneously completing the needed repairs.

Public Recreation and Events

Summer of Fun

In 2017, the Park continued to provide a variety of free recreational programming for New Yorkers, families and visitors as part of the "Summer of Fun" series. Over 61,000 people from New York City and the tri-state area came to the Park to enjoy a total of 116 family, fitness, music, movie and dance events. These 116 free events took place throughout the Park and included favorites such as Hudson RiverFlicks, Sunset Salsa, and the 18th Annual Blues BBQ, which was attended by more than 10,000 people. New last year were programming sessions that extended into Spring and Fall. Highlights included the afternoon Hudson RiverKids sessions that were very well attended by Tribeca neighborhood families, as well as weekly Healthy on the Hudson fitness classes geared to adults.

Estuary Lab

Hudson River Park offers free and low cost environmental education programs for school groups, summer camps and the general public, using the Hudson River waterfront as its classroom. These programs include Big City Fishing & River Science workshops, Hudson River Nature Walks, teacher trainings, and the signature "Submerge" marine science festival that attracted 6,500 participants from all over the city and beyond – festival highlights include hands-on science from over 40 partner research organizations, live scuba dives into the Hudson River and larger than life water experiments on the science stage.

In 2017, the Trust continued work on its Pier 32 oyster initiative, which involved installing and monitoring oyster wraps filled with both adult oysters and spat-on-shell directly on structurally sound piles (as opposed to in cages primarily at docks and railings) and monitoring growth, mortality, etc. for a minimum of a three-year term. This is in addition to its ongoing collaborations with the citywide Billion Oyster initiative. In 2017, Trust staff also continued their partnership with Brooklyn College to sample Sanctuary waters for the presence of microplastics -- plastics smaller than 5mm -- with the objective of obtaining baseline microplastic concentration data for the sanctuary.

This amount of quality education programming would not occur without our Student Conservation Association interns. Trust staff provides valuable training to these AmeriCorps interns who then go on to serve as environmental educators in parks and non-profits throughout the region.

Composting Program

The Park's composting program expanded significantly in June 2017 through the launch of the Community Compost Program in partnership with NYC's Department of Sanitation and Council Member Corey Johnson. Within the Park's four mile waterfront footprint, there are now seven locations where community members can drop off their food scraps from 7am-7pm daily. In 2017, the Park composted 50,000 pounds of community food scraps and 350,000 pounds of horticulture waste. The cured compost is then returned to Hudson River Park's plant beds and land through community and corporate volunteer programs, helping the Park's plants flourish. This composting project has become a successful model of how parks can support city-wide efforts to expand composting by providing convenient food-scrap collection bins as NYC rolls out their curb-side compost collection efforts.

Sports Facilities

Aside from cultural and event programming, our Public Events staff facilitated recreational play for the hundreds of thousands of park goers who participate in organized sports activities on Park courts and fields, hosting soccer, baseball, lacrosse, rugby, basketball, tennis and more. Thanks to quality programming provided by the Park's wide range of for-profit and non-profit tenants under the Trust's oversight, tens of thousands more also played beach volleyball, mini golf, rowed, kayaked, dared the trapeze, swam or cycled.

Private Sector Partnerships

Hudson River Park was conceived as a public-private partnership. Since the Trust's inception, the Park has worked with partners ranging from large scale commercial tenants like Chelsea Piers and Circle Line to non-profit boating and community

organizations to help activate and enliven the park while also generating income in the form of rent to support park operations.

In addition, the Park relies on the financial support and community engagement provided through our partnership with Hudson River Park Friends. The Hudson River Park Gala in October 2017 raised significant private money for horticultural programs and operations and brought attention to the park's accomplishments and goals for the future. In addition, Friends hosted the annual Hudson River Park Games, filling the park with athletic challenges for competitors and spectators alike to enjoy, all while raising critically-needed funds for Hudson River Park.

In 2017, Friends again worked side by side with park staff to recruit and manage a host of volunteers from corporations, schools and other organizations. Volunteers work alongside the Park's horticultural staff doing weeding, planting, and other improvements, and the Park has come to rely more and more on their contributions. Friends has also increasingly supported the park through community advocacy efforts.