



Report on Operations and Accomplishments in 2019-20

During Fiscal Year 2019-20, the Hudson River Park Trust (Trust) again advanced planning, construction, environmental, programming and operations initiatives that are at the heart of its mission while serving the public with high quality public open space and accessible environmental, fitness and recreational programming.

Construction and New Projects

Pier 26

Construction of Pier 26 in Tribeca progressed during FY19-20, and the Trust expects to open this new public park pier to the public in Summer 2020. The local community, represented by Community Board 1, has previously expressed 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.

Pier 40

Pier 40 is the largest single property in the Park and is home to heavily used athletic fields, administrative and operating facilities of the Trust, a commercial parking garage, and commercial excursion vessels. Revenue generated at Pier 40 from parking and other uses is a major source of Park operations funding. When the Park came into existence, Pier 40 was already in poor structural condition, and the Trust has to implement costly repairs to repair portions of the building’s roof, piles, life safety and other systems over many years, diminishing its intended financial benefit to the overall Park.

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 repairing 3,600 individual piles that support Pier 40 along with other necessary repairs. Repairs for Phases 1 and 2 have been completed, and in FY 19-20, divers from a marine construction team installed individual “jackets” and made other repairs as part of the Phases 3 and 4, although this work was not completed by the end of the fiscal year. In Spring 2020, the Trust began Phases 5 and 6; completion of Phases 3 and 4 will follow. The pile repairs are a vital undertaking needed to ensure the long-term integrity of this essential recreational and financial park asset.

Over the winter of FY 19-20, the Trust undertook the complete reconstruction of the large synthetic turf field in the Pier 40 courtyard so that this public sports field could be reopened in time for the spring sports season. Amenities include additional dugouts, line striping, backstops, and higher fences along the baselines. While the work was completed ahead of schedule, COVID-19 prevented the fields from reopening to the public in the spring 2020 as originally planned.

Gansevoort Peninsula

The Gansevoort Peninsula is an approximately 5.5-acre parcel that was used by the NYC Department of Sanitation for truck parking until 2018. In 2018, NYC completed the removal of the Sanitation facility, providing a clean slate for a large new park area at Hudson River Park.

Throughout FY 19-20, the Trust and its competitively selected design team, James Corner Field Operations, advanced designs for this important project, providing presentations to Community Board 2 and the public, and refining designs based on the public's feedback. The designs have received overwhelming support and the Trust expects to complete the design process by the end of 2020.

Following a public review and comment process that took place the previous year, construction of a new permanent public art installation entitled *Day's End* by artist David Hammons commenced on the south side of the Gansevoort Peninsula. *Day's End* derives its inspiration and name from Gordon Matta-Clark's 1975 artwork once located in the same location, and is being donated to Hudson River Park by the Whitney Museum of American Art, which is also undertaking the construction. Construction is expected to be completed in Fall 2020.

Pier 55 and Adjacent Upland

Construction of Pier 55, a new 2.7-acre public pier dedicated to parkland and with performing arts programming, also advanced significantly in FY 19-20, with the completion of all of the pier's piles and signature "pots" along with most of the decking. The cost of Pier 55 is estimated at \$250 million, with most of the funding coming from the private donor, the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation. Pier 55 is due to open in 2021. Adjacent to Pier 55, the Trust completed and opened a new over-water pedestrian platform and bikeway improvement between the Gansevoort Peninsula and 14th Street as part of a federally funded transportation grant.

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. Rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of Pier 57 advanced significantly throughout FY

19-20. 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. Interior work by the two subtenants – Google and City Winery – also continued in FY 19-20. City Winery was intended to be the first portion of the project which would open, but the opening has been delayed due to COVID-19.

Pier 66a and Pier 66

At Pier 66a, also known as the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Float Transfer Bridge, the Trust made essential structural repairs needed to keep portions of this structure from collapsing. Pier 66a is important in its own right as a historic resource, but it is also the means of access to several historic vessels and an important recreational and revenue-generating facility (Pier 66 Maritime restaurant, or “The Frying Pan”). Nearby, at Pier 66, the Trust replaced the dock at the boathouse so that sailing and maritime education can continue from that location.

Pier 97 and Adjacent Upland

Following a competitive selection process, the Trust selected a comprehensive design team led by Imelk for the development of Pier 97 and the adjacent upland area. Throughout FY 19-20, the Trust and its design team provided presentations to Community Board 4 and the public, and refined designs based on the public feedback. Because Pier 97 is located on New York City-owned property, the design for Pier 97 was also presented to the Public Design Commission, which granted conditional preliminary approval for the Pier 97 park and comfort station designs. Community Board 4 has overwhelmingly supported the park design for this pier and the nearby upland area, and the Trust expects to complete the design process by the end of the year.

At the northernmost edge of the Park, plans have long called for a modest new over-water pedestrian platform and related upland park construction between West 58th and 59th Streets to help improve circulation and safety. In FY19-20, construction of the in-water portion was completed with the balance of the project expected to be completed in Summer 2020.

Public Recreation

Free Public Events

In 2019, the Trust organized another highly successful season of free public events. Both Thursday night Jazz at Pier 84 and Sunset on the Hudson Friday night concerts saw great crowds attending a relaxing and eclectic series of musical entertainment. The Blues BBQ Festival held in August was at capacity, with over 7,000 music and food enthusiasts in attendance. Sunset Salsa continued to be a seasonal favorite, drawing over 2,500 dancers

for each session. Hudson RiverKids children's programming increased in popularity over the previous year, with more than 300 people regularly attending performances in Tribeca every week. Finally, the annual Pumpkin Smash fall festival cemented its reputation as a favorite of Park patrons. In 2019, approximately 1,200 local residents generated over 2,000 pounds of compost by smashing their pumpkins, and in the process, learned a great deal about the benefits of composting in the Park and NYC at large.

Sports Facilities

Aside from cultural and events programming, the Trust's 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, or cycled.

Environmental Education, Science and Stewardship

The Trust continues to take seriously its mandate to protect and enhance existing marine habitat and the 400 acres of Estuarine Sanctuary. This is achieved through multiple partnerships and science projects including a robust slate of research initiatives, through work on the Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan, and through direct efforts to enhance the river and park environment.

Environmental Education

In 2019, the Trust's Estuary Lab hosted 500 environmental education programs serving 33,000 Park visitors and NYC students. This includes hosting 250 school and summer camp field trips that together delivered high quality programming to 10,000 City students. 67% of groups attending field trips were awarded need-based fee waivers, and the Trust again proudly served students from all five boroughs of NYC.

The Estuary Lab also delivered over 100 free and low-cost public drop-in programs targeting a wide-ranging audience of park visitors from toddlers to seniors and focused on such topics as park wildlife, waterfront history, oyster restoration and sustainability. The SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival, a daylong celebration of NYC's coastal waters, attracted 7,500 participants in 2019, bringing engaging science to life and promoting environmental awareness.

The breadth and depth of marine science education and research in the Park leaped forward in 2019 as The River Project, a community-supported marine field station, laboratory and native aquarium, became formally integrated within Hudson River Park. The River Project has worked side-by-side with the Trust's Estuary Lab over many years and the two organizations are now united in a joint mission to support the health and

habitat of the Park's Estuarine Sanctuary through hands-on environmental education and scientific research.

Science

In 2019, the Trust continued its work on its Pier 32 oyster research initiative, which involves measuring growth and mortality rates of oysters at 12 locations over a three-year term. In addition, the Estuary Lab furthered its collaborations with the citywide Billion Oyster Project initiative by supporting 24 oyster research stations throughout the Park, and co-led an environmental DNA research project involving the collection and sequencing of water samples for fish DNA at three Park locations with the renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Another initiative includes the ongoing management of two instruments in the Hudson River Ecosystem Conditions Observing System (HRECOS) network, a group of near real time instruments in the lower Hudson River tracking and sharing water quality measures.

Throughout 2019, the Trust also continued its 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. The Estuary Lab also expanded its efforts to collect and categorize plastic marine debris by adding a new sampling site and removing 555 pounds of plastics from the Pier 76 and Gansevoort Peninsula shorelines. Staff reports this data to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) marine debris program.

The Act required the Trust to prepare an Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan (ESMP) which has provided guidance on balancing the needs of various Park purposes while monitoring and enforcing Park policies, laws and regulations to manage and protect the sanctuary. FY19-20 was a very active year for the continuing effort to update the ESMP, which will include an action plan for the next decade focused on three management areas: (1) Education, (2) Research and Habitat Enhancement, and (3) Public Access and Resource Management. Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) comprised of experts in these areas supported this effort throughout the year.

Finally, the Estuary Lab contributed their expertise to continued planning for Pier 26 and the Gansevoort Peninsula, which both include a number of environmental features designed to enhance the habitat and promote environmental awareness. Once such feature is the salt marsh planned for the north side of the Gansevoort Peninsula.

Sustainability

The Trust's plastics research and education programs inspired the "Park Over Plastic" initiative launched in May 2019. Park Over Plastic is a growing alliance of Park staff, visitors, tenant businesses, and other stakeholders collectively working to reduce plastic pollution in the Park and beyond. The Trust developed a Green Partnership program with

its tenants, created a Green Resource Guide to inform going low waste, installed 40 indoor and outdoor bottle fillers throughout the Park, expanded Park recycling and strategically shared plastic reduction messaging on Park social media channels.

In addition, the Trust's Community Compost Program also continued to grow, in partnership with NYC's Department of Sanitation, Council Member Corey Johnson, and Hudson River Park Friends. Impressively, 85,753 pounds of organic waste were collected from the Park's offices, boathouses and community drop-off sites, with an overall upward trend in pounds collected throughout the year. The Trust's horticulture team also contributed 350,000 pounds of horticultural waste while maintaining the Park this year. In total, the Park turned over 435,000 pounds of organic waste into compost during 2019, a 23% increase from 2018. Trust employees and community members were also educated at workshops, volunteer events and public programming to encourage best practices in composting.

Operations and Facilities Management

From plants to pavement, and from buildings to fountains, virtually every object and corner of the Park needs care and maintenance throughout the year. The Park's Operations and Facilities team removed snow, replaced pavement, maintained marine infrastructure, mowed lawns, and repaired leaks, among countless other long- and short-term projects needed to keep the Park in good and safe condition. Refillable water fountains were also installed throughout the Park as part of the Park Over Plastic initiative. In 2019-20, the Trust continued to roll out security cameras in new sections of the Park.

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, Pier 57 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. Many park tenants and shorter term permittees also conduct important programming serving schools and the general public. The Trust's Estuary Lab staff partners on some of these programs, including with staff from the Intrepid Museum, Little Island and Hudson River Community Sailing.

In addition, the Park relies on the financial support and community engagement provided through the Trust's partnership with Hudson River Park Friends. The Hudson River Park Gala in October 2019 raised significant private money to support the Park and brought attention to the Park's accomplishments and goals for the future. In addition, Friends recruited a host of volunteers from corporations, schools and other organizations.

Volunteers work alongside the Trust'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 continued to support the Park through community advocacy efforts.