

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST

DRAFT ESTUARINE SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HUDSON RIVER PARK: PROGRESS REPORT & 2021–2030 ACTION AGENDA

Pursuant to the Hudson River Park Act (the “Act”), the Hudson River Park Trust (the “Trust”) hereby gives notice of a public hearing and comment period to consider the draft Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan for Hudson River Park: Progress Report & 2021–2030 Action Agenda (“Draft Plan”). The Draft Plan is a foundational management document that guides the Trust and its partners in protecting and conserving important aquatic habitat while also facilitating public access to and fostering awareness and public education about Hudson River Park’s Estuarine Sanctuary (the “Sanctuary”). In addition to providing an overview of progress to date under the 2002 Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan (“2002 ESMP”), the Draft Plan also sets forth a 2021–2030 Action Agenda intended to guide the Trust and its partners in managing the Sanctuary through the current decade.

Submission of Written Comments

The public comment period on the Draft Plan runs from Thursday, May 27, 2021 to Monday, August 9, 2021. All written comments must be received at the Trust’s office by 1:00 pm on August 9, 2021. Comments should be emailed to esmpcomments@hrpt.ny.gov. Sending comments by email is preferred but the Trust will also accept written comment letters sent by mail, express mail or personally delivered and received by August 9, 2021. Such letters should be addressed to Hudson River Park Trust, Pier 40, 353 West Street, Room 201, New York, NY 10014, Attn. Carrie Roble.

Public Hearing

A public hearing is being held in compliance with the Act and New York’s Executive Order 202.1 that provided temporary changes to the Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtual public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The public can access the meeting via Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/96711178867?pwd=SCt0YnhRdzl0Z05uaXlJRUXLajFZdz09>

Meeting ID: 967 1117 8867
Passcode: 053558

The public may call-into the Zoom meeting at:
1-646-558-8656; Meeting ID: 967 1117 8867
or by using the One tap mobile:
+16465588656,,96711178867# US (New York)

Process to Provide Oral Comments at Public Hearing

Anyone wishing to make an oral statement at the public hearing must do one of the following:

- (1) Prior to noon on June 29, notify Tina Walsh twalsh@hrpt.ny.gov of the commenter's intent to provide an oral comment during the hearing and provide a full name and affiliation (if applicable) and, if participating by phone, the phone number that will be used to connect to the hearing; or
- (2) during the public hearing, submit a request to speak using the "Chat" function on Zoom and providing the commenter's full name and affiliation (if applicable); or
- (3) request to speak when the Hearing Officer asks if there are any additional speakers that wish to provide an oral comment after all others that have registered in advance or submitted a request via Chat have spoken. (For such commenters, the Hearing Officer will unmute the video and phone for this purpose.)

Written and Oral Comments will be given equal weight. During the hearing, those who have submitted a request to speak before the hearing will be heard first, and then others will be heard in the order received on the Zoom Chat function, and last by anyone requesting to speak at the end of the hearing.

Please contact Tina Walsh or Carrie Roble at 212-627-2020 or via their email addresses listed in this notice one week prior to the hearing date if you need a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter or foreign language interpreter, in order to participate in the virtual public hearing.

Background

Pursuant to the Act, Hudson River Park is generally located between the northern seawall of Battery Park City to West 59th Street along the Hudson River waterfront. The Park consists of various piers, adjacent upland areas, and approximately 400 water acres extending from the Park's historic bulkhead to the United States Pierhead Line.

The lower Hudson River Estuary within and beyond Hudson River Park is one of the most significant estuarine habitats in the United States. In 1998, in recognition of the ecological importance of the Park's water area, the Act designated the Park's water section as the Estuarine Sanctuary and charged the Trust with creating a sanctuary management plan to guide Park development and operations in and along the Hudson River within the Park's boundaries. The Act specifies that this plan must be approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and that it should provide for:

- Conservation of marine resources found in the area, with special consideration for habitat values;
- Environmental education and research;
- Public recreational use of the water, including for boating, fishing and swimming;
- Authorized commercial maritime uses in the portions of the water section adjacent to park/commercial uses as defined by the Act;
- Other water dependent uses as permitted under the Act.

The Act also allows for the creation of water surface zones within the Sanctuary.

For nearly twenty years, the 2002 ESMP has proved to be a successful tool for advancing both action and planning related to the Sanctuary.

Summary of the Draft Plan

The Draft Plan under consideration is organized into two sections. The first section provides an overview of progress to date under the 2002 ESMP Action Agenda. The second section sets forth a 2021–2030 Action Agenda that was drafted in partnership with a Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) comprised of experts in three separate but overlapping topical areas: Public Access and Recreation, Environmental Education and Natural Resources Research and Enhancement. As outlined in the Draft Plan, TAC members worked with the Trust to establish goals and priorities in each of these three management areas for the period between 2021–2030. The goals and priorities are intended to be ambitious yet actionable, and are informed by the Park’s operational and management framework. As with the 2002 ESMP Action Agenda, the 2021–2030 Action Agenda is grounded by the principles and requirements of the Act. Accordingly, this document builds upon the original goals established in 2002 rather than substantially altering them.

The 2021–2030 Action Agenda will serve both as a management tool for the Park’s Board and staff in the continuing planning and operations of Hudson River Park and as a reliable resource for research, education and community partners who are collectively working towards advancing shared goals for the Sanctuary.

A copy of the Draft Plan can be found on the Trust’s website at <https://hudsonriverpark.org/activities/esmp>.

Contact

If there are any questions about this notice, please contact Carrie Roble, Vice President Estuary & Education, at croble@hrpt.ny.gov or 212-627-2020.