



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council
May 10, 2022**

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives:

CUNY Faculty Info Session

In April, the Trust cohosted an informational session with CUNY's Office of Research to share current Park science and learning opportunities with CUNY faculty members. About 30 STEM faculty from various CUNY colleges participated to learn about the Park's River Project department and current research, educational and sustainability efforts. This meeting was a first step in building a HRPT/CUNY partnership to reach mutual research, STEM education and job training goals. The Trust hopes to become a known and reliable resource for CUNY faculty and students by expanding the frequency, range and depth of science collaborations overtime. This Summer, the Park's River Project will be providing internship opportunities for CUNY students and supporting CUNY faculty as part of the Park's Visiting Scientist program.

Riverkeeper Riversweep & Jane's Walks

On Saturday, May 7th our River Project hosted a shoreline cleanup as part of Riverkeeper's 11th Annual Sweep. Volunteers worked together to remove debris and conduct a macroplastics survey along the shoreline of Pier 76. The data collected during the cleanup supports the Park's ongoing research of marine plastic pollution and educates local community about the importance of reducing plastic waste. Additionally, on the same day, the Park participated in the Municipal Art Society of New York's Jane's Walk NYC. Park educators conducted a tour of the Compost Center at 34th Street to share about the Park's Community Compost Program. Visitors were shown the biodegradation process of large-scale composting, featuring the Park's new industrial composter. Participants learned about the environmental benefits of composting and healthy plant beds as well as how they can be involved in the Park's sustainability efforts.

Meet the Fishes & Wetlab Opening

And lastly, we are excited to share that our River Project team is getting ready to open the Wetlab for the 2022 season. This year we are bringing back Meet the Fishes on Thursday, June 2 from 4 to 7 PM. This event serves as a celebration to welcome the public into our research aquarium and offer guided tours of the wildlife we've collected so far. Following Meet the Fishes, the Wetlab will continue to be free and open to the public on a regular basis. Wetlab Look-ins will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 6 PM from June to October, with additional weekend open hours from July to September. You can check our website for full details, and as always if the Advisory Council would like to arrange a special tour of the Wetlab we are more than happy to set something up.

Design and Construction:

All papers related to the litigation regarding Gansevoort Peninsula have been filed in New York Supreme Court, Albany County, and we will inform the Advisory Council when that Court renders a final decision on the Article 78 petition. The Temporary Restraining Order related to this petition was vacated on April 13, and construction is proceeding at the site. Steven Dubner Landscaping continues to construct sports

field and subsurface infrastructure, as well as advancing the vehicular related boardwalks, pine grove walkways, and final grading. 13th Avenue promenade work is proceeding well, including the installation of soils, trees, and plantings. JR Cruz will begin their DEP-approved water main relocation and related work on May 11. With the ending of the in-water construction moratorium, work on the south edge resilient edge and north end salt marsh will be proceeding, with the south edge to be complete mid-summer. EJ Electric has completed sports lighting installation and is beginning lighting installation for the rest of the peninsula. Padilla Construction and all MEP building contractors have mobilized to begin construction of the new restrooms/M&O/Concession complex. Trevcon Construction is coordinating with Billion Oyster Project to complete seeding of oyster gabions and reef balls, with installation of submerged habitat on the north side of the peninsula scheduled to begin mid-Summer.

At Pier 97, work is proceeding well. The Pier 97 Shade Structures are being installed and should be completed within the next 2 weeks. Mock-up pieces of the granite planter walls and curbs are currently in-transit to the site for test fit, and the first batch of fabricated granite pieces are on schedule to ship by the end of this week. Drainage mats and geofam fill are continuing to be installed at the future lawn area. Cast-in place concrete has been poured for the sunset deck seat steps, planters at the sunset plaza, bleacher seating under Shade Structures, half of the mid-pier expansion joint, footing for the turf field perimeter wall, and the western span of the east expansion joint wall. Installation of the cantilever slab, required to connect the pier to the upland and consisting of prefabricated concrete planks and cast-in place concrete topping, has been completed. The concrete block structural wall for the Overlook is complete and ready for ceiling slab installation. Electrical conduits for light fixtures and power receptacles continue to be installed. The general contractor for the new comfort station has received DOB permits to begin excavation and foundation work. They plan to mobilize sometime this week to begin demolition.

Prices of the five proposals received in response to the RFP for reconstruction of the tennis courts were significantly higher than estimated. The Trust issued a clarification simplifying the project logistics with intent of reducing the construction costs. Updated proposals have been received from all 5 bidders and the selection committee is currently reviewing responses. We have recently completed some isolated patching to enable safe play to continue this spring and summer.

At Pier 40, installation of sports turf on the rooftop area formerly known as the passive field has been completed. Remedial roof work within and around the field will be occurring over the next few weeks with the intent of opening the new field in mid-June. Thanks to this project, we will have the ability to host many displaced youth leagues during Chelsea Waterside's field reconstruction. We have completed contract drawings for a new guardrail system for the perimeter of the 2nd level parking garage, and for a possible replacement of the roof over the walkway around the perimeter of the Pier 40 courtyard field. A construction RFP for the roof project was issued this week. In the meantime, protective netting has been installed around the perimeter of the Pier 40 courtyard as a safety measure.

Private Passage by Malcolm Cochran was reinstalled in Clinton Cove on April 26 after a comprehensive restoration in Virginia. It has returned with a new exterior coating, more resilient windows and a fully rehabilitated interior. It's looking great and we are excited to have it back. The conservation team will be on site completing some minor touch up work later in May.

Proposals were received for the Estuarium design services RFP on March 11. There was a robust response, and the selection committee is conducting detailed reviews of the submissions. The Trust expects to start interviewing potential architects later in May. The scope of services includes the design

of the Estuarium building as well as the interior exhibits and aquaria tanks. Funding for the design services is available, but full funding for the construction of the Estuarium is still being sought.

Public Programs:

We are excited to announce that the 2022 Hudson River Park events schedule is our most jam-packed ever, with over 260 events planning from May to October. The 2022 in-house Trust produced arts and cultural programming will be a mix of new series combined with returning foundational events. We continue to highlight the diversity of people and places in and around the Park, bringing new performers and styles to different locations, all while working collaboratively with community organizations to support their performances, and introducing new ways of experiencing Hudson River Park.

Highlights include the return of Hudson River Dance Festival, June 9 & 10 at Pier 63, Blues BBQ Festival on August 13 at Pier 76, Hudson RiverKids Mondays at Pier 25 and Thursdays at Pier 63; Dance in HRPK on Tuesdays, featuring Sunset Salsa in June, Afro-Caribbean dance in July both at Pier 76 and Bollywood & Bhangra in August at Pier 84; Jazz at Pier 84 in collaboration with the Jazz Foundation of America takes place every other Wednesday in June, July and August; Sunset on the Hudson concerts return Friday nights at Pier 45 throughout the season and Healthy on the Hudson, sponsored by lululemon, take place Monday through Friday at multiple Pier locations throughout the Park. The Trust will also be hosting Bicycle Skills 101 in collaboration with Bike NYC, once a month, May through August at Pier 76.

HRPK's River Project is also gearing up for a busy season of hands-on environmental science, with opportunities for all ages to discover and engage with our Estuarine Sanctuary and unique riverfront environment. Highlights for the season include Meet the Fishes as noted above, the return of Big City Fishing this July and our engaging Ask a Scientist series, which welcomes guest STEM experts for humorous and informative talks followed by a live Q&A. We are also excited for the SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival, October 14 and 15 at Pier 84, and Pumpkin Smash, November 5 at Pier 84.

We want to acknowledge Hudson River Park Friends who is presenting and supporting free programs this season, that are as always free and open to the public. A complete listing with dates and times is now on our website at hudsonriverpark.org/events.

The Hudson River Park Trust's events are only part of the wide variety of programming offered within the park. We are working with our tenants to help include more of their listings on our event calendar, so please let us know if you are hosting free, publicly accessible programs that you would like us to considering including.

Operations:

Trust staff coordinated the delivery and installation of an additional composter to assist with the higher volumes of food scraps noted since January 2021. The new composter by EcoRich has a vessel rotating barrel system that can handle up to 2000 pounds of food scraps per day. In addition to the new composter, 10 new compost bins were placed throughout the park with reflective park decals promoting the park's growing compost program.

Drinking water fountains and dog run water features were turned on this past month by the Trust's Facilities team.

New reflective decals were installed on the glass windows near Piers 45 and 51 comfort stations.

The Trust and Friends have been very engaged with volunteer events this Spring throughout the park including work in garden beds, habitat area and repainting the courtyard tunnel at Pier 40.

Public Safety

At the March Advisory Council meeting, we reported multiple incidents of people unnecessarily deploying fire extinguishers and activating false fire alarms, as well as multiple incidents of graffiti throughout the park. We are happy to report that both have declined significantly since the March meeting.

One of our PEP officers, John Dobkowski has been promoted to sergeant and will remain at the Trust. We have also received five of our seasonal PEP CSAs and expect an additional four in the near future.

The NYPD has positively identified the person wanted for the sexually motivated robbery that occurred at Pier 46 on March 27, 2022. The Wanted poster has been distributed to PEP, Trust staff and tenants. Our Senior Director of Public Safety maintains regular contact with NYPD Special Victims Squad regarding the status of the investigation.

The Police Precincts that border the park (1st, 6th, 10th and MTN) have all experienced substantial increases in almost all categories of crime for calendar year 2022. With the exception of the aforementioned sexual assault/robbery, there have been decreases in all categories of crime at the Hudson River Park during this time.

On Tuesday May 3, a 36-year-old emotionally disturbed male jumped over the esplanade rail at Harrison Street and subsequently drowned. NYPD FDNY and PEP all responded within minutes but unfortunately were not able to locate the victim for more than 30 minutes.

Planning:

Chelsea Piers

The Significant Act process for the proposed Chelsea Piers lease ended April 26, 2022, and the Trust is reviewing the 425 written comments received and 30 oral statements made at the public hearing.

Pier 57

The roof top at Pier 57 was opened to the public at a ceremony that included Governor Hochul, Mayor Adams, elected officials and many community members on April 18, 2022. This new park space is currently open from 7AM-10PM, seven days a week. The ground floor spaces – including the Park's River Project classroom, food hall and public "living room" – are expected to open in the fall, completing this pier's spectacular transformation.