



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council  
September 14, 2021**

**Recent Tropical Storms:**

New York City and the surrounding northeast region were hit hard by two tropical storms in the past few weeks -- Henri and Ida. Except for a few instances of water leaks and minor flooding, Park buildings and tenant spaces remained largely unharmed. Trust staff did a wonderful job preparing for the storms by deploying sand bags at priority locations, coordinating with tenants, timely closing off certain park areas and activities, and doing post-storm inventories and isolated cleanup. Trust staff is continuing to work on and improve emergency protocols so we are well prepared for inevitable future storms.

**Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives:**

*ESMP*

This summer, the draft ESMP was made available for public comment from May 27 through August 9, 2021. The Trust is currently in the process of summarizing the comments received at the hearing and in writing, and is also finalizing the proposed Action Agenda to address some of the comments that were received. We expect to bring the final draft to the Board of Directors for consideration later this month. We want to extend our gratitude to many of the Advisory Council members who joined the public hearing and submitted comments.

*Tribeca Habitat Enhancement*

We are also pleased to share that the Tribeca Habitat Enhancement project hit the water in July with the deployment of 80 reef balls seeded with juvenile oysters between Pier 26 and Pier 32. In August and September, seeded gabions, more seeded reefballs and textured concrete piles are also being installed by our contractor, Reicon, and with support from subcontractor, Billion Oyster Project. We anticipate the project will be completely installed by the end of the month. During the installation process, Trust staff has been coordinating with the Downtown Boathouse to make sure that their planned activities in the embayment area could continue to take place in a safe manner. Based on their feedback, contractors installed buoys demarking the most shallow enhancement area to build awareness of the submerged features. Collectively, these enhancements will help to increase the Sanctuary's oyster population, diversify river habitat and create a corridor to support local fish populations. This project will be monitored over the next few years to inform future habitat enhancement design and decision-making. The Park is grateful for our scientific partners at NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and our Sanctuary Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee for helping shape this important initiative.

*Wetlab*

Our newly spruced up Wetlab re-opened at Pier 40 for the first time in over 18 months in early July with some new lighting and a new paint job. Over the winter and into spring, our Facilities team introduced improved lighting, a trailer functioning as a lab where our eDNA and other

scientific sampling programs can occur, and other improvements funded primarily by grants HRPT secured from DEC and Council Speaker Corey Johnson. The flow-through tanks supporting live animals are the star of the show at the Wetlab. Current aquatic residents include oyster toadfish, lined seahorses, diamondback terrapins and horseshoe crabs. The Trust has a license from NYS DEC to collect and possess live animals in the Wetlab. Members of the public are invited to tour the space during Wetlab Look-ins on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 6:00 PM through the end of October. This summer, Trust staff hosted a number of students attending summer camps primarily from Title I communities at the Wetlab, both virtually and in-person.

### *Summer Recap*

The Park's River Project team wrapped up a successful summer of programming and internships. In addition to public programs such as Wetlab Look-ins, Shell-ebrate Oysters and Tide Deck Tours, our educators have offered STEM enrichment (virtually and in-person) for many camp groups. Many of our virtual programs also continue to be popular with the weekly Live from the Field on Instagram Live attracting an average of nearly 1,000 views per program.

This summer we were also excited to welcome a team of high school and college interns back in the Park to assist ongoing research and education programs. As part of these efforts, the Park wrapped up its fourth year of the INCLUDES internship program, which serves students from communities underrepresented in STEM by providing stepping stones for learning field and lab science skills and developing leadership and communication skills. This year's cohort included two CUNY City College mentors and ten high school students from the Intrepid GOALS for Girls program and the Young Women's Leadership School in Harlem.

### *Fall Preview*

Looking ahead to this fall, the Park's River Project team will be continuing to offer a series of virtual and in-person field trips for local schools with applications available now online. The Park will also be hosting its annual marine science festival, SUBMERGE, with both virtual and in-Park activations from Tuesday October 19 to Thursday October 21. Public STEM programs will continue through early November, ending the season with the annual Pumpkin Smash on Sunday November 7 to promote sustainability and the Community Compost Program. Additional information about the full series of fall public programs can be found on [hudsonriverpark.org](http://hudsonriverpark.org).

### **Design and Construction:**

There is a huge amount of activity at the Park in this realm. Staff is currently reviewing results of 10 construction bids related to Pier 97 and Gansevoort Peninsula. In addition, various construction contracts have been approved since the last Advisory Council meeting for Pier 97, Gansevoort and Chelsea Waterside Park as well.

### *Gansevoort Peninsula*

Construction at the Gansevoort Peninsula is proceeding well. Steven Dubner Landscaping has been working throughout the site, and is concentrating initially on the salt marsh to the north and beach to the south. Existing riprap and debris has been excavated, subbase installed, and new riprap and shorelines edges are being installed for resiliency and other project goals. The existing surcharge pile is currently being redistributed around the peninsula to create the new site elevations.

Trust staff is currently evaluating responses to the General Construction Phase II, Submerged Habitat, and Electrical Construction Phase II RFPs, and expects to bring recommendations to the Board for approval at this month's Board meeting. The Trust also just received proposals for the construction of a building containing Maintenance and Operations, restrooms, and concession space. We remain on track for a late spring 2023 overall project completion.

### *Pier 97*

At Pier 97, the Shade Structures fabrication is ongoing. A kickoff meeting for the Pier 97 site work contract has been held and the contractor has started shop drawings submittals. Site prep work on the pier will commence during September. In addition, the contract for Pier 97 site electrical work has been executed and a kickoff meeting is being scheduled.

Finally, the Trust has received and is reviewing proposals from contractors for the various Pier 97 maintenance and restroom building RFPs: general construction, electrical, plumbing and building mechanicals.

### *Chelsea Waterside Park*

The contracts for the Chelsea Waterside Park Phase II scope are being executed and the team is coordinating logistics. Staff will update the local community and sports users once a phasing schedule is confirmed. Work is expected to begin on site in the coming weeks.

### *Pier 40*

At Pier 40, work has begun on the seventh and final phase of the pile repairs, and we expect that in Spring 2022, all of the pier's piles will have been jacketed. Up on the roof, the reconstruction of the southern section is progressing with an anticipated completion in late fall. The scope includes the reconstruction of the passive field area in addition to the structural work. The façade work on the East and North facades was completed over the summer.

## **Public Programming:**

### *Summer Recap*

Summer always brings more people to the Park, and we were so happy to be able to again host in-person events and activities. Until mid-July, we were following the pop up approach for some of our larger live music and dance events, but we're happy to say that since then we've been able to return to offering many of these on a scheduled basis and in person. It has been a joy to walk the park's piers, to see people exercising and to watch people dancing and listening to music.

The Public Programs department increased the number and variety of free fitness and music events offered this summer, with Jazz at Pier 84 taking place every other week, and Sunset on the Hudson popping up throughout the Park's four-mile footprint in July and August.

In addition to our own programming, the Trust will be increasing its partnership programs with other cultural organizations as another way to diversify our offerings and expand our outreach. Examples from this summer include the NYC Salt exhibit by first generation student photographers on the heliport fence in Chelsea; and *After the Storm*, a newly commissioned work by composer Yaz Lancaster, and with arrangements newly commissioner music by fingerstyle guitarist Yasmin Williams, and Alex Weiser's "and all the days were purple," which was a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Music. *After the Storm* took place at Pier 64 in July. We look forward to hosting other collaborations in the fall. Events at Hudson River Park can be found on the Hudson River Park's home page.

#### *Little Island*

Little Island hosted a full schedule of events, including their August festival, where all events were free. People who have attended performances at the amphitheater have raved about the magical setting and how perfect the acoustics are.

#### *Pier 76*

It has been a busy summer on Pier 76.

In early August, the final concert of New York State's POP-UP performances was staged at Pier 76 where an eclectic group of singers and dances brought their talents to a pop-up stage.

American Express brought the 2021 US Open into NYC by building a series of tennis courts. Six custom tennis surfaces were installed, with the balance of the pier available for the general public.

Fashion Week 2021 was staged last week in NYC with two shows including the Coach show at Pier 76. Monse showcased their apparel brand with a fashion show at the Pier 62 skate park.

#### *Fall Preview*

The Park's in-house programming continues in September and October with music, dance and exercise programs as the Public Programs department continues to pivot to in-person programming, and we continue to follow all State and City COVID-19 safety protocols to stage safe performances throughout the Park.

In the fall, Pier 76 will be the site of the New York Wine and Food Festival's Grand Tasting event, October 15, 16 and 17.

#### *Art Installation*

A temporary art installation as part of The Armory Show Off Site program has been installed on the upland area north of Pier 64. The pieces entitled Empire and Materially Superior (2021) are

by artist Katja Larsson, represented by Aicon Contemporary, and will be located in the park until early December. The pieces are oversized cast baseball hats presented on pedestals.

### **Operations:**

#### *DOT Work*

The Trust has been working closely with the State Department of Transportation (SDOT) on 13th Street crosswalk safety improvements including updating striping and signage on the bikeway. SDOT anticipates this work to be scheduled in the very near future. SDOT also confirmed that NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) installed an interim stop sign at the 10th Ave and 13th St intersection, which will be later changed to a permanent traffic signal.

Other DOT related work includes on-going coordination with NYCDOT to ensure any bikeway lighting issues are addressed in a timely manner. Since the last Advisory Council meeting, the remaining 8 of 80 lights initially identified in the fall of 2020 are fully functional. Trust staff are scheduling another bikeway lighting audit this fall.

#### *Pier 57*

Trust staff continue to be in touch with Pier 57 and SDOT about remaining construction activities on and along the bikeway. This work includes the construction of high curbs and pipe rail along the Pier 57 service road.

#### *Little Island*

Trust staff is working closely with Little Island on a variety of operating issues that stem from the pier being a popular place to be. SDOT has been in the vicinity to observe crowds crossing Route 9A and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the City is similarly engaged.

#### *PEP*

Park Enforcement Patrol (PEP) including the officers here every day as well as several Trust staff have been making a huge effort to improve multiple aspects of our safety systems within the Park. The Operations Desk is now proactively watching video and reporting incidents as they happen in real time, resulting in correcting conditions and in some cases the arrest of individuals as they are committing a crime. Funding for cameras has come primarily from grants from our elected officials, including Council Member Margaret Chin, Council Speaker Corey Johnson, and Borough President Gale Brewer.

Over the last year, the new technology has enabled PEP to share information with the local precincts including photos, from video footage, of wanted individuals for crimes in the park. This has resulted in the arrest of people responsible for some of the reported crimes in the park. PEP has also conducted joint operations to address issues including the restriction of E-Bikes and E-Scooters, and NYPD has been helping with much appreciated support in this realm as well, though E-bikes and E-scooters remain a major issue on the bikeway.

### **Planning:**

### *Chelsea Piers*

Trust staff is continuing to work with Chelsea Piers and Trust Board members on a proposed new lease for Chelsea Piers. We are still in negotiations but nearing completion and will soon go through the required public review process. We will be providing updates to Community Board 4 and to the Advisory Council.

### *Fireboat McKean*

The historic Fireboat McKean berthed at the middle berth on the north side of Pier 25, next to the retired US Lighthouse Tender Lilac, will be open to the public for tours aboard the fireboat starting September 11 and will continue to provide public programming until the end of October.

### *NYC Ferry*

Following the two “Shared Waters” meetings organized by NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) in coordination with the Trust between the NYC Ferry operator (“City Experiences” by Hornblower) and the non-motorized boating community in October 2020 and May 2021, City Experiences organized a “Captains in Kayaks” event on June 24, 2021 at Manhattan Kayak at Pier 84 in the Park. The goal was to get members of the NYC Ferry crew in kayaks so they can experience NYC waterways from a different perspective, in advance of the launch of the new NYC Ferry route with a stop at Pier 79. The event went well with some good information sharing between City Experiences captains and deckhands, NYC Ferry team representatives and the Manhattan Kayak and Pier 96 Manhattan Community Boathouse staff representing the non-motorized boating community.

NYC Ferry recently launched their new St. George route with stops at St. George in Staten Island, Battery Park City and Pier 79/ West 39<sup>th</sup> Street on August 23, 2021. NYCEDC has informed us that ridership is low due to COVID-19. NYCEDC has an agreement with New York Waterway to use their existing buses and is not planning to add any of their own buses specifically for this new service. NY Waterway has also agreed that a traffic agent will be posted at the premises for traffic management once traffic increases to the level that requires this service. Staff is monitoring conditions on the ground. As you know, NYC Ferry operators have committed to have their captains plan to operate at least 100 yards from Hudson River Park’s pierhead line. You all are our eyes and ears in the Park and we ask, if anyone sees any NYC Ferry or any other vessel close to the Park piers, to please inform the Trust. Please also fill out the contact form on the NYC Ferry website <https://ferry.nyc/contact/>, which can be filled out by anyone to report a “Shared Waters” issue, which will go directly to NYC Ferry marine operations team. Trust staff is speaking directly with NYCDOT and NYCEDC frequently on safety and other issues related to ferry operations.

### **Other Trust Updates:**

New York City invited the Trust to be part of the City’s Essential Workers Parade in July. Three delegates from our team represented the many Hudson River Park employees who reported to the park daily even during early days of COVID-19 to care for our plants, buildings, fountains and to remove trash and clean the property. We are grateful to all the members of our staff for their

commitment and stewardship, and we are so glad that they have gotten some much-deserved attention for their work.

Daniel Kurtz opted to step down from his longtime role as the Trust's Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President for Finance and Real Estate in July. He led business negotiations on everything from air rights sales to long and short term leases and permits to ensure the best financial and operational terms for the Park, and did everything within his power to help put the Park on sound financial footing in the future. Dan cared equally about the Park's mission, and drove us all to set a high bar for the Park's continuing operations and care. He is helping us complete a couple of open issues but is no longer a daily presence in the office. We are grateful for all he has done for the Park.

We are also so pleased to welcome Kimberly Quinones as the Trust's Chief Financial Officer/ Treasurer and Executive Vice President for Finance and Real Estate. Kim started with us in July and was able to overlap with Dan for a few weeks. She most recently served as the Director of Global Blockchain Business Council and the Executive Director of the NYC Blockchain Center, a public/private partnership with the NYCEDC. She was formerly the Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, which like us, generates its own revenue and operates a public park. Because Roosevelt Island is also a NYS public benefit corporation, Kim is also familiar with public procurement, budgeting and many of the other requirements to which the Trust is subject. Kim has also worked as a Public Finance banker in New York and Los Angeles, structuring infrastructure and general fund financings for municipal bonds. We are looking forward to introducing Kim to our Advisory Council members and Park community.

Finally, Dennis McCartney, our Senior Director of Public Safety is no longer working for the Trust. We appreciate all his contributions to Park safety during his time with the Trust. We are expecting his replacement to arrive within the next month and will introduce you once that occurs.