



Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council January 18, 2022

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives:

ESMP

Since the last Advisory Council meeting in November 2021, the Trust organized and recently hosted our first annual Research & Habitat Enhancement meeting to fulfill a commitment made in the ESMP Action Agenda. We are planning to schedule our Annual Full Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) ESMP meeting in February 2022. At the Research & Habitat Enhancement Meeting, science partners from Stony Brook, Columbia University, New Jersey City University and Hudson River Foundation shared research updates. Partners like NYS DEC, Riverkeeper, HEP, CUNY, Billion Oyster Project and more helped the Trust consider ideas for next steps in research projects and also discussed the development of a Visiting Scientist program. Moving forward, these two annual meetings will help inform the official progress update for the Trust's Board and Advisory Council. The Trust is also working with a design consultant on polishing the format of the 2021-2030 ESMP document for easier reading; in the meantime, the adopted document is posted on the Trust's website.

Winter Virtual Programs

The Park's River Project is getting ready to kick off the 2022 education season with a series of winter field trips. Starting this month, schools from all over NYC can sign up for virtual field trips focused on local fish populations, plankton ecology, environmental justice and plastic pollution on the Trust website under the Visit tab, and then selecting Field Trip Programs, or clicking [here](#). These trips will be offered from now through early April, with hopes to offer some in-person field trips for schools from April through the end of the 2022 school year. We are continuing to monitor NYC Department of Education requirements and public health considerations as we plan for those programs.

This is also the time of year when we focus on building relationships with schools, including targeted outreach to all five boroughs, with a focus on Title I schools (schools with the majority of students eligible for free lunches). We are excited to be hosting our first ever Education Open House virtually on Tuesday March 22 at 4:30pm. At the Virtual Open House, our River Project educators will share more about 2022 programming opportunities and our free digital learning resources, such as the STEM Activity of the Week. Our target audience includes school administrators, educators and after school program leaders and we appreciate any support you might be able to give in sharing with your networks.

Pier 57 Update

2022 will be an exciting year for our River Project team as we look ahead to the opening of our Hudson River focused gallery and classroom at Pier 57. The Pier 57 classroom and gallery space will provide the Park the ability to offer year-round marine science public programming, field trips, after school programs and internships that will help transform this pier into an educational

cornerstone for the community at large. The gallery and classroom together will create a one-of-a-kind marine science learning center by merging technology with hands-on education and stewardship of our local waterways.

The gallery will provide a series of high-tech interpretive exhibits centered on local wildlife and unique elements of Hudson River Park's Estuarine Sanctuary waters. Over the last year, our River Project team has been working with designers from Downstream, a design and technology firm contracted by Google, to create interactive, educational and engaging STEM games and exhibits for the gallery. We look forward to sharing more about that project with you all in the coming months!

Design and Construction:

Trust staff have been busy with procurement and construction activities for Pier 97, Gansevoort and Chelsea Waterside Park.

Gansevoort Peninsula

Construction at the Gansevoort Peninsula continues to proceed well. Steven Dubner Landscaping and EJ Electric have been working throughout the site. In-water work has ceased for the season and will resume in the spring based on regulatory approvals. Work is currently underway on the sports field structure, 13th Avenue Promenade, and subsurface utilities. JR Cruz has mobilized to begin work on the phase 2 portion of the project, which includes the shared use road, Bloomfield Street reconfiguration, dog run, and exercise area. The Trust is in the process of executing construction contracts for the Gansevoort building, which includes space for a concession, operations space, and public restrooms.

Pier 97

Offsite fabrication of the Pier 97 Shade Structures is well underway. Fabrication of one shade structure is complete and it is currently being coated. The other shade structure has been fabricated and is in the process of pre-assembly to confirm proper fit. Completion is scheduled for the end of February. Once complete, the structures will be stored by the contractor until the footings to support them are installed on Pier 97, at which point the structures will be delivered to the site sometime this spring.

The Site work contractor is installing rebar and form work for various concrete elements including the north edge retaining walls, shade structure footings, and light pole foundations. In addition, mock-ups for the granite curb-wall veneers and stone slide are being fabricated. Shop drawings and submittals for all site elements are being submitted and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

All four Pier 97 building construction contracts have been awarded. The project kickoff meeting took place the week of January 3, 2022 and the contractors have started preparing construction schedules and submittal packages.

The design team is working on a Construction Documents package for the esplanade and bikeway project from Pier 97 to Pier 99. The Trust is coordinating with NYSDOT for procurement

of a contractor for this project, which will be partially funded by a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. There is also substantial coordination with NYSDOT for project definition and other aspects of the grant, including coordination with the Department of Parks & Recreation for the seamless connection into Riverside Park South.

Chelsea Waterside Park (CWP)

On December 3, 2021, the Trust hosted a “Groundbreaking and Thank You” celebration for Phase 2 of CWP. Phase 2 includes an expanded dog run with separate areas for small and larger dogs, a refreshed sports field, a permanent picnic area, many more planted areas, and public restrooms. This event was an opportunity to thank all the community members and elected officials who have provided funding and support required to move this forward.

Work has been progressing with the site contractor completing material salvage, removal, and earthwork operations in the Central Area and Overlook. Work is underway for the building contractor to install the foundation of the new comfort station in the south corner of the Athletic Field. This phase of construction has the Central Area, Overlook and the south edge of Athletic Field closed to the public; these areas will remain under construction until fall 2022. As of today, the Dog Run is closed for improvements; this area will remain under construction until summer 2022.

Pier 40

The south roof parking lot is completed and is open for parking. Fencing around the rooftop passive field is almost complete and the turf will be installed pending appropriate weather. The south 2nd level parking lot is also complete with the parking garage operator currently preparing to open it for parking.

Other Park Projects

We are out to bid on the new dog run at Pier 84 with a contractor to be selected in early 2022.

Funding has been secured for the Science Play Area in Tribeca within the Park. Trust staff continues to work on the design documents with our consultants and coordinate with the play equipment manufacturer. We expect to have final construction documents by spring, after which the Trust will issue a construction RFP with the goal of starting the science play area construction later in 2022.

The Trust released an RFP for Estuarium Design Services on January 6, 2022 with proposals due March 4. The Estuarium will be an approximately 10,000 square foot new environmental education building located near North Moore Street within the Park. The notice of the RFP is on the Trust website under the About Us tab, and then selecting Bids & Business Opportunities, or by clicking [here](#).

Public Programs:

The Public Programs department is finishing the program schedule for the 2022 Park-produced events season. The Trust surveyed Park newsletter subscribers for their feedback on events and

used input we received in our planning. Many favorites will return in-person in the Park, including the Hudson River Dance Festival in June, Sunset on the Hudson Friday night music performances and Hudson RiverKids entertainment for children (in Tribeca and Chelsea). The Blues BBQ Festival and the SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival, two highlights of the busy programming season, will be back again in 2022 as well.

The department has begun working on ways to accommodate as many sports field permittees as possible who will be displaced when the Chelsea Waterside Park playing field closes for renovations. The approximate closure dates are June 13, 2022 to November 23, 2022. When the CWP work is complete, it will include a brand-new playing service for the field, a highlight of the renovations.

Operations:

Trust staff coordinated the repair of a number of light fixtures along the NYSDOT bikeway with NYCDOT during the month of December. During the repair, over forty inoperable light poles, located from Houston St. to 57th St., were inspected and fixed. This month, the Trust's Facilities team successfully installed fourteen UV lighting air filtration systems throughout the Pier 40 building to aid in purifying air flow and combatting the spread of COVID-19.

Trust staff is currently evaluating the need for, and placement of, additional life rings and ladders. We met virtually with the Advisory Council Water Safety Committee and they have offered to help share ideas about professional guidelines and standards to help us with this evaluation. We will also be speaking with some of our tenants about water safety equipment.

Planning:

Chelsea Piers

The Trust and Chelsea Piers staff will provide a presentation at today's Advisory Council meeting in anticipation of an upcoming "significant action" process for a new lease with Chelsea Piers that has been under negotiation.

Pier 57

The Pier 57 exterior perimeter walkway opened to the public in November 2021. It provides lovely views of the Hudson River, Little Island to the south, and Chelsea Piers to the north. The public rooftop park is projected to open in spring. Google is planning to start moving into its offices in 2022, and the public marketplace, Park environmental classrooms, and public living room are also expected to open later in 2022.

Freight Transportation

Trust staff attended a press event at Pier 79 on December 15, 2021 where the NYCDOT and NYCEDC released their plan "Delivering Green" that lays out a sustainable vision to reduce overreliance on trucks. Mayor De Blasio was present to unveil the plan. The plan is to restructure freight distribution, encourage marine transportation, and lead the City toward more sustainable last-mile delivery practices, all while reducing overreliance on trucks. The Trust was not part of any planning associated with this announcement but has notified New

York City that to the degree Pier 79 or other park locations are considered for transportation in the future, we would like to be at the table to discuss safety and other concerns that have been discussed in the past at the Advisory Council.

Other Trust Updates:

Debra Kustka, the Park's longtime Vice President of Operations, is no longer working for the Trust and has joined one of our sister State agencies for a position with even greater responsibility. Debra worked on Route 9A landscape design and bikeway issues before joining the Park, so she is one of the few who has watched the whole Park take shape and grow up. She had an astonishing eye for detail, and we have relied on her to help us solve countless issues including many related to safety and circulation, coordination with both the City and State Departments of Transportation, large and small events planning, and so many other things. We are grateful to Debra for her tremendous service and contributions to the Park.

We are pleased to welcome two new Executive Vice Presidents to the Trust; both named Robert and started with us January 2022.

Robert Rodriguez is our EVP of Park Management. Fortunately, he goes by Rob! His primary responsibility will be to oversee both daily functions and long-term planning relating to the public's safe and enjoyable use of the park. The portfolio encompasses planning, management and oversight related to the care, maintenance and repair of physical assets, including landscaped grounds and buildings, events support and logistics, and public safety.

Rob was the Superintendent/Area Manager of Liberty State Park across the river in Jersey City for a decade. Liberty State Park is a large and complicated place, and Robert has had to deal with many of the same kinds of assets and issues we have – taking care of waterfront property, recovery from Sandy, managing concessions including a marina and the Ellis Island ferry, overseeing safety and security issues including hosting large July 4th and other events, old buildings, horticulture volunteers, etc. Technically, Rob worked for NJ Department of Environmental Protection, which is like a combination of our State Parks and State Environmental Conservation Departments. Rob grew up in Jersey City and has watched Hudson River Park grow up as well.

Most of you already know our second hire – Robert Atterbury, who is our new EVP of Park Relationships and Programs! In a nutshell, this position will supervise programs, initiatives and external relationships that support the Park's engagement with the community. Until this week, Robert was the Deputy District Director for Community Relations for Congressman Nadler. He previously worked for Senator Hoylman and Tom Duane as well and clearly already has deep knowledge of and relationships across the west side communities in which the park is located.