



Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council March 8, 2022

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives:

River Project Internship Updates

Each year, the River Project hires a team of paid interns to support science and educational work happening throughout the Park. Currently, the Trust is accepting applications for 2022 seasonal field science and environmental education roles. This year, we are offering both 10 and 30-week positions, which are ideal for current college students and recent graduates respectively. The River Project also collaborates with a number of local institutions to promote internship opportunities. This summer will be the third year that we are hosting an intern funded by Pace University's Wilson Center for Social Innovation, a program where we were selected to participate based on student interest in our work. Additionally, to continue engaging local students with our internship opportunities, we have begun a new partnership this year with LifeSci, an organization that recruits CUNY students and creates job pipelines that are rooted in the sciences. Both the science and education positions are listed on our website [here](#) and we appreciate your support in sharing these opportunities within your networks.

Design and Construction:

Work at Chelsea Waterside Park has been progressing. The site contractor completed salvage, removal, and earthwork operations in the Central Area, Overlook and Dog Run, and is presently prepping the subbase for rebar installation and concrete placement associated with multiple footings, curbs and walls in the Overlook and Dog Run. The building contractor is in the midst of installing the foundation of the new comfort station in the south corner of the Athletic Field.

The Dog Run will remain under construction until summer 2022; the rest of the park will remain under construction until late fall 2022. HRPT has sent notices to field users about the forthcoming field closure in June and is prioritizing finding alternative locations for youth users where possible.

Construction at the Gansevoort Peninsula is proceeding well. All building contracts have been awarded and submittals and shop drawings are continuing. JR Cruz has installed some utilities at the east end of the site and is currently obtaining SDOT permits to begin reconstruction of the Bloomfield Street entrance/exit. Electrical and other work is also under way. In-water work will resume after the construction moratoria expires later in spring.

At Pier 97, work is proceeding well. Concrete retaining walls along the north edge of the pier, shade structure footings, most light pole footings, and most of the mid-pier expansion joint walls have been completed. Mockup pieces for granite wall and curb veneers are being completed. Shop drawings for all granite veneers have been approved and fabrication will commence upon approval of the mock-ups. Prefabricated concrete planks required to connect

the pier to the upland are almost complete and are expected to arrive onsite in the next 2 weeks. Offsite fabrication of the Pier 97 Shade Structures is complete, and they are currently being packaged for shipment. The structures are expected to arrive on-site at the beginning of April for installation. Finally, the electrician is installing conduit between installed light pole footings.

All construction contracts for the Pier 97 Comfort Station have been executed and the General Contractor is expected to begin mobilization in the next 2-3 weeks. The first major operation to take place will be excavation to install piles and the concrete foundation slab.

The OLIN Studio continues to refine the Pier 26 Science Play Area design. We are reviewing design documents and completing cost estimates, and expect to complete revised construction documents in the spring.

A design services RFP for the Estuarium was released in early January with proposals due on March 11. There has been significant interest in the RFP from the design community and the Trust expects a strong response. 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.

Pier 40

Rooftop Passive Field: Final logistics for installation of the rooftop passive field will be finalized over the next week with installation planned to be complete by April.

Perimeter guardrail for 2nd level parking garage: Contract drawings are being finalized for the design of a guardrail to be installed around the full perimeter of the 2nd level parking garage. A construction RFP is expected to be issued before the end of March.

Second Deck Canopy Restoration: Contract drawings and construction logistics are being finalized for the replacement of the canopy over the walkway around the perimeter of the Pier 40 courtyard field. A construction RFP is expected to be issued before the end of March.

Other Park Projects

Proposals were received last week for reconstruction of the tennis courts just south of Pier 40. Bidder interviews will be held over the next few weeks to select a contractor to perform this scope of work. The tennis courts will need to be closed during their reconstruction.

Work on Private Passage, by Malcolm Cochran is progressing well. The sculpture is currently off-site in Virginia for restoration. The work to the interior of the sculpture is complete and the exterior restoration is well underway. The Trust anticipates re-installing the piece in Clinton Cove in mid-April.

A contractor has been selected for the Pier 84 Dog Run Reconstruction. The scope includes replacement of the asphalt pavement, modifications to the existing fence, installation of a new water feature and additional seating. The work is currently being scheduled in coordination with

ongoing activities in the Park. The dog run will need to close during reconstruction, which is likely to commence in April.

Operations:

Public Safety

The Park has experienced multiple incidents of people unnecessarily deploying Park fire extinguishers and intentionally activating fire alarms. This has happened at Pier 40 on multiple occasions and at Pier 84, causing HRPT staff and other building occupants to need to evacuate.

There have been multiple incidents of graffiti throughout the park. In particular, the skate park at Pier 25 and the planters at Pier 76 have had graffiti on multiple occasions. The Park maintenance team promptly removes all graffiti that it can, and graffiti is also documented. While there have not been any hate messages recently, NYPD is contacted in the event any such tagging is found.

The exterior television/monitor displaying information about the Hudson River at Pier 84 was intentionally destroyed by a group of young people on Saturday February 12 night. Restrooms have also been damaged at Pier 84 and in Tribeca.

Staff completed an effort to install security cameras at Pier 76 and continues to expand the security camera system based on available funding.

Incidents involving homeless individuals have also increased recently, as frequently occurs during cold weather. Most of the incidents involve attempts to camp in the restrooms. Homeless individuals are offered assistance to obtain services during every encounter with PEP.

Bikeway Resurfacing Project

SDOT's Parkwide bikeway resurfacing project has been postponed and is tentatively scheduled to start sometime at the end of fall 2022.

Planning:

Chelsea Piers

The Trust began the Significant Action process for the Proposed Chelsea Piers Lease on February 11, 2022. The public review period runs through April 26, 2022 and the virtual public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2022 between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. On February 11, the Trust emailed all Advisory Council members a copy of the public notice. The public notice, Proposed Lease with exhibits and a lease abstract are all available on the Hudson River Park's website [here](#). The Trust looks forward to receiving comments on the Proposed Lease from the Advisory Council and encourages members to attend the public hearing in addition to submitting written comments.

Piers 92 and 94

The Trust has also learned that Vornado Realty Trust is seeking to amend its lease for Piers 92 and 94 with the New York City Economic Development Corporation and is seeking other permits

and approvals to permit the development of film and television production uses on Pier 94 and the Pier 94 headhouse. As the Advisory Council may recall, the existing lease issued in 2011 had expected construction would have occurred in 2011 but it was delayed due to Hurricane Sandy, pile conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, Vornado reached out to the Trust to inform the Trust that the project is expected to now proceed with modifications but that the project will continue to include the public amenities that Vornado had committed to Community Board 4, including approximately 25,000 square feet of open space and an approximate 1,850 square foot indoor community amenity space at the north end of the headhouse that could contain restrooms and other indoor space uses. While Piers 92 and 94 are not part of Hudson River Park and thus the project does not involve approvals by the Trust, the Trust is pleased that the project will proceed with the committed public amenities included.

Sustainability:

Tenant Sustainability/ POP Workshop

On March 30, 2020, Trust staff will be hosting the Annual HRPK Sustainability/ Park over Plastic Tenant Working Group with our tenants as a virtual meeting. The goal is to provide an update on the Trust's sustainability initiatives including Park over Plastic, composting, recycling, energy and water efficiency, sustainability education for staff and park users, etc., and continue to work together as green partners. Topics include highlighting tenants' successes, expanding our green partnership network with tenants support and "getting back to the basics" with regard to reducing single-use plastics following ongoing ease of restrictions from the pandemic among other things.

Spring Internship

We are hosting an intern for the spring semester through an internship program funded by CUNY Brooklyn College. The intern will help support few of the Park sustainability initiatives.