



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council
June 7, 2022**

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives:

Tribeca Habitat Enhancement Monitoring

This summer we will be starting a five-year program of monitoring and researching the Tribeca Habitat Enhancement project. The project is inclusive of four research areas: (1) oyster health & performance; (2) estuarine community utilization; (3) enhancement feature performance; and (4) water & sediment properties. Project methods and metrics are consistent with other regional habitat enhancement projects and data and results will be shared publicly. This year, water properties will be assessed, oysters will be surveyed for survival and growth rates, as well as spat recruitment, and mobile species, like fish and crabs, will be surveyed. We will share sampling dates and locations with the Downtown Boathouse, Lilac and any other potentially affected tenants as soon as they are set.

New Grants

As you are aware, we continually seek opportunities to fund our educational and science initiatives through grants. We are pleased to share that recently we secured a \$10K discretionary grant from the Pinkerton Foundation to support our Student Leadership Program, which is a paid summer research intensive for high school students. This funding will help us host our 2022 program which introduces students from The Young Women's Leadership School in East Harlem and the Intrepid's Goals for Girls program to authentic field research and STEM leadership skills over a 6-week period. Additionally, we received grant funding from New York City to conduct some basic surveying in the Park this summer. This will allow us to implement an intercept survey at a limited number of Park events and park locations and to develop an online questionnaire for Park users. We will share more about how you can support the outreach aspect of the online questionnaire to the community shortly.

Wetlab Tank System and Park Over Plastic Program

Last week we regrettably canceled Meet the Fishes due to a plastic bag in the river clogging our Wetlab tank system's intake pipe. When the tanks went offline, we had to release fish back into the river to avoid causing them stress. While we were able to fix our pump within 24 hours, we did not have sufficient time to repopulate the tanks before the event. The plastic bag was a powerful reminder of our over reliance on single-use plastics and the harm that plastics cause to ecosystems and wildlife worldwide. The Park is ever committed to reducing plastic pollution in the River and continuing to lead the Park Over Plastic program. You can find our [Park Over Plastic Toolkit](#) on the Park's website. The Toolkit shares methods and digital resources to help more parks and organizations jump start plastic reduction efforts in their organizations and communities.

Design and Construction:

At Chelsea Waterside Park, the site contractor has completed salvage, removal, and earthwork operations, and is presently installing footings, curbs, walls, salvaged granite elements and site utilities

in the Central Area, Overlook and Dog Run. We are still on track to open the larger, improved dog run in the summer. The building contractor has completed the foundation and subgrade utilities and is in the midst of constructing the comfort station's walls and other above grade structures. The Dog Run will remain under construction until summer 2022; the rest of the park will remain under construction until late fall 2022. The Trust has sent notices to field users about the forthcoming field closure in June and is prioritizing finding alternative locations for youth users where possible.

All papers related to the litigation regarding Gansevoort Peninsula remain 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. In the meantime, construction is proceeding at the site. Steven Dubner Landscaping continues to install the vehicular rated boardwalk, other concrete elements, as well as installing soils and trees along the 13th Avenue Promenade and pine grove. South edge work is again under way, with installation of the rip rap and seating edge with integrated tide pools underway since the lifting of the DEC/USACE in water work moratorium restrictions occurred last month. JR Cruz recently completed the water main relocation at the north end of the site, clearing the way for Steven Dubner to resume work on the salt marsh. Both the south and north edges are expected to be complete by late summer. EJ Electric has completed sports lighting installation and is installing lighting for the rest of the peninsula and construction of the new restrooms /M&O /Concession building has begun. Trevcon Construction will begin submerged habitat installation later this month, to be complete by mid-July.

At Pier 97, work is proceeding well. The Shade Structures installation is complete and all that remains is isolated touch-up painting. Mock-ups of the granite planter walls and curbs have arrived at the Port and will be delivered to site this week for installation, and more granite is on its way. Drainage mats and geofoam fill are continuing to be installed around the Pier. Cast-in place concrete work is ongoing for the turf field perimeter wall, expansion joint walls at the upland, ADA accessible ramp retaining walls, and footings for granite curbs and walls. The steel lintel for the Overlook storage room door will be installed soon which will allow the remaining CMU block and ceiling slab to be installed. Electrical conduits for light fixtures and power receptacles continue to be installed. The general contractor for the new comfort station has started demolition and excavation for the foundation slab.

Prices for the tennis courts were significantly higher than estimated, and the Trust issued a clarification simplifying the project logistics with intent of reducing the construction costs. We are currently reviewing responses and intend to bring the recommended contractor to the Board for approval this summer, with construction to follow in late summer or early fall.

At Pier 40, installation of the sports turf on the rooftop area formerly known as the passive field is complete. However, we are still addressing some adjacent work, some of which is occurring now, and some will occur later this year. Thanks to this project, we will have the ability to host many displaced youth leagues during Chelsea Waterside's field reconstruction.

A construction RFP was issued in early May for a possible replacement of the roof over the walkway at the perimeter of the Pier 40 courtyard field. Proposals are due June 17. In the meantime, protective netting has been installed around the perimeter of the Pier 40 courtyard as a safety measure. We are also currently preparing a construction RFP to install a new guardrail system at the perimeter of the 2nd level parking garage.

The Trust is also working with two outside projects that affect the Park. Trust staff is coordinating with the construction and development team for 550 Washington Street, the new Google building across

from Pier 40, on the phasing and construction plan for the new crosswalk. Subject to that work receiving permits from the State and City Departments of Transportation, work is likely to occur in early fall, though we may approve certain early work for site efficiencies, especially given the anticipated adjacent tennis court work.

Also, the staff has been coordinating with Vornado, which is planning to convert Pier 94 into film and TV studio space. Pier 94 is not within the Park's boundaries. As part of the approved ULURP some years ago, Vornado is obligated to build public restrooms and a community amenity room on their property, but bordering Clinton Cove. Vornado has been coordinating with the Trust and Community Board 4 about the desired amenities whose design must ultimately be approved by NYC.

Public Programs:

Hudson River Park is back with a full slate of free, in-person programs.

Our popular Healthy on the Hudson fitness series presented by lululemon, and supported by Hudson River Park Friends, is off to a good start with exercise programs five days a week in different locations throughout the Park.

Sunset on the Hudson returns at Pier 45 on Friday nights, featuring an eclectic series of music performances. Jazz at Pier 84 is every other Wednesday throughout the summer.

This Thursday and Friday, June 9 & 10, is the return of Hudson River Dance Festival, presented by Hudson River Park Friends with support from, and curated by, The Joyce Theater. The two-day dance performance event will take place at the Pier 63 lawn bowl.

We are also happy to bring back one of our most popular series, Hudson RiverKids children's entertainment, Mondays at Pier 25, and Thursdays at Pier 63.

Pier 76 will be the site on Tuesday nights for Dance in HRPK featuring Sunset Salsa participatory dance, in June and Afro Caribbean dance in July. Bollywood & Bhangra will take place at Pier 84 in August. All three include lessons.

Mark your calendars later this season for the in-person return of the BLUES BBQ FESTIVAL August 13th at Pier 76

For a complete list of all programs this summer, visit our website [here](#).

Operations:

Fleet Week 2022 on Memorial Day weekend was a big success. NYC DOT, NYPD, and US Navy did an excellent job keeping the bikeway and walking paths safe and open throughout the event and managing the queuing lines. This is the first time that the bikeway was able to remain open during this event.

The Trust and Friends remain engaged with volunteer events throughout the Park. We have had 20 volunteer groups come to the Park to date in 2022 with 340 volunteers providing 912 hours of work. We

were able to plant 75 shrubs, 80 perennials and put out 25 yards of mulch with these events. Volunteers also painted the courtyard tunnel at Pier 40 with Trust's maintenance staff. We thank Friends for coordinating these important programs.

To date in 2022, Trust's horticulture staff has planted just over 2000 Annuals and 1000 Perennials around the Park.

Also note that since April 1, Trust's maintenance staff has spent 72 hours cleaning graffiti.

Public Safety

With the increased springtime use of the Pier 40 fields, we have experienced an increase in thefts on and around the field. Most of the thefts involve unattended backpacks and scooters. All permit holders and users of the fields are reminded to secure their valuables and not leave their property unattended. We are coordinating on crime prevention with the 6 Precinct. Another type of theft that we are seeing is of our plants. Horticulture staff recently planted a dozen rose plants by 26th Street in Chelsea, which were stolen a few days later.

The perpetrator of the sexual motivated robbery that occurred on March 27 at Pier 46 has been positively identified by NYPD but not apprehended yet. The Senior Director of Public Safety maintains regular contact with the NYPD Special Victims Squad regarding the status of the investigation.

A 26-year-old person was reported missing to PEP by his parents on May 26. After a search by PEP, NYPD and marine units yielded negative results, NYPD scuba divers searched and recovered his body from the end of the finger pier. Investigation indicates the person committed suicide by jumping into the river while wearing a weighted backpack.

We have been actively planning for the upcoming Pride events in and around the Park.

We are still looking into the feasibility of text reporting to the Trust Operations Desk.

Planning:

Chelsea Piers

The Trust Board of Directors approved the final lease with Chelsea Piers at its May 19, 2022, meeting. The Trust appreciates the many comments received by the public, including by the Advisory Council. As a result of the public comments, a new Section 9.3 and Exhibits M and N were added to the final lease. Exhibit M is Chelsea Piers' May 10, 2022, letter to Community Board 4 that includes its additional commitments related to the eastern frontage and green energy measures. Exhibit N provides for Chelsea Piers and the Trust to implement a joint planning effort at defined intervals during the lease term and upon the occurrence of significant triggering events that could substantially impact traffic, with the goal of reducing vehicular use on the eastern frontage road in favor of increased pedestrian or even cyclist space. The lease and response to comments document are available on the Trust's website [here](#).

Other Park Updates:

On May 7, the Trust's 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 south of Pier 76. The data collected during the cleanup supports the Park's ongoing research of marine plastic pollution and educates the local community about the importance of reducing plastic waste.

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. 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.

The Trust held its Annual Water Safety Meeting on May 18 via zoom with the goal of bringing together the Park's non-profit and commercial, non-motorized and motorized water related tenants and permittees, specifically those who touch the water in their day-to-day activities. Also present were ferry operators NY Waterway and NYC Ferry and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Trust staff provided Park updates affecting water related activities including construction, the Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan, River Conditions dashboard, Waste Shark and the Park over Plastic initiative. Water safety and security issues were discussed including hazards to navigation, spill protocol, new EZ docks, water safety ladders, life ring cabinets, tenant communications, etc. The USCG Auxiliary also gave a presentation on recreational boating safety programs that they offer and other ways that they can assist the boating community.

Both the ferry operators present at the Water Safety Meeting, NY Waterway and NYC Ferry, provided an overview of their current operations and reiterated their commitment to have their ferry captains maintain a 100-yard distance from the Park's pier headline. This 100-yard ferry safety zone had been suggested by the HRPK Advisory Council to prevent long term wake damage to in-water infrastructure, reduce impact on human powered boating and environmental restoration efforts.

The Tribeca Film Festival is being held this year from June 8 through June 14, 2022, with many of the movie showings occurring at the rooftop of Pier 57. The full schedule is available at <https://tribecafilm.com/>. We hope that many of the Advisory Council members have an opportunity to catch up on the amazing list of older and newer movies being shown.