



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council
December 13, 2022**

Fall Programming:

Our annual Pumpkin Smash event was held on November 5 at Pier 84 and was a great success, with 2500 pounds of pumpkin smashed to add to the Trust's compost. Over 700 people attended, the largest crowd ever for this event.

The 20th Anniversary of the "Day in the Life of the Hudson River & Harbor" was held on October 13. Organized by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, this event provides students throughout the Hudson River Estuary from the Troy Dam to NYC with opportunities to collect water quality data including temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and more. Over 150 local students collected data from three locations within Hudson River Park, contributing to a greater data set collected.

We are already actively planning for next season, expecting the return of long time favorites like Sunset on the Hudson, Salsa, Blues BBQ & our Dance Festival, along with some new surprises.

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives:

Science TAC Meeting

In November, the Trust hosted a meeting with the Research & Habitat Enhancement subcommittee of its TAC for the Sanctuary Management Plan to discuss discharges. TAC members from the Hudson River Foundation, Harbor Estuary Program, Riverkeeper and others explored the scale and potential consequences of unique discharge sources and types. We also invited guests from Con Edison, NYS DEC and Columbia University / Notre Dame to share context, data and modeling related to Pier 98 discharges, thermal discharges more broadly and CSOs. Dr. Wade McGillis, a professor of civil and environmental engineering who worked with us two years ago to help create the "CSO Risk Model" hosted on our website, provided context on opportunities and limitations of modeling. The TAC agreed that priorities for next steps should include looking at existing data that is already being collected within the Sanctuary water and then to consider what additional metrics would help the science community better understand the relationship between discharges and river temperatures.

CUNY Partnership

Finally, we continue to work diligently at expanding collaboration with CUNY generally, but also specifically with the two campuses closest to the Park – Borough of Manhattan Community College in Tribeca and John Jay College in Hell's Kitchen. Last week, we joined BMCC's Director of Research Programs in facilitating a conversation with 15 faculty members representing both social and natural science departments, to share more information about the Park's research projects, sustainability efforts, and ways for students to engage in the Park. We will soon be speaking with BMCC's Director of Internships & Experiential Learning to plan ways to connect with more BMCC students for credit and paid job training opportunities in the Park. We have begun the process of building similar connections at John Jay College.

Design and Construction:

Although it was a couple of months later than we had hoped for due to supply chain issues and COVID disruptions at the fabrication shop, we were able to reopen the newly improved and expanded dog run in Chelsea Waterside Park on November 21. Tuffy, pictured below, was our first four-legged guest. The new dog run has nearly doubled in size and now features include separate areas for large and small dogs, pavement with color seal coating for added comfort, concrete mounds with boulders, dog-friendly water spray jets, tiered seating with shade, and other amenities. It's terrific to see it in use and to see happy owners and dogs. We still need to put some finishing touches on aspects of it, but we did not want to delay the opening further while final elements are fabricated and installed.



Elsewhere at Chelsea Waterside Park, Alpine, the site and landscape contractor, is installing curbs, walls, hardscapes, plantings, and lighting in the central area and fencing around the sports field while Athletic Fields of America has begun site prep for the installation of the new synthetic turf. EW Howell, the building contractor, has completed the comfort station's foundation, utilities, exterior walls, interior partitions, roof and the building's repurposed granite cladding system, and is presently installing mechanical/electrical/plumbing equipment, exterior/interior architectural finishes, restroom accessories, and the solar panel photovoltaic system. We expect to reopen the ballfield in winter and for the balance of the park to reopen in spring 2023 at which time we'll organize a proper celebration.

At Gansevoort Peninsula, Steven Dubner Landscaping has completed installation of soils and plantings for the salt marsh on the north edge of the site and continues installation of overlooks and seat steps, with all concrete work now completed. On the west end of the site, the 13th Avenue Promenade is largely complete, with all landscaping, paving, railings, lighting, and site furnishings installed. Dubner has also completed the south edge stone ledges within the water and will have the entirety of the south edge completed by December 15, with the kayak landing surface to be completed later. SDL has also installed the sloping lawn and surrounding landscaping. To the east of the lawn, the pine grove is largely complete, which all plantings, site furnishings, paving, and lighting installed. At the building, all foundations are installed and the first walls have started to be installed.

JR Cruz has begun reconstruction of the Bloomfield Street entrance and continues subsurface utility work, including for the dog run and adult fitness area. EJ Electric is relocating lighting along the bikeway in advance of Bloomfield Street and bikeway reconstruction. Padilla Construction continues to advance construction of the restrooms, concession, and Park operations space.

At Pier 97, work is proceeding well. Soil has been placed in newly completed planters, many trees were planted, and sod is being installed on the Sun Lawn. Concrete walls for planters are being formed at the flexible gathering area and the playscape. All granite veneer material is now on site and being installed at planter walls and curbs throughout the pier. Installation of the Overlook granite slide has also started. Drainage mats and geofoam fill are continuing to be installed around the pier. Mock-ups of custom benches for various spaces have been fabricated and reviewed by HRPT and the design team. Excavation for the comfort station foundation slab is complete and all unforeseen sub-grade obstructions have been removed. Contractor has started installing form work, insulation, and waterproofing for the foundation frost wall and a portion of the frost wall has been poured.

Work is continuing on the tennis courts just north of Spring Street. Asphalt has been laid and temporary striping will be painted shortly to allow play throughout the winter. The tennis surfacing system and permanent court striping will be installed come spring when the weather permits.

The contract with Alpine Construction for the new Pier 26 Science Play Area has been executed and the groundbreaking for the start of that work is scheduled for December 14 at 11 am. Monstrum of Denmark has begun fabrication of the sturgeon play features that will be the centerpiece of the play area.

In a big step forward for the Estuarium, the Board approved the Trust's selected design team led by Tribeca based Sage and Coombe Architects at its September meeting. The project team also includes EHDD, a west coast based architecture firm known for their work on Aquaria as well as their sustainable design, Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architect, Matthews Nielsen and Space Haus for exhibit design. The design team has begun preliminary pre-design work including review of existing conditions documentation. We hope members of the Advisory Council will join us on December 20 as the Trust introduces the design team at the CB1 Waterfront, Parks & Cultural Committee meeting. We will be engaging the community as part of the design process this winter and beyond.

Our new neighbors at 550 Washington Street have completed construction of the new crosswalk south of Pier 40 which necessitated new pavement and plantings on Park property. Many Trust staff took part in planting 2400 bulbs in that newly landscaped area that should all be in full bloom next spring. The Citibike docking station that was temporarily relocated during construction to Morton Street will be returning shortly to the tennis court area.

Safety and Park Management:

We want to update you on the three serious and horrific incidents that have taken place in the Park this year. One was the overnight murder of a sleeping homeless individual by someone who also stabbed two other homeless people at other City locations, and who has since been apprehended. The other two were sexual assaults, again committed by a serial assailant, of two women who were jogging in the early morning hours and attacked from behind. The first of these took place on March 27 and the second on November 3. In between, the person assaulted another woman on the east side. Our hearts go out to all these victims, and we are grateful that the perpetrator was caught. Camera footage provided by the Trust after the first assault helped NYPD identify the suspect in early spring, and the police had been

searching for him until hours after the most recent incident when he was caught attempting to flee the city.

We all believe that the safety of our patrons and staff must be our highest priority and we know that these incidents, while tragic, are outliers. Statistically, the Park is a very safe place, and the number of people running and recreating here including when it's dark outside is one tangible indication of that. A great deal of care has gone into thinking about design, lighting, upkeep, water safety equipment, our growing camera system, coordination with NYPD and other government agencies, communications with tenants and with the Advisory Council, and certainly our PEP contract and officers all work together to create and sustain this atmosphere. But we are always looking for ways we can do more – particularly after such alarming incidents.

During the summer, we conducted a lighting survey and have tasked one of our on-call landscape designers with designing some supplemental lighting in certain locations. We plan to install additional cameras, and while they don't in themselves stop crime, they can help deter it and clearly support police efforts. Thanks to the Advisory Council Safety Committee's recommendation, we promoted November's Running Safety Month with a campaign of safe running recommendations from NY Road Runners throughout the park and through our digital outlets.

Other Park Updates:

As we've shared previously, the Trust released a Request for Proposals for Boathouse Operators at Piers 26, 66, 84 and 96 on October 18 and received seven proposals on the submission deadline of November 29, 2022. Trust staff are reviewing the proposals with the goal of making a selection for each boathouse by the end of the year. The goal of the RFP is to provide the public with consistent, safe and affordable access to the Hudson River while satisfying the boating interests of a wide range of users. The Trust recently met with Community Board 1 to explain the goals of the RFP, including why the Trust must undertake a request for proposal competitive procurement process for any long-term use of public property, including by private non-profit partners.

We would like to update you on two proposed resiliency projects that would potentially affect the Park. As you have heard previously, the Battery Park City Authority is studying measures to protect its northern and western portions in tandem with other measures that have been previously approved. BPCA has issued a Draft Scope of Work related to the Environmental Impact Statement that must be prepared and held its public scoping meeting on November 16. Rashi Puri, our AVP of Real Estate, attended that meeting and is leading the Trust's effort to assess how this project could affect Hudson River Park including views, safety, operations, and the potential for flooding. The Trust intends to provide a comment letter to BPCA prior to the deadline on December 31 to ensure that the construction and operation impacts to Hudson River Park are fully analyzed. The plan would require an amendment to the Hudson River Park Act to modify our southern border, as the proposal would extend the northern edge into the water area between Battery Park City and Pier 25 used as a mooring field. To the west, a proposed flood barrier system would be installed, potentially along the Hudson River Park north of Stuyvesant High School and then crossing Route 9A at Harrison Street. BPCA has committed to work with us and other agencies to ensure Trust input is considered during the design process. We have shared information provided by CB1 about opportunities for the public to engage with the process, and will keep CB1 and our Advisory Council informed as planning progresses.

Separately, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also released a coastal storm risk management feasibility study, which is referred to as the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The study was prepared in cooperation with NY DEC, NJ DEP, NY

Department of State and New York City Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice and considers measures referred to as "adaptation measures" to manage coastal storm risk in tidally-influenced regions of the New York and New Jersey Harbor, including the Hudson River from New York City to Troy. Adaptation measures include storm surge gates, seawalls, floodwalls and other resiliency measures at key locations around New York City for an estimated cost of \$52 billion. As relates to Hudson River Park, the plan includes a mix of floodwalls, seawalls and levees along the west side of Manhattan from 34th Street to the south connecting to the planned Battery Park City resiliency project. It appears one of the options would be a mix of concrete flood walls and deployable barriers located along the eastern side of the Route 9A bikeway and/or in portions of the park. Rashi Puri and Erik Linsalata, our Chief Engineer, attended an information public meeting hosted by the Army Corps on the plan, and the Trust will be speaking with State and City agencies who have been involved in planning to date prior to submitting comments on the Tier 1 Draft EIS by the January 6, 2023 deadline.

We would like to take a moment to thank and acknowledge Tom Lindon, our longtime Vice President of Marketing and Events. Tom has announced his retirement at the end of the year – he's got a new grandson and is ready to spend more time with his family than our busy park schedule allows. Tom has been an incredible force for good here – always the first to say kind words about his colleagues and the first to champion what we do. He's also brought in countless sponsors and events that generate funds for the Park's care while balancing the fact that we are first and foremost a public park. If you have ever attended a concert or sports event here, you can thank Tom. We appreciate his years of service and wish him well.