



## Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council

March 14, 2023

### Design and Construction

#### *Science Play Area*

The Pier 26 Science Play contractor, Alpine Construction, began excavation of the site to install subsurface utilities and electrical service last month. Monstrum, the Danish play equipment manufacturer constructing the centerpiece play structures and related equipment, is still hard at work fabricating equipment. Fabrication is about 85% done, with equipment scheduled to depart Denmark the beginning of April and be onsite at Pier 26 in May.

#### *Estuarium*

The Trust and Community Board 1 co-hosted the first public engagement meeting for the Estuarium project on February 27. This meeting followed a brief introduction to the project scope and design team at CB 1's December Parks and Waterfront Committee Meeting. The February 27 virtual meeting was well attended and allowed community members to provide input on priorities and other ideas for the project in breakout sessions. The timing of this meeting was intentional, as the Trust wanted the design team to hear community input during the earliest steps in the design process.

#### *Tennis Courts*

As previously reported, the three repaved tennis courts located just north of Spring Street have been open with temporary striping since November. As soon as there is a stretch of warm weather the final color surface will be installed, which we expect to occur in April. We will also be retrofitting the existing court lighting with new LED fixtures that are expected to reduce power consumption by half. With the mild winter we have had, many are enjoying playing tennis on the newly refurbished courts.

#### *550 Washington Crosswalk*

As mentioned in our December report, our neighbors at 550 Washington Street completed construction of the new crosswalk south of Pier 40. The Citibike docking station that had been temporarily relocated during construction to Morton Street was returned to its permanent home on the newly constructed path. Our understanding is that the project is still waiting for Con Ed to make some required connections before the new traffic light is operational. We keep hearing that this should be soon but do not have an estimated timeline.

#### *Gansevoort Peninsula*

At the Gansevoort Peninsula, Steven Dubner Landscaping is completing the installation of DEP infrastructure within the future sand area and they continue construction on the Hudson Balcony which will extend slightly under the Day's End sculpture based on the

approved plans. Steven Dubner Landscaping also continues to install site furnishings and paving materials. Installation of the sports field drainage and subgrade will begin next month.

JR Cruz has nearly completed the revised Bloomfield Street vehicular entrance and exit as well as utility work, and is now working on the new Bloomfield Street shared use road and FDNY turnaround. Curbing and utilities for the dog run and fitness area are complete.

Padilla Construction is making good progress on construction of the restrooms, concession, and Park operations space, with walls installed and roofing complete on the structure. Cladding continuing to be fabricated off-site. EJ Electric continues to install lighting and utilities in various locations.

#### *Chelsea Waterside Park*

At Chelsea Waterside Park, Alpine, the site and landscape contractor, is installing curbs, walls, hardscapes, plantings, and site furnishings in the central area. The new synthetic turf field is complete and safety fencing around the perimeter is nearing completion. We expect the field to be in working condition shortly (see below).

EW Howell, the building contractor, has completed the comfort station's foundation, exterior walls, interior partitions, roof, utilities, MEP (mechanical/electrical/plumbing) equipment, and the building's repurposed granite cladding system. They are presently wrapping up the installation of exterior/interior architectural finishes, restroom fixtures and accessories, and the solar panel photovoltaic system. Overall, we are on track to reopen a much-improved Chelsea Waterside Park in its entirety this spring.

#### *Pier 97*

Currently work at Pier 97 is focused in the playscape area with concrete curbs and walls for planters recently completed and footings for play equipment being formed. This week, concrete unit pavers for the entire site are being delivered with installation to commence following review of a paving mock-up. Trenching for utilities in the upland area has started. The comfort station foundation frost wall has been poured, insulated, and waterproofed. Sub-grade plumbing has been installed and rebar for the foundation mat slab will be installed over the next 2 weeks which will be followed by the concrete pour.

#### *W 29 to W 44 Street Design*

We are completing the scope of services for a comprehensive design team for the unfinished park area between West 29<sup>th</sup> and West 46<sup>th</sup> streets and expect to release an RFP in the new few weeks that will include significant community engagement components. As one of the remaining unfinished sections of the Park, we are thrilled to advance improvements in this area. It is also a significant design challenge with numerous existing land uses, critical public infrastructure, and existing tenants like Gateway, the West 39th Street Ferry Terminal, the privately-owned Pier 78 and Circle Line Cruises. We look forward to robust community engagement throughout the design process and will be coordinating with impacted public and

private stakeholders.

## **Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives**

### *Spring Field Trips at the Pier 57 Discovery Tank:*

We are getting ready to kick off an exciting 2023 spring field trip season! Notably, we will be expanding the free and low-cost programs offered to NYC schools in the Park with the opening of the Pier 57 Discovery Tank in April. Schools will be able to book field trip opportunities in the Discovery Tank which will incorporate hands-on STEM with the fun and educational digital gallery. Booking for the coming season is currently open for all to apply and we welcome you sharing information about our programs with your network. Beyond Pier 57, we will of course continue to offer field trips at engaging field trip sites throughout the Park such as the Pier 26 Tide Deck and the Pier 40 Wetlab aquarium. More information can be found on our [website](#) or by emailing [education@hrpt.ny.gov](mailto:education@hrpt.ny.gov)

### *Seasonal River Project Internships:*

The Park's River Project has a longstanding commitment of creating green job opportunities by hiring paid interns to support science and educational work happening throughout the Park. We are pleased to share that the Trust is currently accepting [applications](#) for the 2022 season, with roles that are again focused on field science and environmental education. This year, we are offering both shorter- and longer-term seasonal positions which are ideal for current college students and recent graduates respectively.

## **Public Programs**

The Public Programs Department is getting ready to announce the 2023 events season, if you haven't already [signed up](#) for our newsletter, please do! You will be the first to receive our event season announcements and also our weekly program newsletters highlighting happenings in the Park. The Park is also hiring [seasonal brand ambassadors](#) – this is an exciting and fun way to get out in the Park during the events season. You can register for our newsletter and find out more information about seasonal positions on our website.

We are also accepting new event sponsors to help underwrite the cost of our programming. Show your support and highlight your business at one (or more!) of our hundreds of free events. Feel free to reach out to our Public Programs Department to learn more.

### *Ball Field Updates*

The final task related to roof repair on the south shed of Pier 40 will impact the Pier 40 Rooftop fields between March 13 and April 14, with most disruption limited to daytime hours during the week. There will be a two-week period where both fields are expected to be unavailable as roof sealant off-gases. The work is highly weather dependent, so dates may change. We are in communication with affected permittees directly, and nearly all will be able to be accommodated on other fields, including at Chelsea Waterside.

Field applications for the 2023 summer season are now being accepted; the deadline for applying is April 17.

## **Operations**

### *Horticulture*

The volunteer season is gearing up with 12 events scheduled in April. The HRPK Green Team which is made up of community members will meet on April 8 and April 22. The full 2023 Green Team dates are listed on the park [website](#). The volunteer Neighborhood Gardener Program will start the week of March 19. We thank Hudson River Park Friends for their work spearheading and coordinating these initiatives that directly support care of the Park's landscapes.

The Horticulture team is currently busy [recruiting](#) and on-boarding seasonal staff members. This year our horticulture staff will be joined by 2 interns from the New York Botanical Garden - Horticulture and Landscape Design Certificate program.

This Spring the Horticulture team is planning to restore the meadow garden section of the native plant habitat area located near Pier 66. The plan will include removing the existing soil that contains undesirable plant seeds and replacing it with clean soil and native plugs and seed mix.

Wood chipping from the pruned tree limbs has been ongoing all winter season. The wood chips are mixed into the compost product and will be used in the garden beds parkwide.

### *Maintenance*

The maintenance staff continues remove graffiti from exterior locations parkwide. The team has also spent time cleaning up the outdoor storage space at W 34 St. and indoor storage spaces at Pier 40. The team is also currently working on clearing drains parkwide, including the bikeway.

### *Bikeway Resurfacing Project Updates*

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) expected to begin construction work on the Route 9A bikeway from W 59 St. to Battery Park this week. Although the bikeway runs along the Park, it is owned by NYSDOT and not HRPT. The project, which includes repaving and new line striping for the busy bikeway, is scheduled to be completed by June 30.

Work will be performed overnight between 9:00 PM to approximately 5:00 AM and will be completed in sections of several blocks at a time, beginning with various locations between Warren St. and W 54<sup>th</sup> St. Bikeway users will be detoured accordingly, and some Park entrances and exits will be subject to closure during these overnight periods.

The Operations Department is currently working on adding additional dismount bike signs throughout the park to ensure bicyclists are adhering to the park rules and not riding on the esplanade.

We will continue to share information as we learn it, but for questions or more information, please see the [NYS DOT Construction Notice](#) or contact the NYSDOT's Region 11 Community Liaison at [NYSDOTRegion11CommunityLiaison@dot.ny.gov](mailto:NYSDOTRegion11CommunityLiaison@dot.ny.gov) or 917-885-1008.

#### *W 42 Street Tide Gates*

NYC DEP's contractor has completed repairs to the access frames on two DEP tide gates at W 42<sup>nd</sup> St. on March 14. The MTA will be restoring the service to the bus stop near Circle Line.

#### *Public Safety*

For the past few weeks, there have been conflicts at the Chelsea Waterside Park Dog Run. PEP and NYPD have been called to the dog run on numerous occasions and the Trust has received complaints about harassing and/or confrontational behavior. All PEP staff have been advised of the issue and have been providing special attention to the CWP Dog Run. Recently, PEP has been posting an officer at the location between 12PM and 8 PM, subject to personnel availability. We are working closely with the NYPD and PEP, and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

### **Real Estate and Planning**

#### *Pier 57*

The ground floor of Pier 57 is expected to open at the beginning of April – bringing the public the living room public space, bookable community classrooms, the Park's own Discovery Tank educational gallery and classroom and Market 57, the James Beard Foundation-curated food hall – topped with the already open rooftop park. You can learn more about all the offerings [here](#). An exciting and long-awaited development, we will share more information about the opening with the Advisory Council as it is available and look forward to hosting future AC meetings at the Discovery Tank!

#### *Boathouse RFP*

The Trust has issued conditional selection letters as part of the RFP for the Park's four purpose-built boathouses. The tentative awardees are Downtown Boathouse at Pier 26, Hudson River Community Sailing (with New York Kayak Polo) at Pier 66, Manhattan Kayak at Pier 84, and New York Outrigger and Manhattan Community Boathouse at Pier 96. The Trust is still discussing final permits with operators and are excited to share more about this highly successful water access program in the coming months.

#### *Seasonal Tenants*

As the weather warms up, various of our seasonal operators, including minigolf, marinas, restaurants, boathouses, historic ships and more are beginning to identify their opening schedules. Spring is always an exciting period in the park, and we look forward to sharing more about the many opportunities as details become available.