



Report on Operations and Accomplishments in 2022-23

During Fiscal Year 2022-23, the Hudson River Park Trust (“Trust”) again advanced planning, construction, environmental, programming and operational initiatives central to the heart of its mission. Hudson River Park (the “Park”) continued to provide high-quality public open space and accessible environmental, educational, fitness and recreational programming throughout the Fiscal Year.

Construction and New Projects

Pier 26 Science Play Area and Estuarium

The Trust hosted a ground-breaking ceremony marking the commencement of construction on the new Science Play Area in Tribeca adjacent to Pier 26 in mid-December 2022, and excavation of the site for subsurface utility installation began in February 2023. When completed, the new Science Play Area will include custom fabricated play equipment in the forms of a 90-foot-long Atlantic sturgeon and 49-foot-long Shortnose sturgeon, along with slides, climbing nets and other features designed as aquatic organisms. The new Science Play area is expected to open to the public in late 2023.

In September 2022, the Trust approved a contract with Sage & Coombe as the lead designer to prepare the design for the new “Estuarium” and launched the public engagement process for the building in February 2023. The Estuarium would be an approximately 10,000-square-foot new environmental education and science building located upland of Pier 26 next to the Science Play Area.

Tennis Courts

In the fall of 2022, the Trust undertook a renovation of the Tennis Courts located just south of Pier 40, including a reconstruction of the tennis court surfaces. While the courts were temporarily restriped for the winter season, work will be complete in Spring 2023 when a new color-play surface will be installed, as will energy-efficient LED lighting.

Pier 40

Pier 40 is the largest single property in the Park and is home to heavily used athletic fields, administrative and operating facilities of the Trust, a commercial parking garage, and commercial excursion vessels, among other uses. Revenue generated at Pier 40 from parking and maritime uses is a major source of Park operations funding. When the Park came into existence, Pier 40 was already in poor structural condition, and the Trust has had to implement costly repairs to repair portions of the building’s roof, piles, life safety and other systems over many years, diminishing its intended financial benefit to the overall Park.

In 2016, following an amendment to state legislation and a formal zoning action by New York City among other actions, the Trust was able to transfer 200,000 square feet of unused development rights from Pier 40 to the nearby St. John's Terminal Building site. The Trust entered into a \$100 million sales contract with the St. John's developer and the proceeds from that agreement were devoted to repairing Pier 40's deteriorated infrastructure including the approximately 3,600 individual piles that support Pier 40. Pile repair work was organized into seven separate procurements. Divers from several marine construction firms installed individual "jackets" and made other repairs to the Pier 40 piles and deck and the final phase, Phase 7, was completed in 2023. The Trust also installed a new sports turf field on the Pier 40 rooftop that was completed in Summer 2022, and continued work related to replacing the sprinkler system in certain areas.

Gansevoort Peninsula

The Gansevoort Peninsula is an approximately 5.5-acre parcel that was used by the New York City Department of Sanitation until 2018. In 2018, New York City completed the removal of the Sanitation facility, providing a clean slate for a large new park area.

Based on the new park design by the Trust and the design team lead by James Corner Fields Operations, and after an extensive community engagement process, construction began in Spring 2021. Once completed, the new park will include a resilient beach, boardwalk and kayak launch on the south side, a salt marsh on the north side, a large synthetic turf ball field, dog park, adult fitness area, lawn for passive recreation, small park building and a variety of paths and esplanades.

Some of the specific construction activities undertaken during the Fiscal Year included: installation of pavers and boardwalk decking, installation of the south edge ledges and non-motorized boat landing, planting of trees in the new Pine Grove area, installation of the salt marsh on the north side, installation of lighting and other utility conduits, completion of the new vehicular entrances and exits, and construction of a large portion of the new park building that will serve as a restroom, maintenance, and small concession. The Trust also installed several hundred oyster gabions and reef balls seeded with more than 20 million juvenile oysters immediately north of the new salt marsh located on the north side of the Peninsula. These submerged features will provide significant enhancement to the local habitat for river wildlife while also increasing resiliency. The Trust aims to open the new park space to the public in the third quarter of 2023.

Pier 57

Pier 57 is located within the Park at approximately West 15th Street. The pier, which is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is being redeveloped privately through a partnership between RXR Realty and Young Woo & Associates. City Winery was the first occupant. The public perimeter walkway opened in Fall 2021 and the large landscaped public park on the roof with panoramic views of Manhattan and New York Harbor opened in April 2022 and with interior space for Google, the anchor subtenant. In

late March 2023, construction of the public marketplace that hosts a dozen small entrepreneurial businesses specializing in various international foods, an environmental exhibit space and classroom to be operated by Hudson River Park's River Project, other classrooms that can be reserved by community groups, and an indoor public seating area known as the "Living Room" were completed. The opening of these spaces to the public on April 1, 2023 was well received with positive reviews in the New York City media and from community members.

Chelsea Waterside Park

The Trust's and a design team led by Abel Bainnson Butz completed the design of the Chelsea Waterside Park Phase II upgrades during the last Fiscal Year, which design includes a new restroom facility with solar panels to reduce the Park's energy footprint, an expanded picnic area, expanded dog park, and a reconstructed synthetic turf field, among other improvements. Substantial construction occurred during this Fiscal Year. The expanded dog park opened in November 2022. All uses at the Chelsea Waterside are expected to fully open in Spring 2023.

Pier 84 Dog Park

In March 2022, the Trust began renovations on the Pier 84 Dog Park, which included new water spray features and play structures, additional seating, and an improved surface. Construction was completed in September 2022, and was well received by the community.

Pier 97

The Trust and the design team led by Imelk completed design plans for Pier 97 and secured approvals for the design from New York City's Public Design Commission given the property is located on city-owned land during the last Fiscal Year. Pier 97's design includes a distinctive new playground, multipurpose activity field, sun lawn, belvedere and sunset deck in addition to pathways, lush plantings and other park amenities, including a new restroom and small concession. Construction began in Fall 2021 and the new park is expected to open in the third quarter of 2023.

Specific work undertaken during FY 22-23 included: installation of the Shade Structures, installation of the sun lawn and granite veneers for the Sunset Deck seat steps, installation of the new bleacher seating area, installation of trees and other plants, completion of lighting and other utility conduits, substantial completion of the new overlook, and substantial work on the new restroom and maintenance building. The Trust also continues to provide the necessary construction drawings and environmental review materials to the New York State Department of Transportation as precursors to receiving federal funding for completing finishes for the new over-water pedestrian platform between West 58th and 59th Streets and the construction of a permanent esplanade and bikeway that will better connect to New York City's Riverside Park South.

Public Recreation

Throughout FY 22-23, the Park was used by millions for walking, exercising and relaxing. The park continued to be well known for its distinctive and popular playgrounds and maintains its reputation as a key walking and running route in Manhattan. The park's two skate parks are well-used and sustain robust skating communities. Lawns throughout the park remain popular destinations for passive recreation and are regularly filled with picnickers and sunbathers.

Free Public Events

During the 2022 season, the Trust hosted over 260 events, including the Hudson River Dance Festival, salsa, Bollywood and bhangra lessons, Tide Deck tours and educational science programming, plus a full range of fitness classes, to enhance the visitor experience and provide a welcoming environment for diverse audiences. Over 13,000 people attended the annual Blues BBQ festival, and the Trust saw robust attendance at its performances, festivals, educational programming, dance classes and more. Returning programs like Sunset on the Hudson and Jazz at Pier 84 featured diverse performances and had robust attendance. An incredible 68,000 people participated in free and low-cost non-motorized boating in the Park through the Trust's support and partnership with boathouse operators and permittees. Free public events offered by the Trust were also supplemented by offerings from various Park tenants and permittees, including the Intrepid Air and Space museum, Little Island Manhattan Youth, Lilac and more.

Sports Facilities

The Trust facilitated recreational play for the hundreds of thousands of park goers who participate in organized sports activities on Park courts and fields, including use by a wide range of soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and football leagues. Thanks to the high-quality programming provided by the Park's wide range of for-profit and non-profit tenants under the Trust's oversight, tens of thousands more also engaged in ice skating, swimming, beach volleyball, mini golf and more.

Environmental Education, Science and Stewardship

The Trust continues to take seriously its mandate to protect and enhance existing marine habitat and the 400 acres of Estuarine Sanctuary. This is achieved through multiple partnerships and science projects including a robust slate of research initiatives, through work on the Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan, and through direct efforts to enhance the river and Park environment.

Environmental Education

The Trust's River Project hosted many in-person educational programs in FY 22-23. In 2022, the River Project hosted over 5,000 students for environmental science focused field trips. The Trust also received a five-year grant award from the New York State Zoos, Botanical Garden and Aquarium program to support staff in the Wetlab, a research aquarium which continues to be one of the Trust's most inspiring educational venues for both students and members of the public. With that additional support, the Trust was able to expand public hours including weekends and saw a meaningful increase in visitors.

The Trust also hosted its popular Ask a Scientist series at the Wetlab and continued its informal education efforts in the Park, including tours of the Pier 26 Tide Deck and the ever-popular Big City Fishing, which allowed adults and children to fish alongside the Trust's environmental educators to learn more about what lives in the Hudson River. The annual SUBMERGE marine science festival, which features science-themed entertainment, wildlife touch tanks, and more, was held in October 2022 for the first time as a two-day event. The first day was reserved for NYC School Students on field trips, and over 60% of the 1000 attendees were from schools that qualified for need-based fee waivers. The second day was open to the public and saw over 4000 people attend.

Through the end of the fiscal year, the River Project prepared for the opening of the Pier 57 Discovery Tank, supporting the creation of public facing games, mapping out new lesson plans and adapting its existing curriculums for the new space.

Science

Research on the Park's seven long-running studies on fish abundance and diversity, water quality, plastic pollution, pathogens, environmental DNA, and oyster health all continued throughout the Fiscal Year, contributing to stronger baseline data for understanding river conditions and estuarine community utilization. In 2022, the Trust began a collaboration with a SUNY Stony Brook lab to standardize the data, develop a statistical model and analyze the dataset to better understand fish abundance and distribution.

The Trust undertook the first season of a four-year monitoring effort at its TriBeCa habitat enhancements, which aims to better understand the impact the enhancements have on the ecology to better inform future enhancement efforts. The Trust believes this monitoring effort is the largest in the region to date. As noted above, the Trust also installed habitat enhancements at the Gansevoort Peninsula and received a \$750,000 Congressional allocation through NOAA for future monitoring and education efforts.

The Hudson River Park Act requires the Trust to prepare and maintain an Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan (ESMP) to balance and guide activities and initiatives involving the Sanctuary. In FY21-22, the Trust completed its update to the ESMP and a new Action Agenda for the period 2021-2030. Through multiple partnerships as well as independently, this Fiscal Year, the Trust advanced a robust slate of research initiatives and held meetings with its Technical Advisory Council (TAC) as provided for in the ESMP. The Trust held the first annual meeting of the full TAC in January 2023 to address the successes of the first year of the ESMP's Action Plan and to discuss what areas should be the focus of the TAC for the upcoming year.

Sustainability

Another notable operational success in FY 22-23 was the continuation and expansion of the Trust's successful community compost program. The Trust diverted over **500,000 pounds of** organic material from landfills by composting the Park's horticultural waste & community food scraps, and created healthy, nutrient-rich soil used throughout the Park.

In FY 22-23, the Trust expanded its effort to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. Although a significant portion of the Trust's in-park vehicles have long been electric, advances in technology have allowed the Park to begin investigating replacing heavier machinery and vehicles with electrically powered versions. The Trust also began testing various electric light-duty equipment, such as leaf-blowers and hedge trimmers. Further, the Trust began working with the New York Power Authority on identifying ways to better track, analyze and ultimately reduce the Park's utility usage and carbon footprint.

Operations and Facilities Management

From plants to pavement, and from buildings to fountains, virtually every object and corner of the Park needs care and maintenance throughout the year. The Park's Operations and Facilities team removed snow, replaced pavement and pavers, maintained marine infrastructure, mowed lawns, and repaired leaks, among countless other long- and short-term projects needed to keep the Park in good and safe condition. Flowers and trees bloom throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons to the delight of visitors to the Park.

Private Sector Partnerships

Hudson River Park was conceived as a public-private partnership. Since the Trust's inception, the Park has worked with partners ranging from large scale commercial tenants like Chelsea Piers, Pier 57 and Circle Line to non-profit boating and community organizations to help activate and enliven the Park while also generating income in the form of rent to support Park operations. Many Park tenants and shorter-term permittees also conduct important programming serving schools and the general public. The Trust's River Project staff partners on some of these programs, including with staff from the Intrepid Museum, Little Island and Hudson River Community Sailing.

In addition, the Park relies on the financial support and community engagement provided through the Trust's partnership with Hudson River Park Friends. The Hudson River Park Friends' in-person gala raised significant private money to support the Park. Friends volunteer efforts, through corporate partnerships and community engagement, provide significant support to the Trust's horticultural staff, and in FY 22-23, Friends additionally supported the Park's summer of free programming through additional financial contributions.