



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council  
May 14, 2024**

**Design and Construction**

*Pier 26 Science Playground*

The contractor will be replacing deficient plants and activating the fog plume this month.

*Gansevoort Peninsula*

HRPT is still awaiting a temporary certificate of occupancy from DOB to open the Gansevoort building and restrooms. The only outstanding item is an FDNY inspection which is pending with FDNY. JR Cruz completed the final painting of the dog run and nearby paving treatments and will complete plant replacements and limited tree replacements this month, with the remainder happening in the fall. South edge lighting installation has been delayed due to supplier issues, however the Trust is pushing the contractor to install as soon as possible.

*29<sup>th</sup> – 46<sup>th</sup> Street Landscape and Esplanade Design*

The design team is getting oriented to the site and preparing to conduct an initial survey. We have also started planning for a kickoff meeting to introduce the design team to the community.

*Estuarium*

Design has continued to advance, and we expect to be able to share progress with the community in the next couple of months.

*Pier 97*

We continue to see the open areas on Pier 97 being widely used on warm days. The Trust expects to complete the remaining spaces including the Belvedere, Overlook, and Playground in early summer. Work on the new restroom/maintenance building is progressing with the roof, window frames, wall insulation, and flood barrier system recently completed. Trade contractors continue to install electric, plumbing, and HVAC inside the building. The contractor is currently installing the façade system and framing of interior spaces. We plan to have the restrooms open early summer with the remainder of the building spaces (maintenance garage and office) being completed in late summer.

## Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives

### *Spring Program Roundup*

Spring in the Park is in full swing, and our River Project team has been offering a range of education programs for both NYC students and members of the public to enjoy. Last month, we debuted a new field trip program, Salt Marsh Science, which takes place on the Gansevoort Peninsula and allows students to explore different ecosystems and learn about coastal resiliency. During this program, students also study species biodiversity in the tide pools located along the south side of Gansevoort. This program has been a hit with teachers, and we plan to adapt it for summer camp field trips as well.



*Students enjoying a Salt Marsh Science field trip on Gansevoort Peninsula*

The River Project team has also ran a few special events on Gansevoort Peninsula this spring. This past Saturday was both the Riverkeeper Riversweep and Jane’s Walk weekend – two annual events which the Park participates in. At Riversweep, volunteers helped count and categorize plastic pollution while our resident WasteShark Gulp roved the water alongside for floating debris. After the cleanup, we hosted our first Shoreline Stroll of the season, which focused on both the history and ecology of the Gansevoort Peninsula during a walking tour led by Park staff.



*Recent weekend events include a Shoreline Stroll, offered as part of Jane’s Walk weekend and our annual Riverkeeper Riversweep shoreline cleanup.*



Additionally, our education team has been excited to develop resources focused on the newly opened Pier 26 Science Playground and the larger-than-life sturgeon play structures. During the DOE spring break, our team hosted a pop-up education day in the playground. They shared hands-on activities and biofacts focused on the importance of sturgeons that teach about their unique anatomical features like scutes and barbels.



*A busy day at the Pier 26 Science Playground during Spring Break where our education team taught about Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon.*

And lastly, be sure to save the date for our annual SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival on the Park's Pier 84, which is taking place for the first time in the spring, on Friday May 17 & Saturday May 18. This two-day celebration will feature river wildlife, hands-on demonstrations, and science performances. On Friday, we're excited to be welcoming over 30 classes of NYC students to experience SUBMERGE on a field trip and Saturday's event will be free and open to the public from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We look forward to sharing more about that event with you next month.

#### *Gansevoort Research Program*

This spring we initiated our procurement process to secure a consultant to lead the Trust's Gansevoort Habitat Enhancement Research Program. The monitoring program includes sampling, analyzing, and reporting in three research areas: (A) oyster health and performance; (B) estuarine community utilization and water chemistry; and (C) salt marsh condition. The Trust received two strong responses from its list of pre-qualified environmental consultants and interviewed each team. The Trust will seek Board approval to enter into a contract with this consulting firm at its June meeting and research will commence this summer.

#### *CUNY 2024 Visiting Scholars*

The Trust is continuing its partnership with CUNY to support a small research funding opportunity targeting CUNY scientists. CUNY's Office of Research invited their accomplished faculty to submit project proposals that address knowledge gaps in the Lower Hudson River Estuary and provide focused outcomes to advance five priority areas informed by the Trust's Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan. The opportunity also emphasized project methods meaningfully including student participation and mentorship. The Trust and CUNY received three proposals and the review team selected two projects lead by: 1.) Dr. Theodor Muth from Brooklyn College; and 2.) Phillip Staniczenko from Brooklyn College with Andrew Reinmann from Huter College. Dr. Muth's research team will use Nanopore DNA sequencing technology to monitor microbial communities and harmful microorganisms in River water and also study the presence of bacteria with antibiotic resistant genes on microplastics in the Park. Dr. Staniczenko and Dr. Reinmann's research team hopes to elucidate the influence of wave energy on habitat enhancement sites and oyster health in the Park. Both project teams will collaborate with the Trust to share data and findings, as well as participate in public events like "Ask A Scientist" or "Release of the Fishes" to share learning with our greater Park community.

## Public Programs

Earlier this month we announced our 2024 summer season programming, featuring hundreds of free and fun events connecting communities to the river. Signature events including SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival and Blues BBQ Festival are set to return, along with new, only-in-NYC events like Broadway by the Boardwalk. Hudson River Park's River Project is also expanding its weather-proof programming, through a series of new science workshops and wildlife-inspired art programs at the Pier 57 Discovery Tank. The full lineup features events across the Park's four-mile footprint from Tribeca through Hell's Kitchen.

The season officially kicks off May 18 on Pier 84 with SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival, an annual event that brings marine science to life through hands-on experiments, local wildlife, river-themed performances and more for all ages to enjoy. In July, blocks away from Times Square, new this year is Broadway by the Boardwalk featuring intimate Monday performances, and across the season, the Park has expanded its partnership with NYC's own Jazz Foundation to bring smooth sets to new locations. The summer continues with an incredible line up of free events like Healthy on the Hudson exercise classes, sunset dance nights and music performances, catch-and-release fishing, guided nature tours and more.

### SUMMER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

- **River Discovery** – The Park's 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary is a vibrant and inspiring ecosystem to explore through hands-on events this season. At the Pier 40 Wetlab aquarium, visitors can learn about some of the 85+ species of fish that live in our local waterways during Wetlab Look-ins throughout the summer. Budding anglers can try their hand at catch and release fishing during Big City Fishing workshops offered at Piers 26, 51 and 97. Along the esplanade, Nature Walks led by Park naturalists will take visitors along the River's edge to learn about native plants and animals, while Shoreline Strolls will explore the local ecosystem at Gansevoort Peninsula's salt marsh and tide pools.
- **Healthy on the Hudson** – This year, the Park is partnering with new fitness clubs, including Tone House, MTHD BY OSCAR, MODO Yoga and IronStrength. Classes will take place weekly from Monday to Thursday across the Park's piers and will feature an array of workouts, from yoga and strength training to bootcamp, HIIT and dance. Bike New York will also host learn-to-ride classes for all ages on weekends in the summer at Pier 76, and Ajna Dance Company will lead fitness dance classes on Saturday mornings at Pier 63.
- **Laugh & Learn** – Connect with local experts during engaging and informative talks at the Park's popular Ask a Scientist series which takes place in the Park's Pier 57 Discovery Tank and Pier 40 Wetlab aquarium. This year, Science Stories, in partnership with the Story Collider podcast, is expanding to feature vibrant stories from comedians, scientists and nature enthusiasts that showcase the role science plays in our everyday lives. And be sure to save the date for Wetlab Trivia Night on August 15 for a fun-filled evening that will test science and wildlife knowledge.
- **River Grooves** – In honor of Pride Month, this year's Sunset on the Hudson lineup spotlights local queer artists, culminating with Randy Jones the original Village People Cowboy and The



Bad Judies on June 28. At Pier 97, Blues on the Boardwalk will feature performances by local blues artists, while Broadway by the Boardwalk will showcase spectacular, intimate performances from top tier talent on Mondays in July. Jazz at Pier 84 returns this year with performances by legendary jazz musicians and on August 10, Blues BBQ Festival will bring blues fans from around the country together to hear exceptional artists perform and feast on delicious barbeque from local smokehouses.

- **Creativity in Nature** – Participants can channel their inner artist through this series of events inspired by various piers, animals and landscapes in the Park. Nature Poetry and Sketching Nature classes will incorporate the unique settings of the Pier 26 Tide Deck, Gansevoort Peninsula salt marsh and Chelsea Habitat Garden. Then later this season, the popular Painting Nature series will continue in partnership with the New York Chinese Cultural Center to create wildlife-inspired art using ink brush painting techniques in the Pier 57 Discovery Tank.
- **River Moves** – Dance is Life at Pier 76 kicks off in July with a celebration honoring the 20th anniversary of Ladies of Hip Hop. Weekly Sunset Salsa dance classes are back at Pier 76, led by renowned instructor Talía Castro-Pozo featuring salsa lessons and open dance. Ajna Dance Company will also be leading weekend fitness dance classes at Pier 63.
- **Clean and Green Volunteering** – Make a meaningful contribution to New York or gain work experience working with friends, community members and like-minded individuals looking to beautify and maintain Hudson River Park’s picturesque waterside landscape! This volunteer program offers community members an opportunity to nurture their inner green thumbs alongside their neighbors while improving public green space.

We end the Summer on Labor Day weekend with the NYC Unicycle Festival featuring learn to ride classes, unicycle basketball and of course some circus magic on Pier 76 on August 31 and September 1. There truly is something for everyone this season and a complete list of events can be found [here](https://www.hudsonriverpark.org/events) or [hudsonriverpark.org/events](https://www.hudsonriverpark.org/events).

With the warmer weather, New Yorkers and visitors alike flock to the Park to get in their daily run or exercise routine, walk their dog, enjoy an event, picnic, celebrate a birthday, or simply find quiet respite in our green oasis. This is a good time to remind everyone that in order to maintain the balance of active and recreative use of the Park as well as everyone’s safety, permits are required for any organized gathering of 20 or more people. You can learn more about permits at [hudsonriverpark.org/permits](https://www.hudsonriverpark.org/permits).

### **Operations**

The bikeway paver repair work has been postponed by State DOT but is expected to take place end of May/early June and City DOT’s lighting subcontractor has begun mobilizing to perform repair work on lighting issues throughout the bikeway. Lighting work is expected to begin at the end of this month.

Our Parkwide security gate vendor, Barrier 1, has conducted on-site inspections of all (8) security gates throughout the park and will be addressing minor repairs in June. These are critical parts of our infrastructure that allow access to the park for equipment and deliveries.

As has been publicly announced, Macy's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks will be returning to the Hudson River this year. We have been in communication with New York City, including the NYPD and other agencies, which are taking the lead through the Mayor's Office of Citywide Events Coordination and Management (CECM) on all aspects of operations and site planning. At our suggestion, CECM and Macy's meet with our tenants and concessions to provide a broad overview and a commitment to share updates as they are available. As has occurred in the past, we expect Macy's to stage its production from the Pier 62 to Pier 64 area. We will share information as it is available.

We are also deep in planning for annual Pride Sunday operations, which will take place on June 30.

### **Facilities**

The Playground water features at Pier 84, Chelsea Waterside Park, Pier 51, Pier 25, the dog park water features at Pier 84, Chelsea Waterside Park, Gansevoort, Leroy Street and Tribeca, and the Christopher Street and Pier 84 Fountains will all be turned on May 24.

### **Horticulture**

The irrigation systems parkwide have been turned on.

We hosted two Green Team volunteer events in April and I Love My Park Day volunteer event on May 4. All were successful events with full attendance. Several other corporate volunteer events took place along with starting up our Neighborhood Gardeners.

The Park's Horticulture department planted eight trees parkwide on Arbor Day. Horticulture and the Park's River Project worked together to replant some of the spartina in the tide deck, using a slightly different method to see if it will hold up better. Holes were drilled deeper, and moss was added to give it a better growing medium.

Several seasonal staff have started working with the Horticulture and Maintenance teams. Maintenance started their regular schedule of pressure washing the dog runs once a week. Maintenance also cleaned up and added stones to all the overlooks in Tribeca and Greenwich.

### **Public Safety**

With the warmer weather, PEP is entering its busy season, with everything from unauthorized vendors, minor altercations, dogs on lawns, bikes on the esplanade and other rule infractions.

Public safety maintains regular communication with NYPD personnel from the 1st, 6th and 10th Precincts who have all agreed to continue to conduct joint education and enforcement operations at strategic points along the bikeway. With the arrival of Spring and the anticipated increase in traffic on the bikeway, these operations will resume shortly.

On Thursday, April 11 at approximately 2:11 AM a person climbed over the entry rail at Pier 66A Frying Pan and made his way onto the John J. Harvey fireboat. He unsecured the boat from the dock and by 2:23 AM the boat was drifting south with the perpetrator on board. Staff from the Frying Pan notified the Operations Desk and PEP arrived on scene at 2:26 AM and requested NYPD assistance. The John J. Harvey drifted into shallow water and was stopped by the riverbed. The perpetrator then climbed from the John

J. Harvey onto a Hudson River Community sailing boat. He freed the sailboat from its mooring and drifted down river until he was stopped and arrested by NYPD near Pier 45. NYPD returned the sailing school boat to the mooring field and helped to temporarily secure the John J. Harvey. The perpetrator's motive is unknown at this time and he has been changed by the NYPD.

There have been a number of recent thefts at the Pier 40 Field. The perpetrators have worked in groups and discreetly removed valuables including cell phones, credit cards, and cash from bags left unattended on the field and on the walkways surrounding the field. When the valuables have been removed, the bags and other items contained within are often left where the owner originally left the bag. We have been in communication with the NYPD 6th Precinct and are working with them to both identify and apprehend the perpetrators of the thefts and to prevent future thefts.

We cannot stress enough the message; **do not leave valuables unattended at the fields**. There are white HRPT storage boxes placed throughout the field that groups can use to store their bags more securely. Groups should designate somebody to watch their bags. If you see someone acting suspiciously on the fields, please notify the Operations Desk at 212-242-6427.

## **Real Estate and Planning**

### *Con Ed Oil Spill*

As reported at the April AC Meeting, last month Con Edison alerted appropriate regulatory agencies, the Trust, neighbors and local community of the intermittent presence of oil near its facility at Pier 98. Con Edison has worked under the direction of regulatory agencies on the containment and cleanup, and recently attended a Manhattan Community Board 4 meeting to answer questions.

### *Water and Boating Safety Events*

We kicked off the boating season with the Trust's *Annual Water Safety Meeting* on April 24 with the goal of bringing together the Park's non-profit and commercial, non-motorized and motorized water related tenants, specifically those who touch the water in their day-to-day activities. Also present were ferry operators NY Waterway and NYC Ferry, NYCDOT- Ferry division, FDNY Marine division and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Trust asked the Gateway Development Commission to provide an update on the Gateway Tunnel Project and its potential effect on the Park waters. Trust staff went over the Park Safety and Security protocols including spill protocol, vessel safety requirements and tenant communications, and provided Park updates including life ring cabinets, signs, safety ladders, dock maintenance, hazards to navigation and some general Park updates including construction, environmental education and upcoming Park events.

Maritime Association of the Port of NY-NJ and the Downtown Boathouse launched Boating Safety Month with the *Shared Harbor Day* on May 4. Over 50 mariners, commercial and recreational, gathered at Downtown Boathouse at the Park's Pier 26. After a welcome address by CDR Dan McQuate, Acting Deputy Sector Commander, USCG Sector NY, there was a seminar on the characteristics of a safe harbor, and then there was a safety panel consisting of commercial captains, recreational boaters and sailors. The Trust was able to help publicize this event through our website, email list and social media, and hopes to keep building on this valuable education effort next year.

Additionally, Trust staff hosted a safe boating tabling effort on May 4 at Gansevoort Peninsula to connect park users who might not yet be boaters to how to safely get on the water. The day featured demonstrations of the River Project's waste shark and on water kayak safety with Downtown Boathouse, along with demonstrations and tabling from the Coast Guard, Village Community Boathouse, Outrigger, Manhattan Community Boat House and Manhattan Kayak.

As mentioned at previous meetings, the Trust continues to advance aspects of a grant from DEC related to water safety. We recently held a meeting with boathouses and other stakeholders to provide updates and discuss next steps.

#### *Park Concessions*

Most of the seasonal Park concessions are now open for the 2024 season or will be open later in May. Restaurants in the Park including Grand Banks, Drift In and Frying Pan are open. Manhattan Youth at the Park's Pier 25 is open every day for minigolf, volleyball rentals are available Monday through Saturday, and volleyball leagues play Monday through Wednesday evenings. Trapeze School at the Park's Pier 40 is open every day as well.

The Park's boathouses at Piers 25, 66, 84 and 96, Village Community Boathouse at Pier 40 and historic vessel Lilac have opened their doors to public programming and will all be fully operational by Memorial Day. The Pier 25 Marina is up and running for rentals, charters, mooring field users and the sailing school. Circle Line at the Piers 81-83 is operating sightseeing cruises seven days a week as well as Bike Rent NYC, the bike rental shop at the Park's pier 84 is open every day. The Park's newest tenant, New York Water Tours at Pier 40 is now operating sightseeing and dinner cruises every day.

Little Island will be hosting dance, music, theater, and opera events from June to September. Here is the link to Little Island's summer [schedule of performances](#) and many of the [free activities](#) offered.

The Intrepid Museum is open daily with many [events](#) planned throughout the season.

Look forward to a fun, exciting and safe Summer 2024!