



**Report to Hudson River Park Advisory Council
June 11, 2024**

Design and Construction

Pier 25 Playground

Improvements to the Pier 25 Playground include replacement of the safety surface under the swing areas and replacement of the spray shower play surface. The safety surface under the swings was completed in March of this year. Unfortunately, the spray shower work encountered logistical challenges due to the weight of the equipment needed to install the concrete surface exceeding the load restrictions of the pier. We have now found a contractor with the specialized equipment necessary. Sample pours were completed last week to ensure their quality meets our standards. We anticipate completing the spray shower work by the middle of July.

Pier 45 Boardwalk

After many years of heavy use, the boardwalk surface on Pier 45 has been overhauled. Loduca Associates mobilized to the site in December and wrapped up all work on in early May. The entire 24,000 square foot boardwalk was removed such that the supporting timber framing could be repaired and reinforced to better support crowds and maintenance operations in the future. The majority of the hardwood decking was salvaged and reinstalled, with approximately 6100 square feet replaced with new wood. Work was phased to keep most of the pier open to the public during construction while still ensuring everything was complete before our peak spring and summer season

Gansevoort Peninsula

The Trust is still awaiting a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy from DOB to open the Gansevoort building and restrooms. The only outstanding item is an FDNY fire alarm inspection which is scheduled for June 14 with FDNY. JR Cruz will complete some plant replacements this month, with the bulk occurring this fall. The south-edge lighting installation has been delayed due to supplier issues; however, the Trust is pushing the contractor to install as soon as possible. Lighting equipment is now scheduled to ship June 28, with installation as soon as possible following that.

29th – 46th Street Landscape and Esplanade Design

The design team has completed initial traffic data collection and is preparing to begin interviewing tenants and relevant city agencies this month. We are planning for a kickoff meeting to introduce the design team to the community in coordination with Manhattan Community Board 4 at its Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee on July 11. Please check CB4's website for more information on how to join.

Estuarium

The design team will be sharing progress updates on the schematic design at a community meeting on June 18 at 6pm. The meeting will be co-hosted with Manhattan Community Board 1 and we encourage people to join in person at the Manhattan CB1 Office (1 Centre Street, 22nd Floor South) or remotely at live.mcb1.nyc. We've attached a flyer you can share as well. RSVP to education@hrpt.ny.gov.

Pier 97

Last week we were able to open the lawn at Pier 97! The Trust expects to complete the remaining spaces including the Belvedere, Overlook, and Playground this summer. Work on the new restroom/maintenance building is progressing with trade contractors continuing to install electric, plumbing, and HVAC inside the building. The contractor is also installing the façade system and interior finishes. Connection to the city water main was recently made which will provide potable water to the building and pier.

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives

Annual DEI Panel

We invite you to join our 6th annual DEI Panel in partnership with The New York Academy of Sciences on Tuesday, August 13 (2pm-3:30pm at Pier 57). This year's conversation titled, "Embracing Imperfection: Redefining Failure in STEM" will focus on the invaluable lessons and growth opportunities that failures can offer. The panel's theme is inspired by student led discussions during our 2023 Science Leadership Program cohort, a six-week research and leadership internship hosted at Hudson River Park. Our high school interns and CUNY City College mentors shared how the fear of failure and the pressures of perfectionism often intimidate them from reaching out for challenging goals and can add debilitating stress. To continue exploring these topics, we have brought together an impressive group of STEM professionals: Shihadah Saleem (Director of Youth Programs & Pathways at The New York Hall of Science), Dr. Brennan Rhodes-Bratton (An Epidemiological Sociologist with NYU's Center for Anti-racism, Social Justice and Public Health), and Dr. Magdia De Jesus (Director of Scientific Strategy at Pfizer). The Panel will be facilitated by an early career STEM educator and past HRPT River Project seasonal staff member, Sasha Sackichand. The panel will last an hour and have both in-person and virtual participation options. If you join in person, feel free to stay for a 30-minute networking session. This panel is targeting early professionals and interns but welcomes people at all points in their careers. Please learn more and register for free [here](#).

Summer Science Events & Camp Programs

The Park's summer season is in full swing following the incredible success of our SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival last month, which welcomed over 5,000 science lovers from all over NYC, including 900 students from all five boroughs of NYC.

This year, there will be lots of hands-on STEM offerings in the Park that NYC summer camps can book to learn about our local environment. Students will have the opportunity to learn in inspiring sites along the Park including the Pier 26 Tide Deck and Pier 40 Wetlab. We're also excited to continue incorporating field trips on Gansevoort Peninsula this season as well, where students can explore the tide pools and salt marsh that make this such an interesting ecological site. Space is still available, please help spread the word to any groups in your network that would be interested in booking these upcoming enrichment opportunities.

We are also continuing to offer a wide range of public drop-in science programs throughout the Park for all ages to enjoy. The Wetlab aquarium opened on June 1, and we will offer free tours during our public hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Saturdays. The Pier 57 Discovery Tank will continue to be open for exploration Wednesdays to Saturdays, with this month's theme focused on fish local to our Hudson River environment. We're also looking forward to bringing our Big City Fishing catch & release fishing series back to Piers 26 and 51, with an expanded set of dates to include Pier 97. Park Tours will continue to provide relaxing and informative walks led by River Project staff and local experts focused on

shoreline ecology, native plants and historic vessels. Our lecture style programs also continue into the summer months, with both Ask a Scientist and Science Stories happening with our partners Nerd Nite, Story Collider and Secret Science Club. We're also excited to be teaming up with a local artist for another Creativity in Nature series, this July, Sketching Nature will begin with a tour about the local Park environment from one of our River Project team, followed by a session led by a local artist where you'll learn helpful tips and techniques during a guided sketching session.

Be sure to visit this [link](#) for more details about these upcoming programs.

Public Programs

Events

Our 2024 season kicked off with a huge splash as the SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival brought over 5,000 students and families to Pier 84 to enjoy perfect weather and engage with marine science in fun and exciting ways. Schools and parents alike made sure to let us know that shifting this popular festival to the spring was a very good idea!

Hundreds of people have flocked to Healthy on the Hudson events that are offering expanded options this year. In addition to yoga and HIIT, park-goers can take part in cardio training, strength building, dance fitness, and even bike yoga! Partners for this year's Healthy on the Hudson include Iron Strength, Tone House, MTHD by Oscar, 305 Fitness, Off the Strength, and more!

Soulful artists AERI, Ashri, and Trea Lam kicked off the first Sunset on the Hudson event, with over 1200 people grooving along with them. The all-women, Black-led percussion ensemble Batalà got everyone up and dancing during the second week of this popular series.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome Viva DeConcini, People's Champs, and the Resistance Revival Chorus to Sunset on the Hudson in the coming weeks. The Sunset series will close out at the end of June with a special Pride on the Pier event including the Bad Judies and Randy Jones – the original Village People Cowboy. Randy will also be screening the original YMCA video shot on the west side of Manhattan in 1978, featuring several locations that now make up Hudson River Park.

As part of our Pride programming, we are thrilled to co-sponsor the Hetrick Martin Institute's Youth Pride at Pier 76 on Saturday, June 15. This event aims to celebrate LGBTQ+ youth and allies with an exciting carnival-themed pier fair, dance competition, and Kiki Ball, free of charge. Various city services and community groups will offer LGBTQ-friendly support, including housing aid, healthcare, education help, and counseling services. Attendees can also benefit from free and confidential HIV and STI testing.

Recently, Hudson River Park proudly co-sponsored Wheeling Forward, an adaptive skate clinic at the Pier 62 Skate Park as part of their "Play it Forward" Program. This free clinic offered children, adults, and veterans with disabilities the chance to experience the thrill of wheelchair skating in a supportive and inclusive environment. The event featured hand cycle demonstrations, music, refreshments, and special giveaways and had over 300 attendees.

Summer programming is just getting started, and we are gearing up for Broadway by the Boardwalk starting on Monday, July 15 at Clinton Cove, running on Mondays through August 4. Broadway by the Boardwalk would not be possible without the generous support of Hudson River Park Friends. Additional summertime programs like Jazz at Pier 84, Blues by the Boardwalk and the ever-popular Blues BBQ are

waiting in the wings eager to bring their special brands of arts, culture and fun to the Park again this year!

Field Permitting

No summer would be complete without our sports fields and the many organizations and groups that use them. The summer season kicked off on June 17th and has seen 61 leagues making use of every inch of space, while many are returning leagues, 6 are new to us this summer. Summer camps are in their groove this summer, with ample opportunity for open play in evenings and weekends. The fall season starts on August 26 and runs through December 1. Applications for the fall will open on June 17 and will be due by July 1.

Operations

Pride and July 4 Fireworks

The Trust continues significant planning for Pride Sunday and, just four days later, Macy's July 4 Fireworks. Safety is the focus for both events, ensuring that the public is able to have a safe, enjoyable time.

On Sunday, June 30, we expect significant crowding of Pride celebrants at Pier 45 and Pier 46, and the areas immediately north and south. Please expect increased operational activities in the areas in the days leading up to Pride Sunday, and between Pride Sunday and July 4. The Trust will again be providing portolets and hydration stations for the public, as well as additional safety and maintenance support.

For July 4, New York City, through the Mayor's Office of Citywide Events Coordination and Management (CECM) and NYPD, is taking the lead on planning, in coordination with other City, State and Federal agencies. We expect significant closures, both in the Park and in-land, as part of the security measures. We are working to make sure that our tenants have the ability to continue their operations and businesses to the greatest extent possible, and that the Park is restored as quickly after. We will share information on public viewing and expected closures as it becomes available.

Construction

Trust staff continue to monitor the construction activities at the neighboring Pier 94 with EDC's tenant Vornado and potential impacts to the Park. At some point this summer, (schedule yet to be determined) Vornado will be making a sewer and drainage connection within Clinton Cove section of the Park and access to the Park between 54th and 55th streets will be temporarily detoured however the Park will continue to be open and available. Updates on this and any information on the impacts to the Park will be posted on the alerts section of the Park website.

State DOT's bikeway and crosswalk paver repair project is underway. Paver repairs have been made between Chambers St. and Morton St. Contractors will be on site for the remainder of the month completing the rest of the repairs.

Facilities

All the Park water features and fountains are on except for the water features in the Pier 25 playground which should be working in the next few weeks. We are looking to schedule some repairs to dock fenders at Piers 25 and 26. Facilities is also in process of repairing a section of the esplanade railing south of Pier 76. As we enter into high season, the team is also doing a full review of restroom facilities throughout the Park.

Horticulture

The Horticulture department is hosting several volunteer corporate events with many of them from Citibank, who also had a family volunteer day on June 8. The lawn at Pier 97 opened for public use, and the team is prepared for the additional maintenance requirement. Lots of annuals were recently planted parkwide, adding pops of color and visual interest. Our maintenance staff are also cleaning benches parkwide.

Public Safety

Shortly after 2PM on Friday June 7th, an emotional disturbed person attacked a park patron, slashing his arm with a sharp instrument on the esplanade in front of Little Island. The emotionally disturbed person then charged and menaced another group of people before walking south on the esplanade. Shortly thereafter, the perpetrator was apprehended by NYPD while sitting on a bench at the LGBT Memorial. PEP responded to the scene and assisted NYPD. It does not appear that PEP has not had any previous interactions with the perpetrator of this crime. The video image of the perpetrator has been shared with PEP and they have been instructed to remain alert for his presence in the park.

The Park has become quite busy with the arrival of warm weather. With the additional usage of the Park, PEP has been addressing more bicycle-related incidents and permit issues. We are closely monitoring conditions at Gansevoort Peninsula as the first summer since its opening approaches.

Larcenies continue to be a concern in the Park, and we continue to advise Park patrons: **please do not leave valuables unattended in 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 in the fields, please notify the Operations Desk at 212-242-6427. Public safety maintains regular communication with NYPD personnel from the 1st, 6th, 10th and MTN Precincts.

Real Estate and Planning

Pier 57

Pier 57 will be receiving the Design Trust for Public Space's Public Space Private Industry Leadership Award next week in recognition of the transformation of the once maritime industrial site into a location with vibrant indoor and outdoor public spaces. As we know, this project could only have been achieved in partnership with civic-minded private sector leaders, and it continues to be both uplifting and validating to see the hard work of the Trust and our partners at RXR, Google, Jamestown, the James Beard Foundation and City Winery being recognized.

Pier 40

At Pier 40, our new concessionaire, New York Water Tours, began operating as of May 1, 2024 subsequent to completion of our procurement process. Four of the eventual seven vessels are now docked at Pier 40 and the business already seems to be attracting tourists and other guests for daytime and evening sightseeing and dinner cruise business. The Trust's real estate and operations departments are continuously monitoring the operation to ensure all terms in the concession agreement are being met, including monitoring traffic and pedestrian queuing, ensuring that vessels entering the area are not playing music, and creating and staffing wayfinding plans for their guests given the busy location and proximity to the NYSDOT bikeway.

Chelsea Piers

Chelsea Piers and the Trust worked together to successfully secure regulatory approvals for the expanded public walkway on the south side of Pier 59, which was one of the commitments made during the lease negotiation process in 2022. Chelsea Piers is now in the process of installing the public walkway improvements on the west side of the premises adjacent to the Hudson River and is securing bids for the in-water construction. In addition, Chelsea Piers satisfied its commitment to install a Citi-Bike docking station which is already seeing regular usage.

Intrepid

The Intrepid also completed a long-planned project and lease commitment – removal of the structure known as the chiller plant, and reconstruction of the associated section of the pier and pier deck. That area is now open to the public as 4,000 new square feet of public space. To celebrate this occasion, as well as the return of the restored Concorde aircraft to the pier, the Intrepid invited its neighbors and others, including the record breaking pilots who flew the transatlantic flights when the aircraft was in service, to attend a breakfast celebration on the pier last month.

Battery Park City Resiliency Project

Since planning began, the extent of Battery Park City's construction in Sanctuary waters and along the bikeway has been very significantly reduced, and the Trust appreciates BPCA's efforts to address the Trust's concerns. The resiliency project is nevertheless very complicated, including with respect to the need for new subsurface infrastructure regulated by DEP that will require closures and detours in the southernmost section of Hudson River Park during construction.

The Trust has authorized BPCA to seek construction permits from regulatory agencies for an expanded esplanade that would extend into Hudson River Park property, and understands BPCA may seek an easement from New York State for this infrastructure. While most of the extension is 6 feet, BPCA hopes to widen the extension at the corner where our two properties. The Trust agrees that this would have potential benefits for public circulation and urban design between our two public areas and BPCA has committed to work with us on any design modifications that will be necessary. Besides the water areas that would be permanently affected if these plans are approved, BPCA has identified a need to do temporary but extensive subsurface work in the lawn area of Hudson River Park related to drainage infrastructure. DEP must approve those plans and so details are not fully available yet. BPCA will be updating the community at a public meeting scheduled for June 20 (more information from [BPCA here](#)).

Pier 76 Legislation

Following last year's Pier 76 Task Force, and subsequent discussions with Manhattan Community Board 4, S.9408/A.10224, sponsored by State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly Member Tony Simone, passed the New York State Legislature last week. As previously discussed, this legislation expands the range of allowed uses on Pier 76 to better advance the dual goals of creating significant new, high quality public open space and generating revenue to help support the overall care of Hudson River Park. The Trust appreciates all those who have participated in the process to advance the future of Pier 76, and thanks Senator Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly Member Simone for their support!

The legislation also contains language that would require the Trust to form a task force, comprised of appointees of Manhattan Community Board 4, the Mayor, local elected officials and industry representatives, if it initiates a request for proposals related to a heliport.