



**Report to the Hudson River Park Advisory Council
June 9, 2026, Meeting**

Special Wildlife Sighting in the Park

This week we were excited to see a new visitor that was spotted at Gansevoort Peninsula – a beaver!

Beavers are a somewhat rare sight in NYC, but they are native to our local waterways. Notably, this is the first recorded sighting in the Park’s 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary waters! There’s been a lot of excitement surrounding this video, including media interest from local news outlets, with the post reaching over 650,000 views and counting.

[Check out the video here!](#)

Design and Construction

W 29th to W 44th Street Design

We and the design team led by Marvel have made great progress advancing the design for the park area from just north of Pier 79 through Pier 84. We are looking forward to sharing the updates at Manhattan Community Board 4’s Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee meeting on Thursday, June 11. Learn about how to participate [here](#).

Estuarium

We are deep in planning for all things fish-related in the interior of the building – including tank design and mechanics, power, signage and more highly granular items, and our River Project team is heavily involved in each of these design. Beyond the science and education that they will eventually be conducting in the building, they and other members of our team—in particular our Facilities Department – will need to understand and maintain the tanks and the flow of river water through them. We are benefiting from the expertise of a staff member from the Coney Island Aquarium that we have added as an independent reviewer of certain designs to learn from experience as we determine final sizing and locations for certain mechanical and other back-of-the-house equipment in particular. We look forward to sharing the updates at Manhattan Community Board 1’s Waterfront, Parks and Cultural Committee on Tuesday, July 21. Learn about how to participate [here](#).

Pier 40

As discussed at the April Advisory Council meeting, Rooftop Field #1’s synthetic turf field is being replaced. We are on track to complete the replacement before the start of the summer permit season. The area between Rooftop Field #1 and Rooftop Field #2 will be completed this summer.

Structural repairs and other necessary work remain ongoing throughout the pier. Earlier this week, the Trust’s Board of Directors approved a \$12 million amendment to the Construction Manager as Builder contract that we have to address continuing needs. As we’ve discussed in the

past, when we entered into the contract in 2024, we expected the amount to grow as detailed engineering solutions and bid prices became available for the various scope items. We continue to appreciate the cooperation of tenants as we perform the work.

Pier 51 Playground

Due to the previous delays in the delivery of the core play equipment, we elected to push back the start of construction to limit the impact to the playground and popular splashpad during the peak summer season. We plan to start work in the last week of August which will allow us to complete both the project and temperature-sensitive safety surfacing work before the weather gets too cold.

Boathouse Roofs

The work on the Pier 96 boathouse roof is now substantially complete, with minor touch up work continuing the interior. At Pier 84, painting and waterproofing improvements to the roof are underway and are expected to be completed by mid-June. These improvements will help ensure that the buildings can support many more years of successful programming by our boating partners.

Pier 76 Marine Repairs

As noted in the last report, starting mid-June, the Trust expects to perform some necessary stabilizing work on a deteriorated section of the eastern portion of Pier 76. Given the location of the repairs and the scale of the pier, we expect only a limited impact on the public's use, although closures of limited areas will be necessary. It seems likely that government restrictions on marine traffic in the weeks before and after the July 4th events will impact the construction schedule, but we are planning contingencies with the contractor to make sure the project can finish on time with minimal disturbance to events or other operations on the pier.

Public Safety

With the summer season now underway, we are seeing a significant increase in bicycle traffic on the bikeway and pedestrian traffic in the park. Unfortunately, that also means accidents in some cases. We would like to remind all park users to remain alert when crossing or travelling on the bikeway. As extensively marked by State DOT, cyclists must yield to pedestrians crossing the bikeway.

While crime overall in the park remains down, a few notable incidents have occurred recently.

On the night of April 16, a female park patron reported that an unidentified male attempted to surreptitiously film her inside the Pier 97 female restroom. When confronted, the perpetrator fled the park, and the victim was assisted by HRPT staff and PEP. The incident was reported to NYPD, and we have provided video footage to the investigating detective. On the night of May 7, three youths threw numerous tables and chairs off Pier 97, resulting in a total of 15 of the signature chairs and 3 tables being lost into the Hudson River.

On May 30, around 7:30 AM, a female park patron reported that a male on a bicycle grabbed her buttocks on the bikeway near Pier 94 before fleeing north. The incident was reported to NYPD, and relevant video footage has been provided to the investigating detective.

We have been made aware of three incidents where park patrons were the victims of a Cash App scam committed by young men purporting to raise money for a youth basketball league. In each case, the victim handed over their phone to the perpetrator who then changed the donation amount. Each victim lost at least \$2,000. This is a scam we have heard reported on at Precinct Community Councils as well – last year the group appeared to move around the outer edge of lower Manhattan from the Seaport and passing through the Park. We urge all park users to not hand over their phones to a stranger, particularly while logged into a financial services application. You can help by spreading the word.

We have also received several complaints of a suspicious male filming children in the Pier 25 playgrounds on Thursday, May 28. Concerned parents called 911 and took pictures of the suspicious individual that were shared with HRPT. PEP has been made aware of this suspicious person and will remain alert when patrolling the area.

Field Theft Prevention

We have been taking a proactive approach to crime prevention, continually reassessing security measures and signage throughout our facilities. PEP officers and HRPT staff have been warning park users about leaving bicycles, scooters and vehicles unlocked, and about bags, cell phones and other valuables unattended. We will continue spreading this message: PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES UNATTENDED OR UNLOCKED IN THE PARK. If you see someone acting suspiciously in the park, please notify the Operations Desk at 212-242-6427.

Real Estate and Planning

Pier 84 Food & Beverage Carts

As mentioned in our April report, we have secured multiple mobile vendors to provide visitors with access to food and beverage options at Pier 84 until the upcoming construction associated with the improved park areas is complete and a new concessionaire identified for the building. Three mobile carts are already operating and successfully deployed: El Toro is serving a variety of Mexican-style dishes; Moon Pop is offering gourmet lemonades, trendy "dirty sodas," and fresh pastries; and NY Picnic is providing classic hot dogs and novelty ice cream. Carts are operating daily from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM. We are currently awaiting the required documentation from one final operator and expect it to be cleared for operation shortly.

Chelsea Waterside Park Kiosk

We are pleased to welcome our new operator, Brissta, to Chelsea Waterside Park. Currently open through October, Brissta offers a curated menu featuring Americano coffee, Café au Lait, and a premium selection of artisanal baked goods sourced from local bakeries. Operating hours are from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, seven days a week. Hours may vary depending on volume.

Commission on Government Efficiency – Your Chance to Participate!

Mayor Mamdani has created the Commission on Government Efficiency to look for ways that government can deliver faster, smarter and more efficiently. Participating in the process is your chance to share your ideas on how government can work better. The public meetings are being organized by topic areas, with the first meeting on Tuesday, June 9, at 5:00pm focused on

infrastructure and the public realm. You don't need to be an expert to participate. Find out more [here](#).

Environmental and Sanctuary Initiatives

2026 CUNY Research Alliance Scholars & Visiting Scholars

Entering its fourth year, the Park's HRPT CUNY Research Alliance Scholars Program continues to support local science through Trust-awarded small research grants for competitively selected CUNY faculty, in partnership with CUNY's Office of Research. We are pleased to announce our 2026 Research Alliance Scholars:

1. Dr. Monica Mowery (York College) will explore the value of urban parks as refuges for pollinator species by investigating the effects of extreme weather events on insect communities throughout the Park.
2. Drs. Reza Khanbilvardi and Aliasghar Arab (City College Grove School of Engineering) will map street-to-estuary pollution pathways using AI models they will train to predict street drain flooding in the Park.

Both projects will thoughtfully include CUNY students at a range of academic levels and will promote the Park as a field and training site for regional scholars. Through these collaborations, we are excited to expand the breadth of our funded project topics to include terrestrial ecology and engineering.

Additionally, the Visiting Scholar Program is currently hosting twenty-four researchers from colleges and universities around the New York City area to conduct various research projects within the Park, including exploring drivers of oyster spat recruitment, understanding gut microbiomes of urban birds, and testing the wave-reduction capabilities of reef balls in the Gansevoort salt marsh.

You can read past Visiting Scholar reports [here](#) and on the Park's publicly available [historic research page](#). We look forward to sharing updates as projects get underway this summer.

Summer Field Trips

We're excited to share that our summer field trip calendar is open for summer camps, community centers and more. This summer, our team is offering a range of hands-on programming at outdoor locations throughout the Park, including the Pier 26 Tide Deck, Gansevoort Peninsula salt marsh and Pier 63 lawn bowl. A new and exciting addition this year is our partnership with the Downtown United Soccer Club (DUSC) to offer custom experiences in the Pier 40 Wetlab for their youngest campers. As part of their weekly curriculum at the Pier 40 fields, the Mini Baller campers will visit the research aquarium to discover local wildlife through open exploration and engaging activities.

Public Programs

With the season officially underway, Hudson River Park is buzzing with energy and excitement! We kicked off the season with the annual SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival last month with over 4,500 attendees at this two-day celebration on Pier 84. On Friday, we had nearly 1,000 NYC K-12 students join us to learn and explore local science. And throughout both days of the festival, we welcomed some of our favorite local wildlife exhibits, such as local raptors from

Silent Wings, eels from the DEC's Harbor Estuary Program and our own Pop-up Wetlab. We also had a few new exhibitors this year – the John J. Harvey fireboat was a massive hit with guests of all ages, BioBus airstream helped attract visitors at the entrance of the festival and the Gateway Tunnel Corporation shared more about their work on the cofferdam in the Hudson River.

We have started our ever popular Healthy on the Hudson programming with three exciting partners – Chelsea Piers Fitness, PureGym and obé Fitness. On May 30, we kicked off the second season of the Participatory Dance Programming Partnership Series offering three modalities including Tango, Salsa and Line Dancing.

Hyrox has joined us again this year at Pier 76, bringing together approximately 50,000 athletes at all levels from across NYC and far beyond to compete against themselves and each other in a series of gym fitness challenges while their friends and families cheer them on. In partnership with Hyrox, we were able to invite over 800 community members to participate in free fitness classes hosted by elite trainers.

This June, we invite you to join us in celebrating Juneteenth on Pier 45 in collaboration with the Ladies of Hip Hop for a night honoring the artistry of Black American dance with an evening centered on the legacy, innovation and cultural brilliance of Black women. That event will take place on June 18. The Park is also hosting Youth Pride Fest on Saturday, June 6 on Pier 84 organized by Hetrick-Martin Institute, offering a daylong community celebration on the waterfront featuring music, dancing, games, resource fair and more.

One new program we are excited to share is our expanded partnership with Wheeling Forward. Wheeling Forward supports children, adults, and veterans with disabilities overcome barriers through adaptive sports. We have collaborated with them for several years to host an adaptive skating session on Pier 62, and this year, we have expanded our partnership to offer adaptive basketball and adaptive tennis sessions also, helping bring a wider range of audiences to our facilities.

Starting next week, one of our most popular education programs, Big City Fishing program will offer free catch & release fishing at several locations including Pier 26, Pier 51 and Pier 97. And be sure to take a closer look at some of our local fish species now that our Pier 40 Wetlab research aquarium is open for free tours all summer long.

And then looking ahead to July there will be weekly sizzling sessions of Sunset Salsa on Pier 76, and Monday evenings will once again bring evenings of live music and star performances to Clinton Cove when the Park will be transformed into an open-air theater for Broadway by the Boardwalk performances.

Be sure to save the date for our annual Blues BBQ Festival, which will be back on Pier 76 on Saturday August 15 for its 26th year and as always will feature an incredible lineup of live music, local BBQ and more!

Obviously, many Advisory Council members are also working hard to deliver free and low-cost programming for the public's benefit this spring and summer. The Trust appreciates all of the work you do.

Field Permits

Summer athletic field permits begin June 14, and we are excited that children and adults will be able to benefit from our renovations of Rooftop Field #1. Across eight fields, we have 57 leagues permitted including 24 non-profit leagues. We anticipate a very active season and already have ~5,000 hours of play confirmed.

Operations

Pride & July 4th Planning

Our Operations team is gearing up for Pride weekend and the annual crowds that come to the Greenwich Village section of the park to celebrate. We are in the process of finalizing operational laydown plans, rental procurements, staff scheduling and other logistical needs to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for the public. In addition to Pride planning, many members of the Trust staff are of course heavily engaged in July 4th. We know many of you are eager to hear detailed plans about access requirements; the Trust will share what we learn from our government partners as soon as we have more details.

New Pier 84 Furnishings

To accommodate the new food cart vendors operating in the Pier 84 area, additional tables and chairs were added to the east side of the Pier 84 fountain to support the food concessions and for the benefit of park visitors.

Bikeway & Crosswalk Repairs

The Operations team has been working closely with NYSDOT's maintenance division to ensure all bikeway and crosswalk issues are addressed timely ahead of the summer events season that has started. During the months of April and May, eleven work orders were successfully completed.

Maintenance

As the Park welcomes more visitors in the summer months, our maintenance team has led beautification and clean-up initiatives in the park and the Trust's operations areas. Among other things, we have cleaned various storage spaces at Pier 40 to facilitate some of the structural work being done. Graffiti removal initiatives from April have increased, with 21 hours dedicated to graffiti cleanup in May. The team will continue to upkeep the park and prepare materials as we gear up for all our summer events.

Horticulture

The Park has been enjoying one of its greenest seasons thanks to the Horticulture team and strong volunteer engagement. During the spring season the team planted 575 annuals, 1365 perennials, 326 shrubs and 2 southern magnolia trees throughout the park. Over 538 volunteers from our Green Team and corporate groups helped lend a green thumb to enhance the Park's landscape. All irrigation systems have been switched on parkwide, and enhancements have been made to some of the Park's plant beds.