



Report on Operations and Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2026 (April 1, 2025-March 31, 2026)

During Fiscal Year 2026, the Hudson River Park Trust (“Trust”) again advanced planning, construction, environmental, programming and operational initiatives that are at 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 serving local and regional visitors, as well as guests from around the world, throughout the Fiscal Year.

Planning, Design and Construction

Estuarium

The Estuarium is a long-planned environmental education and science building to be located near Pier 26 in Tribeca and is core to the Trust’s mission with respect to the Park’s Estuarine Sanctuary. In September 2022, the Trust approved a contract with Sage & Coombe to lead a multi-disciplined design team charged with preparing the design for this facility. Throughout FY 2026, the team continued to progress designs for the building, landscape, exhibits, water intake and mechanical systems. The design team and the Trust held a meeting with Manhattan Community Board 1 in September 2025 to share updates on the designs, including the interior display tanks, immersive gallery, classroom features, and the green roof. Since then, refinements have continued based on feedback from the community and the Board’s Design Committee. While this project is not yet fully funded, the Trust is hoping to begin construction of the building and water intake structures in 2027, subject to securing all required approvals.

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. In July 2024, the Trust entered into a contract with Hudson Meridian to serve as Construction Manager as Builder to plan, oversee and issue construction bids for important capital maintenance work needed at Pier 40, including continuing upgrades of the fire suppression system, repair work to the parking garage required by State and City laws, and addressing the deteriorated loading dock that surrounds the Pier 40 courtyard fields. After Hudson Meridian procured the construction contractors, work on the fire suppression system and repair work to the parking garage continued throughout FY 26. Aside from design, procurement and funding, planning for the extensive capital maintenance work will continue to require extensive coordination with Pier 40 tenants and permittees as well as the Trust staff

given the complexity of keeping the public parking garage, ballfields, Trust's offices and other occupant spaces open while the capital maintenance work proceeds.

West 29th to 46th Streets Upland Area

In January 2024, the Trust selected Marvel Architects, Landscape Architects, Urban Designers, PLLC ("Marvel") in response to a Request for Proposals to lead a team to design the unfinished area of Hudson River Park located between West 29th and West 46th Streets, a challenging area due to existing land uses and other occupancies. For this reason, the design and eventual construction work will be done in stages. Marvel has been engaged in planning and design work for the northern portion of the zone (north of West 39th Street), and several stakeholder meetings were held throughout FY 2026. On May 28, 2025, the Trust held its second design engagement meeting that was open to the public so that Marvel could provide updates on its design based on the first community engagement meeting held in January 2025. The Trust and design team met with Manhattan Community Board 4's Waterfront Parks and Environment Committee in June 2025 and its Traffic and Transportation Committee in September 2025 to address its goals related to greening and improving the vehicular area from 39th to 44th streets. A number of meetings have also been held with New York City's Department of Transportation and Economic Development Corporation and the Pier 78 private owner to begin exploring traffic and other circulation issues and potential opportunities for improvements of Piers 78 and 79.

Pier 97 and Adjacent Areas

During FY 2025, the Trust formally opened Pier 97 as a new public park pier. At the end of FY 26, construction of the adjacent new restroom, maintenance, and small concession building was completed and the restroom opened to the public. The Trust also continued to work with the New York State Department of Transportation ("NYSDOT") on design and other aspects of NYSDOT's review required to receive federal funding for completing finishes for the permanent esplanade and bikeway that will better connect Hudson River Park with New York City's Riverside Park South in the area north of Pier 97.

Other Projects

In January 2025, the Trust selected a new parkwide marine contractor to make the necessary state-of-good repair improvements to piers, docks and bulkheads based on engineering inspections conducted by the Trust's marine engineers. Environmental permitting to allow the in-water work was completed in FY 26 and Reicon Group, LLC is expected to begin the repair work in late spring 2026 with ongoing parkwide marine repairs occurring over a four-year period now that regulatory approvals have been secured.

In January 2025, the Trust selected a new on-call parkwide construction manager to oversee several smaller capital maintenance projects throughout the Park.

Construction work occurring in FY 26 included the installation of new replacement shade canopies at Pier 45 and a renovated turf field at Pier 46. The Trust's art conservator, EverGreene Architectural Arts, also continued cleaning and conserving several public sculptures in the Park including the LGBT Memorial and Two Too Large Tables. In December 2025, the Trust entered into a contract with PMY Construction Corp. in response to a competitive procurement to rehabilitate portions of the Pier 51 playground, including updating play equipment and installing a new poured-in-safety surface. The play equipment was fabricated off site in the last quarter of FY 26 and installation is expected to occur in the fall of FY 27 to minimize the effects of temporary closures on children, their families, and caregivers.

Public Recreation

Throughout FY 25-26, the Park was used by millions for walking, exercising and relaxing. The Park's multiple ballfields were once again heavily used throughout the year by local schools, youth and adult leagues, and by the community more broadly during open play hours. The two skate parks support robust skating communities. Five thoughtfully designed playgrounds provide different types of play experiences including water play at several for children throughout New York City and beyond. Dog runs and sports courts are also heavily used, as are lawns and seating areas throughout the Park, whether for picnics, sunbathing, or relaxing.

Free Public Events

During the 2025 summer season, the Trust organized and hosted over 400 free events throughout the Park, including Pride weekend at Piers 45 and 46; Bollywood and Bhangra dance at Pier 63; Sunset Salsa and Dance is Life at Pier 76; Jazz at Pier 84, the Broadway by the Boardwalk six-show series at Clinton Cove; Tide Deck tours and science programming at Piers 26, 57, and 97, and a full range of free fitness classes. A Juneteenth celebration was curated by Ladies of Hip-Hop at Pier 45, and Papi Juice provided music at Pier 46 on June 26 in celebration of Pride. The Trust also hosted its annual free SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival, which occurred on May 16 and 17, 2025 at Pier 84, attracting 1,000 New York City students on Friday and over 4,000 members of the public on Saturday. Guests at the festival were able to engage with over 20 organizations including environmental and parks partners and agencies from New York State, New York City, federal agencies and non-profit partners. Collectively, these organizations provided unique and interesting opportunities for students and the public to learn about marine science. The event also showcased a wide range of local wildlife including raptors, owls, turtles, terrapins, seahorses and crabs. Over 14,000 people attended the Trust's annual free Blues BBQ festival at Pier 76 in August 2025, and the Trust saw robust attendance at its other performances, festivals, educational programming, dance classes and more. The annual Pumpkin Smash event on November 1, 2025 resulted in the smashing of over 2,000 pounds of pumpkins in support of the Trust's composting program.

The Trust is a founding member of the West Side Cultural Network, a collaboration between cultural institutions on the West Side to promote collective offerings, which occur in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Park. Through this partnership, institutions including the Whitney Museum, the Shed, Poster House, and the Highline, among others, come together to produce the Westside Festival, a daylong celebration of the vibrant cultural hub that has merged between the Meatpacking District and Hell’s Kitchen. The Westside Festival took place in July 2025, with a kick-off ceremony in Hudson River Park.

Sports Facilities

The Trust continued to facilitate 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. The Trust hosts over 100 different sports leagues and schools each year, providing a key active recreational outlet for New Yorkers. 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 swimming, beach volleyball, mini golf and more. The Trust continued its partnership with Bike New York for a third year to teach over 1,000 New Yorkers – both adults and children – how to ride a bike or enhance their biking skills at Pier 76. The waterfront esplanade continues to be one of the most popular running paths in the City and is heavily used year-round.

Environmental Education, Science and Stewardship

The Trust continued to make significant advancements in its mandate to protect and enhance the existing marine habitat and approximately 400 acres of the Estuarine Sanctuary. This is achieved through direct engagement, 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 once again hosted hundreds of in-person educational programs throughout FY 26, including a wide variety of enriching STEM programs, camp field trips and public drop-in programs throughout the year. Over two-thirds of available field trips hosted by the River Project hail from Title 1 Schools. Staff conducts significant outreach so that teachers and administrators from across New York City are aware of the Park’s affordable or free educational offerings, through programs taking place at locations throughout the Park including the Pier 26 Tide Deck, Pier 40 Wetlab, Gansevoort Peninsula, the Pier 57 Discovery Tank, and Pier 97. The River Project continues to hold winter programming at the Pier 57 Discovery Tank classroom and adjacent gallery, which holds programs like Ask a Scientist. Fieldtrips offer hands-on opportunities for students to explore fish, plankton, shoreline

ecology, pollution, climate change and more. The River Project also held its third annual “Crab Week” in mid-July 2025 to promote the role of crabs in the Hudson River environment, which also was introduced with WNYC in the popular science podcast “Radio Lab.” The Trust held its first Pollination Celebration in the Park’s Habitat Garden in September 2025, featuring family friendly nature walks, insect-inspired crafts and more.

Estuarine Research

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.

Since 2021, the Trust has installed over 35 million oysters into the Park’s Sanctuary waters – a third of New York City’s total restored oyster population. During summer 2025, the Trust continued the fourth year of a five-year research program designed to assess the health and habitat of the enhancement structures located as part of the Tribeca Habitat Enhancement Project. The Trust also performed the second year of monitoring of the habitat enhancements installed on the north side of the Gansevoort Peninsula, including 300 submerged habitat enhancement features and a salt marsh. Using a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through Congressionally Directed Funding, the Trust continued its trial of innovative, less invasive monitoring techniques.

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 FY 21-22, 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. Specifically, the Trust held its fifth annual ESMP Science Sanctuary meeting in January 2026, inviting members of the TAC along with local university and college faculty members to discuss their park-based research projects. Topics included studying oyster and bivalve shells to assess environmental and climatic differences stemming from varied habitat conditions, pollinator diversity due to climate change, and micro- and nano-plastics in waterways. The meeting also included discussion regarding design approaches for a potential new habitat enhancement project in the Estuarine Sanctuary and about ways to increase the sharing of the growing amount of park science data with external sources. The Trust also held the annual ESMP TAC meeting in February 2026 to provide a comprehensive review of the Sanctuary and plans for upcoming programs and projects.

Sustainability

In FY 2026, the Trust continued its highly successful community compost program, combining collections from the public with brown plant matter that would otherwise become horticulture waste to create healthy, nutrient-rich soil used throughout the Park.

The Trust continued to expand 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 continue purchasing electric vehicles, heavier machinery and equipment to support its operations and transition away from fossil-fuel powered equipment where possible. The Trust also continued to install additional LED lighting throughout the Park.

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 clogs and 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 in the Park. In FY 2026, the Trust continued to expand its security system by adding new cameras and related infrastructure—as well as additional access controls at various park building doors and gates. Ongoing maintenance also included the purchase of new parkwide trash cans and carousel tables and chairs throughout the Park.

Private Sector Partnerships

The Hudson River Park was conceived as a public-private partnership, with income from certain permissible commercial uses generating most of the income used to support the Trust's operations. Since the Trust's inception, the Park has worked with partners ranging from large scale commercial tenants like New York Water Tours, 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 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 ("Friends"). Friends' in-person gala raised significant private money to support the Park, and it continues to explore and expand new ways to raise funds, including its Playground Committee and affiliation groups. Friends' volunteer efforts, through corporate

partnerships and community engagement, provide significant support to the Trust's horticultural staff and greatly improve the quality of plantings that the Park is able to present as well as the installation of play equipment and improvements to the multiple dog runs located in the Park.

In FY 2026, Hudson River Park was once again financially self-sufficient on an operating basis.