It takes all kinds of skills to build, manage and run the programs and facilities you find in Hudson River Park. Here’s an inside look at the workdays of some of our diverse Trust staff...

a day in the life of...

Angel Rosado
Events Supervisor
July 30
Join the events crew as they prepare for the 7pm boxing match at Pier 84 - Rumble on the River.

Lauren Donnelly
Environmental Educator
Aug 11
Two lucky girls catch a fish at Pier 64! This is par for the course at Lauren's daily Big City Fishing programs on Pier 46, Pier 64 and Pier 84.

Sean Wahl
Operations & Maintenance
Aug 7
Sean stripes the athletic fields before dawn. Join him behind the scenes as he makes early morning safety and maintenance rounds.

Lawrence Dodd
Motorpool Specialist
Nov 2
Lawrence and mechanic, Anderson Ramlackhansingh, have the 2-ton Toro Number 58 up on the lift for repairs.

We hope you enjoy our new digital newsletter.
We have made the change from a printed newsletter to digital in an effort to cut costs and help the environment.
With a BS from Syracuse University in hand, Angel will be starting full time in October at a New York City financial services company. "I feel lucky I have a job. A lot of my friends don't."

Noon The start of a long day. The temperature will be rising steadily to a scorching 92 degrees this afternoon.

The cargo van is full of chairs loaded yesterday for tonight's Rumble on the River event at 7pm. 400 chairs will be driven to Pier 84, unloaded and set up.

12:10pm Angel meets the assembled crew in the "dungeon" at Pier 40 - the makeshift storage and loading location for events equipment and materials.

Lauren Sciortino has loaded several movable signs with posters that have been designed and printed in-house. They'll be posted at strategic locations around the park to promote tonight's event.

12:20pm Angel and Edward Stewart, another supervisor, drive the cargo vans north on West Street to W.44th St, where they enter the Pier 84 plaza area.
Christian Ramos and Angel receive last-minute instructions from Ian Kaley, Director of Marketing & Events. Rumble on the River is a unique, once-a-summer event; tonight's set-up requires adjustments to the standard event plan.

12:45pm Edward arrives at Pier 84 with the rest of the crew transporting chairs, tents, tables, ballasts, signs, and promotional materials in multiple vehicles.

A glitch in the boxing ring assembly! The ring is six feet off the mark and must be moved.

1:30pm Katherine “Bailey” McGinty and Edward Donlan start the long, arduous task of unloading the equipment.

The Church Street Boxing Gym crew gets a helping hand as Angel’s crew assists in moving the 1500 lb ring inch by inch toward the desired spot.

Angel carries two 15-pound buckets of water to the tent area. These are used as ballast to weigh down the tents.
Lauren makes several trips back and forth for more ballast. Francesca Hoffman and Edward pitch in. Hudson River Park piers can bear the brunt of some very strong winds. Tents have to be weighed down to prevent them from flying into the river! Mike Maurer carries another load behind Edward.

During the event, park patrons can stop by the information tent and learn about the park and this event, as well as other upcoming events.

2:30pm Angel and Francesca carry a tent to the lawn. The Public Programs Department stocks about 15 tents for 40 to 50 events per summer. Directly south of the Intrepid, Mike, Bailey, Francesca and Angel set up a tent that will be used for concessions.
Angel Rosado, Events Supervisor  

3:30pm Tim Condon, Christian, Angel and Zach Brass, as well as the rest of the crew, take a much deserved water break. Hudson River Park Trust uses a variety of small electric vehicles for traveling and hauling equipment up and down the 5-mile stretch of park.

4pm Ian and Angel meet with a Church Street Boxing Gym supervisor. Church Street Boxing Gym co-produces Rumble on the River.

Ian goes over the pier’s site plan with Angel.

Church Street Boxing Gym utilizes a professional boxing ring company to set up the equipment. Work continues with the raising of the lights.
Angel Rosado, Events Supervisor

5pm The crew moves toward the western end of the pier where they will set up an area for the boxers and their trainers. Mike and Angel unload a Toro full of chairs.

5:30pm Angel, Francesca, Edward D. and Mike begin to assemble barricades to section-off the boxers' warm-up area from the public.
6:45pm Angel meets with a Church Street Boxing Gym employee to clarify arrangements for checking IDs, distribution of wristbands and selling beer.

After placing security barricades at the entrance to the event, Angel and his crew post regulatory, instructional & directional signs throughout the pier.

6:50pm Edward D. reads a clicker to keep track of attendance at the entrance to Pier 84.

Park visitors are happy to add their names to Hudson River Park’s mailing list at the information tent.

7pm Rumble on the River draws boxing fans from all over the city as well as those who love just being outdoors on the Hudson River on a hot summer night.

The crew will assemble again around 10:30pm, at the close of the event, to break everything down, pack all of the equipment into the vehicles, and bring it all back to the “dungeon” at Pier 40 to store it away and be ready for the next event in Hudson River Park.
9:30am Lauren is one of three full-time environmental educators at Hudson River Park. She begins the day with administrative work. A camp has called to reschedule a program.

9:45am She follows up with colleague Debra Kutska in Operations and Maintenance about exterior signs needed for the Big City Fishing locations.

9:50am The Environment & Education Department uses several electric vehicles to transport poles, bait, tents and other equipment to the three piers where programs take place.

10am First stop: Pier 46. The crew has already set up a Big City Fishing program and is ready for visitors. Lauren updates Supervisor Jennifer Filip.

10:20am At Pier 84, Lauren makes a few last-minute schedule changes with the Pier 84 education crew.
Today, Lauren will teach the 11am camp group along with the Pier 64 crew.

10:30pm Irean Nhan, Pier 64 supervisor, and Jack Fleming double check that there are no barbs on the hooks. Big City Fishing is catch-and-release only.

Victor Chiapaikeo cuts bait for hooks. The park's education program goes through about 50 lbs of frozen squid per season.

Irean skillfully baits the hook. She’s a pro—this is her 6th season on the Trust’s seasonal staff!

Anna Serra catches the first fish of the day. (The crew tries to catch a fish to use as a teaching tool when camp groups arrive.) It’s a Perch!

Lauren un-hooks the fish and places it in an aerated tub. Each catch is recorded in the fish log.
11am A local camp group arrives for their scheduled program. The grass is cool.

The crew approaches the group and introduces themselves.

Lauren introduces the group to the Hudson River estuary and its unique ecology. "Where does the water come from?"

"Is the water fresh or salty?"

"What kinds of wildlife live in such a unique environment?"

Students are quick to respond.
11:30am The second camp group has arrived at Pier 64 and is enjoying educational games on the lawn.

"Do you recognize any of these fish?" Most students are surprised by the seahorse.

Irean is next in line to teach, providing an overview of the fish in the river.

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Students pair up and are assigned a fishing rod.
Park visitors are encouraged to drop by and try their luck. A couple requests a rod and reel for their grandson.

12:10pm A fish is caught! The fish is un-hooked and placed into the aerated tank for observation. It will be released later in the day.

The girls identify the fish from the poster. Their fish is logged into the book and each girl is given a certificate to take home.
After both groups have completed their programs, the crew gets ready for the next set of anglers.

4:10pm Lauren is ready to continue on her rounds. Her last stop of the day is Pier 46. “What's happening?”

Kaela Estrada, Michelle Batista, Jennifer and Tramone Clark relate how their day is going. All is well on Pier 46.

Victor Malinowski tells a funny story about a conversation with a park patron.

5pm The day is almost done! Lauren returns to Pier 40 and plugs in her electric club car. Back in the office, she’ll meet with supervisors and go over tomorrow’s schedule.
Sean has been working at Hudson River Park since 2003 and has been steadily building expertise and certifications in the areas of playground safety and recreational equipment.

Sean stripes the Pier 40 Athletic fields. Today he is striping yellow soccer lines; tomorrow he will stripe the white football lines.

(Later that day.) The fields are striped with water-based turf paint about three times a month.

7am Sean visits each facility and goes through a safety and maintenance checklist before park visitors arrive.

He carries a small portable generator just big enough to power an electric drill and a vacuum.

In the Pier 51 water-play area, he cleans the catch basin for the drain.
Every three weeks, Sean removes about 15 lbs of sand, dozens of balloons, earrings, leaves, and lots of grapes from each drain catch.

9:30am Sean drives a diesel powered, 3-speed, two-seater Toro with a bed for his equipment. His turf stretches all the way from W.59th St down to Battery Place.

10am Sean enjoys the task of replacing old, torn flags with fresh, new ones at Pier 51.

The Operations & Maintenance Department orders NY State, City and US flags by the case. Sean retrieves the new flags he picked up at Pier 40.
Sean Wahl, Operations & Maintenance

"I love working outside!"

Who wouldn't?

Sean uses a combination to open the lock on the housing for the flag cables and pulleys.

The "ship-like bow" at the end of Pier 51 is a great place to be on a sunny summer day.
Raising the flags.
11:30am Sean continues his rounds, checking the gates at the Pier 51 playground.

Noon Next Stop: Chelsea Waterside...
Sean Wahl, Operations & Maintenance

Sean Wahl unclogs another playground drain.

He spot-checks the ball and socket joints of the Galaxy play equipment for any unsafe conditions.

The gate mechanisms are extremely important in the play areas. Parents rest easy when they know their children can't walk out of the gated area.

The gated play areas are closed by Parks Enforcement Patrol at 8pm each night. Hudson River Park staff then does a thorough cleaning.

1:30pm On to the skate park at W.26th St. Sean finds some loose screws in the bowl.
A careful log is kept of all maintenance.

Sean picks up debris in the bowl.

2:30 Back at the Pier 40 Athletic fields, Sean's next task is to affix the loose netting to several of the soccer goal structures.

Operations & Maintenance staff keep plastic clips in stock for this job.
More than 10,000 children and adults use the fields each year. The Pier 40 Courtyard field was opened in 2005 and is playable year-round, except in heavy snow.

Sean also replaces some netting.
Sean Wahl stops to describe a hawk that visits Pier 40 every day.

“It’s beautiful, it flies over early before anyone gets here and just watches from up there...”

4:30pm With such an early start, Sean finishes his rounds, updates his logs and calls it quits for the day.
Lawrence Dodd, Motorpool Specialist

Lawrence has been taking care of the Hudson River Park Trust's fleet of vehicles since 2001.

Park staff brought Diesel-powered Toro Number 58 into the Operations & Maintenance mechanic shop at Pier 40, complaining of vibrations and rattling sounds.

After road-testing the vehicle, Anderson works with Dodd to diagnose the problem. Anderson has been working at the Park since 2005. He loves the park and enjoys the work environment.

Yesterday, Toro Number 58 was put up on the lift. The starter, exhaust system, hydraulic hoses, electric system, and the gear-shift cables are removed or detached before the transmission can be taken out.

After the pressure plate is removed, the clutch is removed and examined. Lawrence and Anderson determine that parts of the clutch are worn out and need to be replaced.
Toro Number 58 weighs about 1100 lbs with a solid steel bed on the back. It works like a pack-mule, picking up garbage along the five-mile park several times a day, every day of the week.

Lawrence and Anderson install the new pressure plate and clutch.

They make the adjustments.

Anderson tightens the pressure plate and clutch onto the flywheel.

They secure the wires and hoses to prepare for the reinstallation of the transmission.
Lawrence Dodd, Motorpool Specialist

Lawrence and Anderson muscle the 400-lb transmission into place.

They re-attach the cables and wires and secure the transmission to the engine.

The transmission is in!

Anderson re-attaches the drive-train onto the transmission.

Noon Lunch!
Trust staff sweeps, waters, vacuums, plows, patrols, lights, mows and hauls equipment and trash in the park 365 days a year with the Trust fleet.

The fleet consists of the smallest motorbike utilized by Park Enforcement Patrol... to the largest vehicle, the new Volvo front-end loader, L45B.

The motorpool workload evolves to fit the seasons. This truck is fitted for plowing snow. Smaller, electric-powered vehicles driven by events and education staff dominate the park during the summer.

1:13pm Lawrence stops to order a part for the Honda Civic Hybrid.

Colleague Jennifer Sosa, Purchasing Coordinator, will send the request through the process.
Lawrence Dodd facilitates the safe and efficient operation of the vehicles. Staff drivers carefully record where they’ve been, how much fuel was consumed and report any vehicle damage to the maintenance department.

Fifty vehicles of such a wide variety require lots of spare tires. Lawrence keeps an organized stock of 30-gallon fuel caddies in the Trust shop. No smoking!

He orders transmission fluid, engine oil, brake fluid, hydraulic fluid and windshield washer fluid by the 55 gallon barrel.

3:30pm One of Kenneth Black’s tasks today is to reposition some 1000-lb expansion plates. He scans his ID which releases the key from the electronic key box and takes a forklift.
1:16pm Back in the shop, Anderson lowers Toro Number 58 and prepares to make final adjustments.

He extracts transmission fluid from a 55-gallon drum.

He fills the transmission with the fluid.

Lawrence and Anderson go back and forth to make adjustments to the clutch cable. A perfect adjustment will ensure optimal performance for such a vital vehicle in the fleet.

Lawrence and Anderson return from a road test. Problem solved, vehicle back in service!