



Hudson River Park Trust

## **NEWS**

**From: Hudson River Park Trust**

Contact: David Katz  
Hudson River Park Trust  
(212) 627-2020  
dkatz@hrpt.state.ny.us

### **HUDSON RIVER PARK'S CHELSEA WATERSIDE ATHLETIC FIELD TO RECEIVE RENOVATION**

***--Hudson River Park to receive \$500K in funding from New York City  
Council Speaker to replace field in Chelsea Waterside Park--***

**NEW YORK, October 28, 2009** – The Hudson River Park Trust announced today that the Chelsea Waterside Park playing field, one of the most heavily used athletic fields on the Westside of Manhattan, has received \$500,000 from New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn. The grant, allocated by the New York City Council in the FY 2010 budget process, will be used to renovate the heavily used field with a new “grass-like” turf surface and perimeter fence, allowing for safe play and maximum durability.

“In a city like ours where open space is scarce, the importance of facilities like the athletic field at Chelsea Waterside Park becomes undeniable,” said New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn. “I am thrilled to contribute to such a worthy cause and to support the growth of this amazing Westside amenity.”

“This beloved section of Hudson River Park will surely gain even more admirers with the improved field and new perimeter fence,” said Diana Taylor, Chair of the Hudson River Park Trust Board of Directors. “We are grateful to Speaker Quinn for her continued support of this community.”

Tens of thousands of local residents already frequent this piece of Hudson River Park, located at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street east of the Westside Highway. With dozens of athletic groups and schools, along with thousands of recreational users, the Chelsea Waterside Park field is a much sought-after space for athletes both near and far.

The section is utilized by casual visitors and local residents for uses like soccer, football, baseball, softball, rugby, lacrosse, field hockey and ultimate Frisbee. In

addition to Chelsea visitors and residents, the athletic field is currently used by nine different school and youth groups including: Xavier High School, Beacon High School, New York City Lab School for Collaborative Studies, School of the Future, Downtown United Soccer Club, the Greenwich Village Little League, Doc's New York City Youth Lacrosse, Manhattan Soccer Club and the Play Rugby USA program. There are also about 15 adult leagues that use the field.

In addition to the athletic field, Chelsea Waterside Park features a basketball court, dog run, and playground that have become cherished amenities and integral parts of the community.

The Chelsea field has been an ideal setting for many special events as well. This July, Adidas held their 8<sup>th</sup> annual FANATIC soccer tournament at Chelsea Waterside Park, its second year at that location. In August 2008, FC Barcelona used the field to host their *Malaria No More* charity tournament. The field also had a brush with celebrity when *Saturday Night Live* shot a segment with NFL quarterback Peyton Manning during the 2007 season.

The entire Hudson River Park is being completed by the Hudson River Park Trust, the state-city entity responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the new 5-mile waterfront park that is revitalizing the west side of Manhattan.

The Hudson River Park Act, adopted in 1998, calls for the state and city to share equally in funding and oversight of the park and the Trust. While capital funding is provided by the State, City and Federal governments, funding for park operations and maintenance is 100 percent generated from private sources through leases, fees, sponsorships and concession revenues. No government funding is used to support the Trust's maintenance and operation, or free public events, education and recreation programs.

### **About the Hudson River Park Trust**

Hudson River Park Trust is a partnership between New York State and City charged with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the five-mile Hudson River Park.

The Trust is as a public benefit corporation and 501(c)(3) and is governed by a thirteen-member Board of Directors. We employ a focused, diverse staff with experience in parks, design, finance, public policy, operations and maintenance. The Trust is governed by the Hudson River Park Act, a 1998 law that established both the park and its governing requirements.

The Trust works with a 50-member Advisory Council, the local elected officials and Community Boards 1, 2, and 4, as well as civic and environmental groups in the park planning process.

###