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 23rd 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 8th 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.

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