



# Playground Committee Handbook

LEARN, PLAY, CONNECT AND GROW  
AT HUDSON RIVER PARK

## Welcome!

If you've found this handbook, you may have kids between the ages of 0-13. As a parent and resident of New York City, you already love Hudson River Park and all that it offers to children and families. If you are looking for ways to become more involved in your community and give back to the Park, you've come to the right place!

Celebrate Hudson River Park at our next Friends Playground Committee event!

*We can't wait to see you!*

Sincerely,



Wendy Amsterdam



Jenny Miller Dutton



Jill Simpson

*Playground Committee Presidents*



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# Who We Are

## About Hudson River Park

Hudson River Park is a 4-mile, 550-acre park from Battery Park City to W59th Street and relies on private funds for its operations, maintenance and programs. Funds raised by the Playground Committee help fulfill our mission to educate children and families on the rich history, ecology and wildlife in our nearly 550-acre backyard, help support the upkeep of some of the most heavily used recreational fields and sports courts in Manhattan, and help to pay for staff, equipment and the remarkably talented artists and educators who bring joy to so many children and families each year.

## About the Playground Committee

Hudson River Park Friends' Playground Committee is a group of devoted parents that promotes and supports everything Hudson River Park has to offer, especially as it relates to children, and opportunities to learn, play and grow.

Since the Playground Committee's inception, their advocacy efforts have made a profound impact and the Committee has raised over \$6 million to benefit the Park, including to help fund the renovation and redesign Chelsea Waterside Playground and build the new Pier 26 Science Playground.

## About the Playground Committee

# What We Support

### Play Areas

The Park's innovative Play Areas provide safe and imaginative environments for exercise, play and making friends. Funds help renovate, maintain and care for the playgrounds, a top priority for Hudson River Park.

### Sports

Hudson River Park is home to some of the most heavily used recreational fields and courts in Manhattan, accommodating a wide variety of sports including soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, baseball and more. The permitting, maintenance and upkeep of all these facilities is privately supported.

### Environmental Education

Whether it is providing STEM-focused K-12 school field trips, summer camp sessions or enrichment activities for children, the Park's hands-on learning experiences make our mission of environmental stewardship a community affair.

### Family Programs

Providing a wide range of free cultural, fitness and educational programs and events throughout the year, especially for children, is one of the Park's proudest achievements.

*Did you know?*

**Hudson River Park provides important habitat to over 100 species of birds that fly through the Park every year.**

# Your Membership Benefits

With your annual \$2,500 membership contribution, you will receive:

**1.**

A complimentary Friends with Benefits membership that includes access to HRPK Friends' Community Partners program.

**2.**

Special invitations to in-Park community events and activations

**3.**

Invitations to the annual Spring Cocktail Party and Hamptons Summer Social

**4.**

A Park-level ticket to the Annual Playground Committee Luncheon

## Get Involved

Whether your interest is in your child's exploration and education, health, fitness, sports activities, environmental sustainability, park development and maintenance through local advocacy or social events, the HRPK Friends' Playground Committee offers a variety of ways to get more involved in your community. No matter your level of commitment, there's something for everyone and every effort has a lasting impact.

## Environmental Education

The Playground Committee is not only the Park's eyes and ears in our local schools and sports groups, but also our voice in the community. Here's how you can help:

### MAKE A CONNECTION

Connect with your school administrator and ask us how to **book a field trip** today! Hudson River Park's **River Project** offers hands-on STEM education field trips, a STEM Activity of the Week series and more educational programming.

### Field Trip Day to the Discovery Tank or the Wetlab

The Discovery Tank is an interactive technology-powered gallery and classroom at Pier 57. Schools, summer camps and after-school programs can visit the Discovery Tank for engaging field trips that include a wide range of STEM programs hosted by the Park's River Project.

Hudson River Park's Pier 40 Wetlab is a native aquarium and marine biology field station. The Wetlab opens each year in June and is in operation through the end of October. During this time, there are lots of opportunities to visit and meet Hudson River wildlife face to face.

*Did you know?*

**Hudson River Park's 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary provides essential habitat for more than 70 species of fish.**

## Play Areas

Amplify the interests of your neighborhood and family and advocate on behalf of HRPK by writing a letter to your local government officials OR by attending a community board meeting. Local advocacy efforts are vital to the care and completion of Hudson River Park!

## Sports

Support local sports and athletics groups that practice in HRPK. Your Playground Committee membership will help to maintain fields and sports facilities in the Park for years to come.

*Did you know?*

**There are seahorses in the Hudson River! One unique characteristic about them is that male seahorses carry the babies in their pouch; not female seahorses!**

# Family Programs

Hudson River Park offers the following events to all New Yorkers and their families. Ask us how you and your family can get more involved!

## SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival

Every fall, SUBMERGE celebrates New York City's coastal waters by bringing marine science to life for kids, families, and schools. This inspiring event for our future scientists and environmental stewards is brought to you by our River Sanctuary experts — HRPK's River Project. We hope you and your family will join us at SUBMERGE!

## Pumpkin Smash

After Halloween, don't miss a chance to participate in a HRPK fall favorite, the Pumpkin Smash! A sustainable way to celebrate the season, the Pumpkin Smash provides a fun and kid-friendly way for pumpkins to be broken down and composted by the Park's Horticulturalists. See you there!



# Signature Events

## Spring Cocktail Party

Join us for drinks in Hudson River Park! Get to know your fellow Playground Committee members and kick off our spring and summer seasons of Park programming. We encourage members to bring a friend!

## Hamptons Summer Social

The Hamptons Summer Social is a signature cultivation event that connects our committee members out East during the summer season. We hope you'll join us this year!

## Playground Committee Luncheon

The Playground Committee's Annual Luncheon gathers together members and neighborhood friends to celebrate Hudson River Park and the dedicated philanthropists and volunteers who work to ensure the Park's continued care, growth and success. This event has historically SOLD OUT every year and is well attended by Playground Committee members, Park supporters and local celebrities.

*Did you know?*

**Hudson River Park's estuarine sanctuary includes six pile fields – wooden fragments of former piers that provide valuable habitat for many aquatic species.**

# Here's how you can help!

## USE YOUR TICKET

We encourage all members to take advantage of their benefits by joining us at the annual Playground Committee Luncheon! Depending on your ability to give, members can also upgrade their ticket and purchase a full or half table at this exclusive event.

## BRING A FRIEND AND SPREAD THE WORD

Attend our recruitment events like our Spring Cocktail Party and the Hamptons Summer Social. Bring your friends and connect them with the Hudson River Park Friends team via email to learn more.

## UNDERWRITE AN EXPENSE

Contribute to our events through an in-kind donation or by underwriting an element of the event such as florals, entertainment, catering, or décor.

## CONNECT US WITH A SPONSOR

We are always looking for new sponsors (big and small) who could benefit from placement in our printed and digital materials, on stage, or by promoting a product in our gift bags.

## BECOME AN EVENT CO-CHAIR

If planning is your jam, we welcome you to join one of our small planning teams and be a part of an event from start to finish!

## Social Media

# Instagram

Did you know we're on IG? Follow [@HRPKPLAY](#) and [@HUDSONRIVERPARK](#) to stay in the loop! As some of us already know, creating meaningful content can be a daunting task, and for that reason, we need your help!

### TAG US

Next time you and/or your family are in the Park, show us some love and tag [@HRPKPLAY](#) and [@HUDSONRIVERPARK](#) in your post or stories.

### HOST A BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISER

Setting up a fundraiser on IG is easy as 1,2,3! If this interests you, let us know and we'd be happy to help.

### BECOME A FEATURED MEMBER

Let us know if you have a story about HRPK that you'd like to share with our community.

### SHARE OUR STORIES

If you see us promoting a fundraiser or celebrating on IG, please share with your social network by reposting to your stories or feed.

# More Ways to Get involved

## Host A Fundraising Event

Are you interested in hosting a private event to support Hudson River Park Friends? Drop us a line!

## Maximize your support

You may be able to DOUBLE or TRIPLE your impact on our urban oasis through our [Matching Gift Program](#).

## Contact Us

Thank you for your interest in HRPK Friends Playground Committee. Please feel free to reach out to any of our staff members below with questions or interest.

### **Toby Pearce**

*Chief Development Officer*  
tpearce@hudsonriverpark.org

### **Eliza Kinsolving**

*Senior Individual Giving Manager*  
ekinsolving@hudsonriverpark.org

### **Phoebe Doran**

*Director, Events and Creative Services*  
pdoran@hudsonriverpark.org

### **Amy Molinero**

*Senior Director, Corporate Engagement*  
amoliner@hudsonriverpark.org

