

Hudson River Park

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aerial view of piers 45 and 46
<http://www.halcrow.com/Where-we-work/United-States-of-America/>



plan of waterfront area
<http://www.hudsonriverpark.org>

Hudson River Park is a 550-acre, five-mile long waterfront park on the west side of Manhattan stretching south from 59th Street to Battery Place. The Park includes 13 public recreation piers, a riverside esplanade, and a tree-lined bicycle path. It is part of an estuarine sanctuary and is the largest park to be developed in Manhattan since Central Park.

Although the park spaces will share a number of common design elements (ie. railing, lighting, and esplanade treatments) to create a unified identity for the site, different designers were selected for each geographic area or “segment” to highlight the individual character of the adjacent neighborhoods.

Segments 2/3 (Lower Manhattan and Tribeca) were designed by Sasaki Associates, followed by Mathews Nielsen; Segment 4 (Greenwich Village) by Abel Bainnson Butz; Segment 5 (Chelsea) by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; and Segments 6/7 (Midtown and Clinton) by Richard Dattner Architects/Miceli Kulik Williams Joint Venture.

The project client is the Hudson River Park Trust, the City-State agency responsible for building and operating the Park.

“New York City’s waterfront has always played a major role in its history and is one of its greatest assets – we have more miles of waterfront than Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, and Portland combined – but for decades New Yorkers have been blocked from it and it’s become less and less a part of their lives. We’re committed to making it a part of New Yorkers’ lives again by completely revitalizing the waterfront.”

-Mayor Bloomberg

<http://dirt.asla.org/2011/03/17/nyc-creates-the-model-waterfront-plan/>

Site Context

Hudson River Park connects many other recreational sites and landmarks including:

- Battery Park
- Battery Park City
- The World Trade Center site
- The World Financial Center Winter Garden
- Chelsea Piers
- Pier 57
- Pier 63
- Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum
- Riverside Park.

It runs adjacent to the distinct and diverse Manhattan neighborhoods:

- Lower Manhattan
- Battery Park City
- TriBeCa
- Greenwich Village
- Gansevoort Market
- Chelsea
- Midtown West
- Hell's Kitchen

There are impending plans to create a Hudson River Park Neighborhood Improvement District in order to generate additional resources for improving connections between the Park and adjacent neighborhoods.

The Park is 80% complete and \$200 million in additional funding is needed to finance the remaining construction.

<http://www.fohrp.org>

“Our water is the connective tissue between our boroughs and is, in effect, our Sixth Borough. We are now planning for our waterfront and waterways with the same intensity and passion that we have traditionally planned for our land.”

- Amanda Buren, chair of NYC's planning commission
<http://dir.asia.org/2011/03/17/nyc-creates-the-model-waterfront-plan/>



<http://www.harborestuary.org/aboutestuary.htm>



google maps

Prior to development of Hudson River Park, the waterfront piers were originally used for commerce. Over time, as the shipping activity became less relied upon or moved elsewhere and the commerce character dissipated, the piers fell into a state of degradation.

Shipping and Commerce



Friends of Hudson River Park 10th Anniversary video www.hudsonriverpark.org



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Abbreviated Timeline

- 1809 Robert Fulton launches Clement, the first steamship, from Pier 45
- 1825 Erie Canal is completed
- 1912 Carpathia docks at Pier 54 with survivors of the Titanic
- 1998 Hudson River Act is signed, project breaks ground
- 2003 Greenwich Village segment of park opens

Site History

“ It was an abandoned side of the city...it was really the dregs of Manhattan”

- Michael del Guidice, Hudson River Park Conservatory

“I was driving down the west side highway one day looking at all these decrepit piers and the complete disgrace that was the waterfront along the west side.”

- George Pataki , former governor of New York

“ I remember when the warehouses were cheek to jowl up and down the West Side and you couldn't see the Hudson River unless you were in a car up on the West Side Highway.”

- Vincent McGowan, Board Member Friends of Hudson Park

State of Degradation



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Differing opinions regarding the future of the waterfront brought layers of complexity to the situation. Portions of the real estate community wanted the waterfront for development while others wanted no changes at all.

The former governor of New York, George Pataki, came to find out that this derelict land was in fact publicly owned by the state Department of Transportation. From this point, political will was built up to turn the west side waterfront land into a park.

New York State and New York City worked together to plan for the 550-acre park, which began as part of the West Side Highway replacement project in the wake of the abandoned Westway Plan.



Hudson River Park Act

The New York State legislature passed the Hudson River Park Act in June 1998. Governor George Pataki signed the legislation formally designating the project area as a park. It also established the Hudson River Park Trust to continue the planning, construction, management, and operation of the park. Friends of Hudson River Park, the primary advocacy and support organization for the Park, was founded in 1999.

Guidelines of the Act:

- Planning and development of the Hudson River Park as a public resource was a matter of State concern and in the interest of the people of the State. Further, the Park will enhance the ability of New Yorkers to enjoy the Hudson River, one of the great natural and public resources of the State.
- The marine environment of the Park provides critical habitat for striped bass and other aquatic species. It is in the public interest to protect and conserve this habitat.
- Quality of life and economic benefits can be derived from creating the Park.
- The Park will encourage, promote, and expand public access to the river, promote water-based recreation, and enhance the natural, cultural and historic aspects of the Hudson River.
- It is in the public interest to encourage park uses and allow limited commercial uses in the Park.



Hudson River Park



<http://www.hudsonriverpark.org>

Programming and Design Features

Activities

basketball
batting cages
bicycling
bike rental
boat building
boat excursions
bowling
carousel
docking
dog runs
education
field sports
golf
ice skating
kayaking
mini golf
mooring
outrigger
play area
restaurants
rock climbing
rowing
running
sailing
shopping
skate park
sunbathing
swimming
walking tours
tennis
trapeze
volleyball
water taxi

Hudson River Park allows for a variety of active and passive uses. A wide array of recreational opportunities are offered and abundant open grassy areas in the park encourage non-athletic leisure activity.

Expansive lawns, horticultural walkways, recreational facilities, historic landmarks, and access to one of the most important rivers in the city and state are central aspects to the Hudson River Park design.

In keeping with the maritime heritage of the park, Hudson River Park has opportunities for outrigger canoeing on Pier 66 at West 26th Street, rowing and sailing on Piers 40 and 66, and free kayaking on Piers 96, 66, and 40.

Bicycle and pedestrian paths, including the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway, span the park north to south, opening up the waterfront for recreational use. The Hudson River Greenway is the most heavily used bikeway in the United States (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River_Park).



www.theweblicist.com



www.hudson-river-park.com



www.hudson-river-park.com

Programming and Design Features



<http://www.halcrow.com>



www.hudson-river-park.com



<http://newyork.timeout.com/things-to-do/own-this-city-blog/85135/new-park-photos-of-hudson-river-parks-piers-62-and-63>

Art installations are also part of the programming effort in Hudson River Park. Examples of recent creative interventions include:

Reflecting the Stars recreated the night sky using solar-powered LED lights to dot the pilings of Pier 49 with “stars”. Visitors are invited to press buttons to light up specific constellations that are no longer visible within urban areas because of air and light pollution.



<http://www.fohrp.org/>

Pier 84 hosted the DRIVE4COPD Monument, which reused 2,400 license plates to create 24 large-scale pinwheels representing the estimated 24 million Americans who may have COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).



<http://www.fohrp.org/>

Habitat

Hudson River Park Estuarine Sanctuary

Estuaries occur where fresh water from the land meets salt water from the ocean, resulting in a dynamic nutrient-rich habitat with high biodiversity.

Hudson River Park's 400 acres of water area have been designated as the Hudson River Park Estuarine Sanctuary.

The **Hudson River Park Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan** provides guidelines for:

- Resource protection
- Public access
- Recreation
- Education
- Research
- Park policies
- Laws & regulations

Habitat Garden

(In Chelsea, next to Pier 66)

This habitat garden of Hudson River Park is a vital component of the Estuarine Sanctuary. The first completed habitat planting area spans nearly three city blocks.

www.hudsonriverpark.org

Hudson River Park includes 400 acres of the Hudson River, designated by New York State as its only urban estuarine sanctuary. This estuary system provides significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat and offers extensive recreational and educational opportunities for Park visitors. Official designation of this sanctuary area as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat allows the river and its shoreline to be preserved for habitat function.

Plans for the completed Park include the development of an estuary museum and other opportunities to educate the public about this precious environment. Friends of Hudson River Park works to support the preservation of this shoreline habitat and also advocates for increased public access to the River for recreational activities.

<http://www.fohrp.org>



www.hudsonriverpark.org



www.hudsonriverpark.org

Before



After



<http://www.themarhablog.com/2010/05/big-changes-along-the-hudson-river.html>

Awards

2011 Heroes of the Harbor - Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. Award for providing a world-class model for waterfront open space, access, and activity.

New York Construction - Best of 2010, Award of Merit for "Landscaping/Urban Planning" Segment 3 (Tribeca)

American Society of Landscape Architects 1998 Merit Award for Hudson River Park's Master Plan

The Waterfront Center 1996 Excellence on the Waterfront Annual Award: Hudson River Park's Concept Plan

"When people live really close together there's a lot of tension and friction. Parks are a way of giving people an opportunity to increase their living space and to commune with nature to the extent that they can in an urban environment."

-Deborah Glick - New York State Assembly Member

- Representatives from public agencies and organizations associated with the project view the Park as a vast improvement to the previous condition of the waterfront. The Park is generally seen as a critical amenity for the city that benefits a broad user group.
- The location of Hudson River Park within the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary system is touted as a significant aspect of the site, however there is a lack of visibly integrated ecological design strategies in the Park. There is great potential to support and enhance the valuable ecological processes of the estuary by bringing ecological infrastructure into Hudson River Park. This appears to be a missed opportunity in terms of ecological function and public education.
- Although certain design guidelines have been instated for the various design teams involved with the individual pier park planning, will that actually be sufficient for cohesion in the waterfront design as a whole? Collaboration between design firms would and will be critical to ensure that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
- How truly integrated is Hudson River Park with the adjacent neighborhoods and urban fabric? There was little discussion from management organizations on how the Park is woven into the existing fabric, connecting residential areas to the Park and to the Hudson River.
- How much lawn is really necessary? Much of that space could have been designed differently to enhance the ecological function along the waterfront and create a more dynamic site.
- There seems to be a missed opportunity to create a more interactive waterfront edge that literally connects users to the Hudson River on a visceral level. Were there other avenues for connection beyond kayak docks?
- Although the programming of the Park is inclusive of many different activities and uses, the overall design of the site appears to be quite generic and uninspired. This initial reaction necessitates a more detailed evaluation of the individually designed Park 'segments.'

google maps

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www.hudsonriverpark.org (Friends of Hudson River Park 10th Anniversary video)

www.themarthablog.com/2010/05/big-changes-along-the-hudson-river.html (Before and after photographs)

www.theweblicist.com