

ESCR CAG Meeting -- July 23, 2026
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Wendy Brawer Richard Heitler Dianne Lake
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[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

ESCR Presentation

Ethan Kraft, HNTB-LiRo

1. City of Water Day with LESEC and ESCR on Saturday, July 25
2. PA2 Construction Progress
 - a. Reached substantial completion in 2024, but final punch list items are being addressed now
 - b. Asser Levy Playground – OPEN!
 - c. Stuyvesant Cove Park – OPEN!
 - d. Murphy Brothers Playground - OPEN!
3. PA1 Construction Activities (*see map on slide 11*)
 - a. Floodwall and floodgate operations. Construction of Parks maintenance area.
 - b. Construction of Parks maintenance & tennis buildings. Utility work.
 - c. Esplanade reconstruction, E. Houston Street retaining wall activities. Clean fill installation.
 - d. Deep sewer work, floodwall construction, and excavation.
 - e. Utility work. E. 10th Street bridge: pile installation. Preparation for E. 13th Street floodwall construction.
 - f. Phase 1 amenities OPEN. Delancey Street & Corlears Hook bridge work.
 - g. Ongoing partial FDR lane closures at various locations for bridge & floodwall work.
4. PA1 Pile Installation
 - a. Utilizing multiple installation strategies to reduce impact on the community; trying to use the least impactful strategy as much as possible. (*see photos and diagrammatic examples of these strategies on slides 14, 20-22*)
 - i. High – impact/hammer
 - ii. Medium - vibratory
 - iii. Lower – drilling
5. PA1 | E. 10th St. Bridge Construction
 - a. Pile installation work to begin week of July 27
 - b. **Construction phasing** (approx. 12-14 months total):
 - i. **Work and staging area mobilization** (ongoing)

1. Current activities: removing underground obstructions and excavating
 - ii. **Daytime installation of ramp and abutment piles**
 - iii. **Pile installation hours: 7am to 6pm**
 - iv. **Anticipated to begin around July 27, ongoing for approximately 1-2 months.**
 - v. This will be a noisy & disruptive operation, but **mitigation strategies are being employed** (see next slide).
 - c. Assembly of bridge on E. 10th Street (~2 months)
 - d. Bridge placement (1 night)
 - e. Construction of ramps (~6-7 months)
 - f. **Building access will be maintained at all times**
 - g. Access to FDR Drive Service Road will be limited during the day to ensure safety of public and workers during certain operations
 - h. **Parking at E. 10th Street and FDR Drive Service Road will be limited** to ensure safe passage of emergency vehicles.
 - i. Specific emergency action plan prepared for this area and reviewed it in detail with FDNY and NYPD. It was also share with and posted at NYCHA.
6. PA1 E. 13th St. Flood Protection Construction (see slides 24-28)
 - a. Underground floodwall infrastructure west of FDR, near Riis, will be drilled into the ground.
 - i. Noise level: LOWER (lower vibration)
 - b. Underground floodwall infrastructure east of FDR in East River Park will be vibrated into the ground.
 - i. Noise level: MEDIUM (consistent vibration)
 - c. Underground infrastructure for floodgates crossing the FDR Drive will be **driven**, which is a noisy and disruptive operation.
 - i. Noise monitors in place and additional mitigation opportunities being explored.
 - ii. **Noise level: HIGH (hammering)**
 - d. Unfortunately, **this work is required by DOT to be performed at night. (roughly 10pm to 6am)**
 - e. Anticipated to begin **mid-August, ongoing for approx. two months**
 - f. When dates are confirmed, we will provide as much advance notice as possible via formal advisories and at nyc.gov/escr/nightwork
7. PA1 | Construction Photos (see slides 30-32)
 - a. Vehicle parking area at Parks M&O facility near Pier 42 (M&O1)
 - b. Removal of overhang protection materials from Corlears Hook Bridge
 - c. Privacy fencing installation at Parks M&O facility at Grand Street (M&O2)
 - d. Curb formwork north of Fields 3 & 4
 - e. E. Houston Street retaining wall construction
8. PA1 What We've Heard
 - a. We're working through a backlog of inquiries.
 - b. Replacement drainage gates
 - i. Final fabrication steps underway, installation anticipated in August.
 - c. Pondering conditions

- i. We have received reports of ponding in and around some completed Phase 1 areas and are reviewing each report. Each location may have different causes, responsibilities, and solutions, so site-specific investigations are underway.
- ii. Recent extreme rainfall has put significant pressure on drainage systems across the city.
 - 1. Following last weekend's storm, we were made aware of ponding on the FDR Drive at Delancey Street. We have also received reports related to the Delancey Street lawn and Corlears Hook Park.
 - 2. We did not receive any ponding reports from those locations during Tuesday's storms.
- iii. Regardless of the cause, project and operations teams have been reminded of the precautions that should be taken in advance of flash flood conditions.

9. PA1 Targeted Outreach for Upcoming Work

- a. **Engagement team will be at August 11 Riis TA meeting and August 29 Family Day.**
- b. Recording and slide translations of recent virtual meeting are available on our website: nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/presentations.page.
- c. Ongoing coordination with NYCHA re: email blasts to residents.
- d. **We appreciate any support community leaders and elected officials are able to provide in communicating project updates to residents.**
- e. **Updates related to nightwork to be provided on dedicated web page:** nyc.gov/escr/nightwork.

10. Call for Art 2026

- a. Invitation for community members to submit visual artwork to be printed on construction fencing, with an emphasis towards residents of NYCHA Riis.
- b. Suggested Themes:
- c. What stories, cultures, and identities make NYC's waterfront unique?
- d. What does climate resiliency mean to you?
- e. Email ESCRCL1@ddccr.com to make digital submission or arrange a pick-up; or submit at a drop-off location
- f. Flyers available in English, Spanish, and Chinese
- g. Deadline for submissions: October 16, 2026

11. PA1 AQM (Air Quality Monitoring) Locations (*see slide 38*)

12. PA1 AQM June 2026 update

- a. There were fewer longer duration events, but they were more frequent; several of them are from off-site activities not related to construction. For those that were, dust mitigation efforts were applied. We'll remind the contractors to be responsive during dusty conditions.

13. PC Construction Activities (*see map on slide 41*)

- a. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Corlears Hook Park (Water St. and South St. complete)
 - i. Utility relocation adjacent to Corlears Hook Park and FDR Drive
- b. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St. S

- i. Sewer installation complete
 - ii. Final restoration
 - c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St. N
 - i. Sewer installation**
 - d. Location 4 – E Houston St. & Columbia St.
 - i. Sewer installation**
 - ii. Drill well points
 - e. **Location 5 – Avenue C & E. 18th - only weekend work**
 - i. Water main**
 - ii. Sewer installation**
 - f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Test pits
 - iii. Work in Location 6 expected to increase in August, formal advisories to come**
- 14. PC Work in Corlears Hook Park
 - a. Test pits and subsurface investigations – Completed
 - b. Utility work - Nightwork to be scheduled, formal advisory to come
 - c. PC sewer installation - To be scheduled
 - d. Water main installation – To be scheduled
 - e. Final restoration* - Anticipated to begin by end of the year
 - f. *Installation of playground and turf area – To be scheduled
- 15. PC Work in Vicinity of Williamsburg Bridge
 - a. Test pits and subsurface investigations
 - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
 - b. Utility work
 - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
 - c. Water main installation
 - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.); beginning this month with completion anticipated in August at Delancey St. N (& Baruch Dr.)
 - d. PC sewer installation
 - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.); in progress at Delancey St. N (& Baruch Dr.) - Completion anticipated early August
 - e. Final restoration – In progress at Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.); to be scheduled for Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
- 16. PC Work at E. Houston St. and Columbia St.
 - a. Test pits and subsurface investigations - Complete
 - b. Utility work - In progress
 - c. PC sewer installation - In progress; completion anticipated mid-August
 - d. Final restoration - To be scheduled at a future date
- 17. PC Construction Photos (*see slides 45-46*)
 - a. Final restoration in Delancey Street South
 - b. PC sewer installation in Columbia St.
 - c. Steam main encasement in Columbia St.
 - d. Helical pile installation in Columbia St.

18. Upcoming meetings

- a. NYCHA Wald & PSA4 Family Day - Tuesday, August 4
- b. NYCHA Riis Tenant Association Meeting - Tuesday, August 11
- c. CAG #72 (Written*) - Around Thursday, August 27
- d. NYCHA Riis Family Day - Saturday, August 29
- e. CB3 Parks Committee - September

Q & A

Wendy: Is there a maximum level for noise, and does that come with a duration?

Ethan: Yes, and I'll have to get back to you.

Wendy: I'm glad you're doing what you're doing to reduce the noise and let residents know about what's going on.

Wendy: How many vehicles are parking at Pier 42, and where are they coming from?

Ethan: It's just for Parks Maintenance and Operations vehicles, and it's on what will become the shared use path.

Wendy: I'm concerned about all the different users (pedestrians, bikers, joggers) navigating the shared use path. It was a conflict spot before, and now you're adding parking spaces.

Ethan: I can get the dimensions of the shared use path and the parking area. Just to clarify, this was always in the design.

Wendy: Is there a speed limit? How will you make sure it's safe?

Ethan: We'll look at what the signage and striping plan calls for and gather more information about this area for you.

Wendy: Where is the wall at Houston St. that you showed a photo of?

Ethan: It's on the east side of the FDR in the park; it will be buried with fill when the project is done.

Wendy: Is a camera going to be added there (at Houston and the FDR) for safety? Have there been conversations with DOT to make it less treacherous for people crossing over?

Ethan: As the design stands, we're not doing anything in the roadway itself. There are security features once you're in the park. We'll take this back to DOT to see if they're willing to explore something there.

Wendy: I remember when we looked at the bollards on the park side. Could a car from the FDR come right into the park there? Has that been addressed?

Ethan: Yes - there are bollards, boulders, and a gate for emergency vehicles. A random car from the FDR should not be able to access the park.

Wendy: Back to the parking area by Pier 42, how do the vehicles get there?

Ethan: I will have to get back to you on that. The only bridge that is rated for vehicles is the Corlears Hook bridge and the Houston Street entrance – only for emergency vehicles and Parks maintenance. I'll ask Parks if they know if this is going to be a two-way street, and I'll bring back up the diagram for this area and make it clearer.

Wendy: What about ponding after construction?

Ethan: For the ponding on the FDR drive, if it's construction-related, we'll find a solution for it. The same is true for areas that are completed; we're not only looking at areas under construction.

CAG-only

Paula: We asked Parks the following questions:

- Drainage and ponding issues
- More shade via the solar panel poles -- Would it be possible to add anything else to the solar poles (to provide) shade as they're quite sturdy?
- Moving benches -- Would it be possible to adjust the placement of some benches to accommodate the placement of shade umbrellas?
- Picnic area at Pier 42 -- Is that area permanent or temporary? If it's temporary, would we still potentially be able to get some shade there?

Terese Flores, Parks: Benches can be moved. I asked about solar panel poles two years ago, and they were still under guarantee. I wouldn't attach anything to them without knowing how their footings are made. I think we're past the guarantee period, but I can make sure. We don't want to void any warranties or cause undue stress on these poles. Putting everything on its own post is much more ideal. Planted trees in pots might be a good interim solution to provide shade next to a bench. I think that's a faster fix because it doesn't require as much permission and coordination. A corporate group could help us buy pots and plants.

Wendy: I'm glad potted plants are possible, but I heard it would be too much maintenance for Parks

Terese: It is, but it's worth it, right? Because we need shade?

Wendy: It would be great if you could find out more about that possibility.

Terese: We'd need to find a way to have them watered – our intern is taking notes. Friends of Tompkins Square Park got a grant to create an irrigation system for a pollinator pocket; it's an above-ground system that doesn't require a plumber, and it's maintained by volunteers. You need a dedicated corps of volunteers to put an hour or two every day of the week to keep things functional: make sure the timers are running and that the water source isn't tampered with. I'll work with my interns to look into this.

Wendy: I hope future park signage mentions Lower East Side Ecology Center's (LESEC) and Solar One's stewardship efforts.

Terese: To have those signs, we need an MOU with them. Also, Solar One is EDC, Parks, property. Wayfinding signs are also needed. I welcome signs that help us maintain the park and give credit to LESEC for the hard work they do in this heat.

Wendy: Wasn't there a group making signs related to the underground infrastructure? Are those going in at some point?

Terese: I can ask and find out.

Dianne: Wendy, you might be talking about something we talked about at CB3; there was interest in putting up horticultural signage, but as Terese said that's depends on having an agreement with an organization that will care for those things, so we put it to the side until LESEC finished their talks with Parks.

Wendy: The ones I remember were about the infrastructure.

Dianne: Did we ever hear from our Councilmembers about the shade umbrellas they might be able to buy us?

Paula: No, so I'll follow up with them.

Wendy: How many more years are left on the solar pole guarantee?

Terese: I have to find out.

Terese: Regarding the ponding, when I walked through the park the first time we accepted it, I noticed it wasn't draining. I said if it rains and it's winter, we're going to get ice capades, so they said, OK, we're going to re do that. Also, the wind blows the spray shower water into the area with poor drainage --- someone from Parks is looking into when they're going to redo it and fix it. Also, I can adjust the spray shower when that's happening, so if you see it, give me a call, and I can adjust it. We have a lot of new water connections being built, so sometimes you get extra pressure.

Wendy: Were there any surprises with the storm last weekend, or did things pretty much work as expected except for the ponding around Delancey?

Terese: I haven't fully assessed every single site that washed out and had issues. I'm concerned about a few areas because we had a lot of damage, a lot of drains filling up with mud that we're still clearing out and tons of tree debris. And a lot of mowing that needs to be done because the rain makes the grass grow faster. I'm also worried about the Sumac taking over and getting into pathways. I might be pulling some of it out and putting it in other parks.

Wendy: Pier 35 might need some fill-in.

Terese: The BMCR construction of those flip-ups cut off the water there. We haven't had water there for a while, so the only thing growing is the most resilient plants like Sumac. If we put stuff there, it won't survive. It's just another thing on the plate that I have to figure out, including if there will be funding to rebuild it.

Wendy: So many people let their dogs romp in the little tree part; I'm not sure if fencing could keep them out.

Terese: I don't know how to get dog owners to respect horticulture anymore, and it feels like I'm outnumbered. Owners don't know that their dogs are wrecking new lawns, but maybe some kind of ad campaign about how dog urine messes up plant roots and the soil.

Wendy: I agree with you, and I'll mention again that there should be a dog run in East River Park in the north end. And I was hoping the labyrinth would come back.

Terese: Me, too. If nothing takes the place of the Fireboat House, one could go there. I see kids all over the city enjoying labyrinths.

Dianne: Will there be an August meeting?

Paula: We typically have a written update each August instead of a meeting. Does that work?

Dianne: I think that's fine, but we should ask Ethan if he anticipates if there will be any big news in August. How will the folks at Riis Houses stay in touch if we only get a written report? Would Ethan go meet with them on site?

Meeting at ended at approximately 5:08 pm.