

ESCR CAG Meeting -- June 25, 2026
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Wendy Brawer Christine Datz-Romero Richard Heitler Dianne Lake Michael Marino

[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

ESCR Presentation

Ethan Kraft, HNTB-LiRo

1. PA1 Construction Activities (*see map on slide 10*)
 - a. Floodwall and floodgate operations.
 - 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. Mobilization of equipment for E. 10th Street bridge. 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.
2. E. 10th Street Bridge Construction (*see slides 11-14*)
 - a. **Construction phasing (approx. 12-14 months total)**
 - i. **Work and staging area mobilization** -- ONGOING for 1-2 weeks
 - ii. **Installation of ramp and abutment piles** -- Anticipated to begin in early- to mid-July, ongoing for 2-3 months
 1. Piles will be pre-drilled and vibrated to an extent to reduce impact on residents, though this will still be a noisy and disruptive daytime operation
 - iii. Assembly of bridge on E. 10th Street (2 months)
 - iv. Bridge placement (1 night)
 - v. Construction of ramps (6-7 months)
 - vi. **Building access will be maintained at all times**
 - vii. Access to FDR Drive Service Road will be limited during the day to ensure safety of public and workers during certain operations
 - viii. **Parking at E. 10th Street and FDR Drive Service Road will be limited** to ensure safe passage of emergency vehicles
3. E. 13th St. Flood Protection Construction
 - a. **Water main work anticipated to begin in July**

- i. **Water main work will require a brief water shutdown**, with water restored at the end of the day
 - ii. CCLs¹ will provide 72-hour notice before shutdown in English, Spanish, and Chinese
 - iii. Underground floodwall infrastructure will be drilled into the ground east of FDR (in East River Park) & west of FDR (near Riis)
 - iv. Underground infrastructure for floodgates crossing the FDR Drive will be **driven**, which is a noisy and disruptive operation
 - 1. Noise monitors in place and additional mitigation opportunities being explored
 - 2. Anticipated to take approximately two months
 - v. Unfortunately, **this work is required by DOT to be performed at night (roughly 10pm to 6am)**
 - vi. Anticipated to begin **late-June / early-July**
 - vii. When dates are confirmed, we will provide as much advance notice as possible via formal advisories and at nyc.gov/escr/nightwork
- 4. PA1 Construction Photos (*see slides 17- 18*)
 - a. Foundation formwork and plumbing fixtures installed for future track house
 - b. Sewer construction in northern portion of park
 - c. Park furniture installed near northern tennis courts
- 5. PA1 What We've Heard
 - a. Spring Planting
 - i. Planting is complete for this season and included both new plants and warranty replacement plants
 - ii. Contract defines windows during which plantings can be installed
 - b. July 4th Closures
 - i. NYPD: Waterfront access restricted from Pier 42 to at least the Brooklyn Bridge (including all areas under the FDR Drive)
 - ii. NYC Parks: Pier 42 and East River Park will remain open to the public
 - c. Replacement Drainage Grates
 - i. Anticipated to be installed by end of July
- 6. Targeted Outreach for Upcoming Work
 - a. **Engagement team attending all Riis TA meetings.**
 - b. **Upcoming virtual meetings**
 - i. Thursday, July 9th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
 - ii. Friday, July 10th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
 - c. **Updates related to nightwork to be provided on dedicated web page:** nyc.gov/escr/nightwork
 - d. Ongoing coordination with NYCHA re: email blasts to residents.
 - e. **We appreciate any support community leaders and elected officials can provide in communicating project updates to residents.**
- 7. 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.**

¹ Community Construction Liaisons

- b. Suggested Themes:
 - i. What stories, cultures, and identities make NYC's waterfront unique?
 - ii. What does climate resiliency mean to you?
 - c. Email ESCRCCL1@ddccr.com to make digital submission or arrange a pick-up; or submit at a drop-off location
 - d. Flyers available in English, Spanish, and Chinese
 - e. Deadline for submissions: October 16, 2026
- 8. Environmental Reporting Update – Air Quality Monitoring (AQM)
 - a. PA1 AQM Locations – same spots as in the last few months (*see map on page 25*)
 - b. May was a pretty good month; most alerts were under 30 minutes
 - i. Dust suppression techniques were applied in the case of longer alerts when it was deemed that they were due to construction activity.
- 9. PC Construction Activities
 - 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. Utility relocation
 - c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St. N
 - i. Sewer installation
 - d. Location 4 – E. Houston St. & Columbia St.
 - i. Sewer installation
 - e. Location 5 – Avenue C & E. 18th
 - i. Water main
 - ii. Sewer installation
 - f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd – work expected to increase here this summer
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Test pits
- 10. PC Work in Corlears Hook Park
 - a. Test pits and subsurface investigations – Completed
 - 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
 - e. The area that PC will restore is the area that's currently disturbed.
- 11. 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 soon 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
 - i. To be scheduled at a future date for Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
- 12. PC Work at E. Houston St. and Columbia St.
 - a. Test pit 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
- 13. PC Construction Photos (*see slide 32*)
 - a. PC sewer installation in Delancey St. N
 - b. Precast manhole installation in Delancey St. N
 - c. Excavation and support for PC sewer construction in Columbia Street
- 14. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. Virtual NYCHA Riis Construction Updates
 - i. Thursday, July 9 – 6:30 pm -7:30 pm
 - ii. Friday, July 10 – 11:00 am -12:00 pm
 - b. CB3 Parks Committee
 - i. Thursday, July 16
 - c. CAG #71
 - i. Thursday, July 23
 - d. NYCHA Riis Tenant Association Meeting
 - i. Tuesday, August 11

Q and A

Wendy: I'm glad to hear the park will be open on July 4th. Can Riis residents get air conditioners since they'll have to have their windows closed? Or if that's not possible, could there be a 24/7 cooling center there? How many days or weeks will it last?

Ethan: The pile installation should take about two months. We'll take back your suggestions for air conditioning or a cooling center.

Wendy: Was the placement of the umbrellas planned according to the sun's path? Will they provide shade where people actually sit or right next to them?

Ethan: I'll have to get back to you on why they were placed where they were.

Dianne: I just want to double-confirm what you said about the availability of East River Park and Pier 42 on July 3rd and 4th. NYPD will only require their closures up to Pier 42, but once you get to Pier 42 it's at the discretion of Parks?

Ethan: That's my understanding, but I don't want to speak for Parks; this is just the latest information we had. I do think it would be worth double-checking with Terese.

Dianne: I heard some slightly conflicting information earlier today via CB 3 channels, so I think we'll double-check, but that would be great news. I have already asked Parks to clarify what I heard earlier today and if it's both days, and I will let you know when I hear back.

Ethan: We'll ask, too – just to get more eyes on it.

Christine: Where is the construction process for the compost yard? We cleared a hurdle with the Public Design Commission, but where are we with this project?

Ethan: I haven't heard an update, but I'll check in with the team and get back to you.

CAG-only portion

Wendy: I forgot to ask for update on the standing water in Corlears; are the drains they're putting in going to help?

Michael: They're only replacing sewers that already exist because the holes in the grates they initially installed are too big. It doesn't include new sewers. They need to put sewers where they didn't put them to fix the ponding issue in Corlears.

Christine: Have you gone to the spray shower on Grand St? I find it sad or ironic that we have a new spray shower, but we have the same problem of the water not draining correctly

Dianne: I've noticed that; in addition to the drainage problem, it's also a little bit slippery for both the kids and pedestrians. I think it's something we need to bring to their attention.

Wendy: Maybe we can all look for other spots where it's not draining and where water is standing/ponding and include those as well.

Dianne: Let's give people an update on the shade walk-through we did the other day. We spend most of our time trying to figure out if we could place the umbrellas in a way that follows the sun. There's not a lot of concrete available to bolt the umbrellas into.

Wendy: It was a gray day, so it was hard to assess what areas were being shaded. We found spots between benches to install umbrellas. We also looked at areas where people watch people play such as the dugout as being key spots. The amphitheater is a tough one to think about shade for. One idea was to put more solar panels on the poles that have them that are already acting as shade, but I think that's an integrated pole where all the power goes to the light. I don't think it would be useful to generate more power there without a lot of infrastructure – but I could be wrong about that.

Michael: We did talk about the challenges of the amphitheater and how it will be an uphill battle to do anything there because of sightlines and how they purposefully designed to be a passive lawn. We also went down to Pier 42 and looked at their playground and the elevated picnic area that has four tables. This funding allocation only covers 10 umbrellas, so we talked about putting two in at Pier 42 and smattering the rest around East River Park.

Christine: We hear Parks say that we can't put any more robust structures because of underground infrastructure. Does the Pier have the same constraints? Why can't we get something more robust for the picnic tables at Pier 42 like a real shade structure? It's a recycled pier, so I don't think there's infrastructure that cannot be disturbed. Also, could we maybe drape some fabric over the Pier's skeleton infrastructure that they left to create some shade?

Dianne: Michael raised a good point about Pier 42 -- is the picnic area permanent or temporary? If it's temporary, would they give us a hard time about wanting to provide shade there? We thought we should check on that and confirm that that area's not going

away after ESCR is completed. I don't think it would be a big deal to bolt some umbrellas down there and remove them at a later date.

Michael: We noted that there's significant space for some sort of pergola to be easily constructed there. Right now, we're just dealing with the 10 umbrellas we know we're getting.

Dianne: The takeaway was that there's a lack of concrete to put umbrellas into. They have put the benches so tightly into those spaces that you can't fit an umbrella in there. We also wondered if we could we ask Parks to adjust the placement of the benches somewhat to allow for shade umbrellas. This was especially notable in the children's play area at Pier 42 where the benches are backed up against the rubber matting; there's no slack in there at all. The same is true of the dugout areas for the ball players. Everything's backed up very tightly against the turf.

Wendy: Are you making a list of the ponding spots, Paula? It ponds on the big lawn on Delancey Street because there's no drainage on that bridge. I don't know how drainage could be added, but maybe there's a way to add a curb of some sort. It might be an ongoing problem for us.

Paula: I haven't created a list of ponding sites, but if you as users of the park could send me locations where this is happening, I can facilitate creating a list.

Paula: Do you want me to follow up with Parks about the questions that have just been raised here today?

Wendy: Yes, I think so. They'll be at CB 3 on July 16 so maybe they can report there on the ponding issues in various parts of the park and how the drainage was designed for regular, pluvial rain.

Michael: Regarding shade, we need to get clarify on what the limitations are. Are they willing to move benches? Is the Pier 42 picnic area permanent or temporary? What else?

Dianne: Those are my two main questions. If bench placements need to be adjusted to install an umbrella, is that possible?

Wendy: And my question is would it be possible to add anything else to the solar poles (to provide) shade as they're quite sturdy?

Paula: I should ask Terese Flores these questions, right?

Michael and Dianne: Yes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.