

ESCR CAG Meeting -- September 24, 2026
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Christine Datz-Romero
Kathryn Freed (substituting for Wendy Brawer)
Richard Heitler
Ditashiah Kohn
Dianne Lake
Michael Marino

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

ESCR Presentation

Ethan Kraft, HNTB-LiRo

1. Employment and Resource Fair - Wednesday, October 14th 4:00-6:00 pm
 - a. 213 Stanton Street
 - b. Hosted by ESCR team, in collaboration with Our lady of Sorrows Church.
 - c. Prepare and connect with returning workforce partners and community organizations to learn about available employment opportunities. (Currently there are no jobs open on the ESCR project.)
 - d. Register using the QR code, or visit <https://bit.ly/escrwwusfall2026>
2. PA2 Construction Progress
 - a. Reached substantial completion in 2024, but final punch list items are being addressed now
 - i. Replacement of sea rails and sidewalk flag replacement in Stuyvesant Cove Park
 - b. Asser Levy Playground – OPEN!
 - c. Stuyvesant Cove Park – OPEN!
 - d. Murphy Brothers Playground - OPEN!
3. PA1 Construction Activities (*see map on slide 10*)
 - 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. Construction of track house & Parks maintenance buildings.
 - e. Utility work. Pile installation for E. 10th Street bridge. Preparation for E. 13th Street floodwall construction.
 - f. Phase 1 amenities OPEN. Delancey Street & Corlears Hook bridge work.
 - g. Southbound FDR Service Road detour at Delancey Street and ongoing partial FDR lane closures at various locations for bridge & floodwall work.
4. Nightwork: South St. & Montgomery St.

- a. Maintenance and testing of floodgates near Montgomery Street require overnight closures of FDR Drive entrance ramp and detour at exit ramp.
 - i. Friday, October 9 and Friday, October 16, from 9pm to 9am
 - ii. Southbound exit 3 will remain open with detour beginning at Gouverneur Slip West.
 - iii. Northbound on-ramp will be closed (alternate entries at Brooklyn Bridge and E. Houston Street).
- 5. Nightwork: FDR Dr. Service Road & Delancey St.
 - a. Graffiti removal and sealing of the Delancey Street Bridge requires an overnight detour of the southbound FDR Drive Service Road at Delancey St.
 - i. Ongoing through September, from 10pm to 6am
 - ii. Follow signs to Grand Street for access to FDR Drive Southbound.
- 6. E. 10th Street Bridge Construction
 - a. Construction phasing (approx. 12-14 months total):
 - i. Work and staging area mobilization complete
 - ii. Daytime installation of ramp and abutment piles
 - 1. Biggest noise/vibration impact to residents
 - 2. Pile installation hours: 7am to 6pm
 - 3. Anticipated to continue into mid-October.
 - 4. This will be a noisy and disruptive operation, but mitigation strategies are being employed.
 - b. Assembly of bridge on E. 10th Street (~2 months)
 - c. Bridge placement (1 night)
 - d. Construction of ramps (~6-7 months)
- 7. E. 13th Street Flood Protection Construction
 - a. Pile installation to be installed across and parallel to the FDR Drive to support flood protection infrastructure.
 - b. Unfortunately, this work is required by DOT to be performed at night (roughly 10pm to 6am, dependent on day of week).
 - c. Anticipated to begin early-to mid-October, ongoing for approx. two months.
 - d. Please see [July 2026 CAG](#) for more information on pile installation methods and noise mitigation strategies.
 - e. When dates are confirmed, we will provide as much advance notice as possible via formal advisories and at nyc.gov/escr/nightwork.
- 8. PA1 Construction Photos (*see slides 18-20*)
 - a. Trench for water main adjacent to Pier 42
 - b. Compaction of lightweight fill along esplanade near Field 7
 - c. Installation of piles for E. 10th Street bridge ramps
 - d. Installation of rebar for track house foundation slab
 - e. Additional tree features installed in open area
 - f. Concrete formwork for new embayment at E. Houston Street
- 9. Ongoing Outreach with NYCHA Riis
 - a. Engagement team attended September 22 TA Meeting and is working on follow-ups to questions.
 - b. Virtual meetings for Riis residents will be held on the second Thursday of every month at 11am until further notice.

- i. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 8. Pre-registration is necessary: [nyc.gov/escr/nightwork](https://www.nyc.gov/escr/nightwork)
 - c. Latest Riis recordings, slide translations, and updates will be posted to our website: [nyc.gov/escr/nightwork](https://www.nyc.gov/escr/nightwork)
 - d. All community presentations can be found here: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/presentations.page>
 - e. The Community Engagement team also frequently flyers in the area, including on Pantry Days
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:
 - i. What stories, cultures, and identities make NYC's waterfront unique?
 - ii. What does climate resiliency mean to you?
 - c. Email ESRCCL1@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
11. PA1 AQM (Air Quality Monitoring) Locations (*see slide 25*)
12. PA1 AQM August 2026 update
- a. There were a few alerts, but most of them were very short, and dust mitigation techniques were applied each time.
13. PC Construction Activities
- a. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Corlears Hook Park (Water St. and South St. *complete*)
 - i. Sewer installation in Jackson Street and Corlears Hook Park (FDR Drive corridor)
 - b. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St. S
 - i. Sewer installation *complete*
 - ii. Final restoration *complete*
 - c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St. N
 - i. Sewer installation *complete*
 - d. Location 4 – E. Houston St. & Columbia St.
 - i. Unanticipated utility relocation
 - ii. Sewer installation
 - 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
14. Work in vicinity of Corlears Hook Park
- a. Test pits and subsurface investigations - *Complete*
 - b. Utility work - *Ongoing*
 - c. PC sewer installation - *Resumed, ongoing*
 - d. Water main installation - *To be scheduled*
 - e. Final restoration - *Anticipated to begin by end of year, but it's weather-dependent*

- f. Installation of Playground and Turf Area - *To be scheduled*
15. 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.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
 - d. PC sewer installation
 - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.) and N (& Baruch Dr.)
 - e. Final restoration
 - i. Completed at Delancey St. S (& Lewis St.); to be scheduled for Delancey St. N (& Baruch Dr.)
16. 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*
 - d. Final restoration - *To be scheduled*
17. Northern Work Areas
- a. Test pits and subsurface investigations – Completed at Ave. C & E. 18th St.; in progress at Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd St.
 - b. Utility work - Completed at Ave. C & E. 18th St.; in progress at Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd St.
 - c. Water main installation – Expected soon at Ave. C & E. 18th St.; to be scheduled at Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd St.
 - d. PC sewer installation – To be scheduled at Ave. C & E. 18th St. and Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd St.
 - e. Final restoration - To be scheduled at Ave. C & E. 18th St. and Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd St.
18. PC Construction Photos (*see slide 34*)
- a. Helical pile installation in Columbia Street
 - b. Parallel Conveyance sewer installation near Jackson Street and Corlears Hook Park
19. Upcoming Meetings & Community Events
- a. Virtual Riis ESCR Update - Thursday, October 8 at 11:00am
 - b. CB3 Parks Meeting - Thursday, October 8 at 6:30pm TO BE CONFIRMED
 - c. Riis TA Meeting - Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00pm TO BE CONFIRMED
 - d. Employment & Resource Fair - Wednesday, October 14 at 4:00pm
 - e. CAG Meeting #74 - Thursday, October 22 at 4:00pm
20. Compost Facility Update
- a. The City has experienced procurement-related challenges associated with utilizing the Change Order process for this project, given the scale and cost estimates of the proposed facility.
 - b. Therefore, DDC is turning to the competitive bidding process.

- c. The bid is anticipated to go out later this year, which would point to an anticipated construction completion date of late 2028 at earliest.
- d. this is the most viable path to keep the project moving forward.
- e. LESEC has been informed of this update, and we will continue to keep our lines of communication with them open as the process moves forward.

Q & A

Michael: The exterior sidewalk [of Corlears Hook Park] is being replaced; is that part of ESCR or not?

Ethan: It's not part of ESCR although DDC is installing it. I can share the Community Construction Liaison's contact information.

Michael: Could you share that with me outside of that meeting because some community members are asking why rebar isn't being installed as part of it?

Christine: Stuy Cove received a new sea rail; that came from East River Park, correct?

Ethan: Correct.

Christine: I'm wondering why tropical rainforest wood was used.

Ethan: I'll have to get back to you on the wood that was used and why and to clarify whether it is actually new or restored wood.

Christine: At CB3 you shared that there were delays related to the construction of the compost facility. I want to go on record to say that LESEC is very distraught about this news. The change order is really something that the City saw coming for the last six years. I appreciate and understand that you can only start a process when you know what you're building. There were a few iterations, including being told two years into the ESCR construction that we couldn't go back to the Fireboat House for our admin. and programs. We were given the option to have a construction trailer on the site of the compost yard. We expressed our thoughts that a construction trailer is not sufficient for an organization like ours to function. So we raised \$5M from City Council funding, because we were told that a building would be about \$5M to build, and that would be 1,000 square foot building that you see in the rendering. I believe all the permits and everything are in place right now. We're being asked to be patient, and there's no guarantee that this bid will come in cheaper than the Change Order process that DDC feels they cannot afford with the current contractor. How committed is the City to building this? Is there still a 100% commitment that we've had over two administrations now that there will be a facility for LESEC in East River Park?

Ethan: The City is certainly still committed to this project. My goal is to provide a lot more information at the October CB3 meeting and to answer some of the questions that you and the community asked at the September CB3 meeting. Yes, the City is committed and I appreciate your sharing this feedback.

Kathryn: Following up on what Christine said, I want to make the statement that a lot of us are feeling very betrayed about this delay. There have been so many broken promises from the City that it's hard to believe it's committed to creating the composting center. I'm a little confused about what the Change Orders were. You have no guarantee that you'll get a bid that's anywhere near the parameters you're using. There is money from the City Council. Council member Marte got the money that he was told he needed. I know you're going to be more forthcoming at the next CB3 meeting, but I want you to tell whoever that the community is very upset about this. We've had so many problems starting with the very beginning of the East River project, and we're still not happy about having lost our original park. It seems like we've been

lied to. Don't take it personally, but we haven't seen anything from the City that indicates good faith.

Ethan: I understand your frustration, and we took back the comments from CB3 already, and will definitely take these comments back. We will also try to respond to the comments we heard at the September CB3 meeting about this.

Dianne: Does that include our high-level questions about the project budget, and why this is an issue?

Ethan: I will do my best.

Dianne: Ethan, please let us know if any outreach from the CAG or from the parks groups that Kathryn mentioned would be helpful.

Max Deutsch, CM Marte: This is more a question for Parks who's not here tonight. We've been getting complaints and concerns about sanitation in the park, especially by the picnic tables under the Williamsburg Bridge. Would the CAG be interested in our office convening a walk-through to look at sanitation issues?

Kathryn: I brought this up at CB3, but there are people living in the park almost every night, and there are also dog-related issues. The homeless guys can't stay out there in the winter. Hopefully we can get someone out there to find them a place to stay.

Ethan: Our team is actively working with City agencies regarding the gentleman staying near the bridge.

Kathryn: Maybe the same team can address the guys living in the park.

Ethan: We can certainly talk to Parks about it.

Christine: I suggest that we as the CAG ask Parks to send a representative to future CAG meetings because there are always things that come up.

Paula: I'll reach out to Parks about that.

Michael: To add a clarifying thing to what Max brought up. We're all concerned about trash in the park, but that's not what the CAG is here for. Our job is to monitor the construction of East River Park, not its maintenance,

CAG-only

Paula: Here are some updates about what I'm hearing from elected officials about shade and umbrella structures:

- Councilmember Epstein's office said that Parks received the \$50,000 he allocated, and his office wants to schedule a walk-through to discuss locations for the shade structures. They're coordinating with Councilmember Marte's office on this.
- Councilmember Marte's office was having good conversations with Parks but were rejected on the last day. They're trying to explore their options and figure out more. I asked their budget director to keep us posted on Parks' response, and I nudged them earlier today.
 - Dianne: It's weird that one Councilmember's office got money and not the other.

Michael: We've been getting requests from Councilmember's Marte's office, from new people who don't seem to know what they're doing.

Kathryn: Do we know how much CM Marte's office was asking for?

Dianne: I believe CM Marte was going to ask for \$50,000 as well. CM Marte and CM Epstein made the ask together since they share the park. I heard from the

CM himself that the funding was rejected, but that was before I knew the other funding was accepted.

Paula: We've also spoken with Assemblymember Grace Lee's office, and hopefully next week their budget person is recommending \$120,000 for 20 metal shade umbrellas and 2 ping pong tables. She also reminded me that the New York State capital funding budget process takes a long time.

Kathryn: Should we assume that Parks will accept the money? I'm a little concerned. I've never heard of Parks rejecting money like this.

Dianne: I don't know; I think we should try to get to the bottom of this. I'm wondering if we should also reach out to someone at Parks.

Paula: Who should I reach out to?

Michael: Steve Simon - Steve.Simon@parks.nyc.gov

Paula: The last shade funding update is from the Manhattan Borough President's office. Their last round of funding was restricted to arts and culture, and I was instructed to reach out to them in November to inquire about the next round of potential funding.

Kathryn: Is there a timetable for the canopy for the amphitheater? Do they have to wait for a canopy to do a performance?

Michael: I just tried logging into the permit system, and I'm seeing that you can request the amphitheater.

Paula: Who from Parks should I contact about sending a representative to future CAG meetings?

Michael: Terese. (Edwin Rodriguez is the new park manager and reports to Terese.)

Christine: What do people think of requesting a construction walk-through in the northern part of the park? Will the park still be done by the end of 2027? A park being open is different than a functional park being open. Does anyone else have an appetite for a walk-through?

Paula: I'll reach out to Ethan about this.

Kathryn: There was an announcement that one of the workers was killed in the park.

Dianne: Yes, Ethan mentioned this and said he'd keep us updated. NYPD is involved.

Meeting ended at approximately 5:08 pm.