

**ESCR CAG Meeting Summary -- December 2nd, 2021  
(via Zoom)**

**CAG Members Present**

Ayo Harrington Charles Krezell Chris Collins Christine Bookin Christine Datz-Romero Dereese Huff Ditashiah Kohn Dov Goldman	Dianne Lake Frank Avila Goldman Freddina Fulton Martin Barrett Michael Marino Nancy Ortiz Sandra McKee Sam Moskowitz	Susan Steinberg Seth Coren Robin Schatell Richard Heitler Trevor Holland Tony Rivera Wendy Brawer
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**DDC Presentation of Updates**

*Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo*

Link to slide deck: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/escr/downloads/pdf/20211202-ESCR-CAG-Meeting-16-FINAL.pdf>

- I. Overview of Contracts
- II. PA 2 Construction Updates
  - A. Construction Progress
    1. Stuyvesant Cove Park North of 20th St. pile installation and floodwall construction.
    2. E 23rd St/ Intersection, utility work, and pile installation ongoing.
    3. West Service Road pile installation work.
    4. Asser Levy Playground continuing pile installation, floodwall construction, and sidewalk installation.
    5. Avenue C and E. 20th Street, ConEd utility work.
    6. FDR Dr. NB exit 7 ramp lane shift and sewer work.
    7. Updated access rendering see slide 8.
  - B. September Air Quality Update
    1. PM daily value did not surpass PEL for the month of September.
  - C. October Air Quality Update
    1. PM daily value did not surpass PEL for the month of October.
  - D. Q&A
    1. Diane: Why is the extra little section at 20th street closed?
      - Desiree: There is a gate at East 20th St., ferry detour access will be easier if gate is done in the first phase.
    2. Frank: People will be biking in the car lane with planned gate work, can any exception be made for bike riders?
      - Desiree: Too dangerous with construction to have people biking but DDC is working with DOT on signage in the area to work towards diverting bicyclists.

3. Robin: Would be helpful if along red stretches, in the rendering along the FDR, cars could be diverted and then made into a bike lane.
  - Desiree: We can take that back to talk about with DOT.
  - Neg (DOT): We have looked at this extensively but there is some ConEd work happening in the area and under the FDR will be used for staging for construction, the option is infeasible.
4. Charles: How are you coordinating the construction with the ConEd work?
  - Desiree: Construction team and HNTB-LiRo are all coordinating on ESCR work with ConEd.

### III. PA1 Construction Update and Amenities Overview

#### A. Upcoming Construction Activities:

1. 12/2 & 12/3 contractor re-mobilizing and installing greenway detour signs
2. 12/6 contractor to install construction fencing closing the Greenway and East River Park south of Stanton Street or Ballfield #3.
3. Week of 12/6 through December clearing and grubbing activities will commence in closed areas of the park through the month of December. Utility work will begin in and adjacent to East River Park. Weekly Bulletins will be issued with construction activities.
4. Restored Area for open space may open by the end of 2021.
5. For copies of bulletins or requesting more distributed information please contact the construction liaison.

#### B. Access and Detours

1. See slide 15 for a graphic detailing the overall greenway access detour or DOT access map.
2. Shared use Path will be fully closed starting December 6th for pedestrian safety throughout the construction of the project.
3. Alternate bicycle and pedestrian detours are being coordinated with DOT and NYC Parks.
4. Ferry access and signage are currently being coordinated with EDC.
5. Safe access will be provided at all open park entrances and to all open park amenities.
6. ADA access to park open areas will be provided.

#### C. PA1 Amenity Overview Dec 6- End of 2021

1. See slide 16 for rendering.
2. Open amenities overview:
  - (6) ball fields (3,4,5,6,7,8); Track and Field, Field House, 10th Street Playground, 10th Street Comfort Station, 10th Street Playground, BBQ Area, Basketball Courts, Passive Lawn, Esplanade Reach G through K.
3. ConEd work in the northern area will be completed in sections
4. Floodwall at Pier 42 will connect to floodwall at end of East River Park and will be built within the first year.

D. PA 1 Amenity Overview Summer 2022

1. See slide 17 for rendering
2. Open amenities overview:
  - (6) ball fields (3,4,5,6,7,8); Track and Field, Field House, 10th Street Playground, 10th Street Comfort Station, 10th Street Playground, BBQ Area, Passive Lawn, Esplanade Reach G through K, Pier 42 Deck Amenities.
3. Temporary access bridge will be up in Spring 2022, location TBD.
4. The basketball court will be closed when reach J is closed.

E. PA 1 Amenity Overview Summer 2023

1. See Slide 18 for rendering.
2. Open amenities overview:
  - (3) Ball Fields (1,2,6); Track and Field; Track House; Amphitheater; Nature Exploration and Waterplay; Esplanade Reach g though I; Passive Lawn; Pier 42 Deck Amenities; Pier 42 Upland Park.
3. Temporary bridge will be removed and new access to the park via Corlears Hook Bridge.

F. PA 1 Amenities Overview 2024

1. See slide 19 for rendering.
2. Open amenities overview:
  - (2) Ball Fields (1,2); Track and Track House; Amphitheater; BBQ Area; Nature Exploration and Water Play; (12) Tennis Courts & Tennis House; Esplanade Reach C through F; Lawn & Multi-Use Turf; Pier 42 Deck Amenities; Pier 42 Upland Park.
3. The southern portion of the park is open.
4. Greenway still closed but the continuous connection from Pier 42 along the Esplanade.

G. PA Amenities Overview 2025

1. See slide 20 for rendering.
2. Open amenities overview:
  - (2) Ball Fields (1,2); Track and Track House; Amphitheater; BBQ Area; Nature Exploration and Water Play; (12) Tennis Courts & Tennis House; Esplanade Reach C through F; Lawn & Multi-Use Turf; Pier 42 Deck Amenities; Pier 42 Upland Park.

H. PA Amenities Overview 2026

1. See slide 21 for renderings.
2. Open amenities overview:
  - (5) Ballfields (1,2,3,4,5); Track and Track House; Amphitheater BBQ Area; Lawn & Multi-Use Turf; Nature Exploration and Water Play; (12) Tennis Courts & Tennis House; Esplanade Reach C through G & J; Basketball Courts; 10th Street Playground; 10th Street Comfort Station; Pier 42 Deck Amenities; Pier 42 Upland Park.
3. Park is almost completed; 10th Street access is available.

- I. Park Completion 2026
  1. All amenities are open.
- J. What We've Heard:
  1. ConEd work will be completed in continuous sections.
  2. Barging materials will occur via esplanade work from barges and transport bulk materials.
  3. Fireboat House Parks and & DDC will follow up with the LESEC in the coming weeks.
  4. New BBQs were installed at Little Flower Playground, Dry Dock, and Al Smith.
  5. Parallel Conveyance presentation will occur in a 2022 CAG meeting.
  6. Soil/fill settlement will be continuously monitored to meet project specifications and occur at one time.
- K. Interim Recreation
  1. Pier 42 (Parks and EDC) amenities to be constructed:
    - Soccer field, (4) tennis courts, (4) half basketball courts, outdoor exercise area, picnic tables, and benches.
- L. Q&A
  1. Robin: Everything on slide 14 in brown will be closed on December 6th? TRO held up the process and COVID, how can we advocate to postpone this closing by one week to let the community know the park is closing?
    - Desiree: Correct. I will take back the suggestion about the delay back to the team but we did let people know it was coming.
  2. Dianne: How will amenities be open when the greenway is closed?
    - Desiree: We have been guaranteed by the contractor that access will be made available but I have not seen how that specifically will happen. I have to get back to you on that.
    - Dianne: The only track entrance is via the access road, the contractor would have to cut holes in the fence over the next three days to provide access.
  3. Trevor: What was the initial date when construction was going to begin pre-COVID?
    - Desiree: Construction was supposed to begin about a year ago.
    - Trevor: Is the contractor being paid during the delays?
    - Desiree: I do not know and I have to get back to you.
    - Trevor: There are a lot of people waiting for this project to begin and get flood protection as soon as possible. Not sure if the project should be delayed further.
  4. Christine: How will there be access from 6th street and Houston into the park? The ballfields open to the community are accessed from the service road or greenway, the contractor has a lot to do in a day and provide public access.

- Desiree: The first week of park closure will have the flexibility of the shared-use path.
- 5. Dov: Fliers should be up sooner than later.
- 6. Tara: If anyone wants to see fliers in their residences, please put them in the chat or contact Paula or Tara.
- 7. Charles: How is the access road going to be shut off, will there be a fence around it?
  - Desiree: Yes, there will be a fence that will cut below playground three.
- 8. Desiree: Any other questions please contact Paula and Tara or through the inquiry tool. DDC will be presenting at CB 3 next week.
- 9. Frank: When will we see the results of the artist submissions?
  - Desiree: Into early next year. Looking to do another call for art later in the project as well.

## CAG-Only Portion

- I. General Reactions to DDC Presentation:
  - A. Robin: I am concerned about the imminent closure; is there any way to push back closures post the community board meetings?
    1. Trevor: I am concerned about people who are waiting for flood protection to delay the project. Instead, notify people and put signs up in the park. Delay in construction is essentially a restraining order.
    2. Robin: It is an arbitrary date.
    3. Trevor: It is not; the city needs to mobilize and is paying the contractor during all of these delays. Need to be careful about asking for construction delays.
  - B. Chris: Background from Stuy Cove Park, we have found from a communication point of view contractors on the ground are very different than people at DDC. Access, as defined by DDC, is not completely full-time access. There is also no incentive for them to delay.
  - C. Christine: I would like to express that the park was supposed to be closed on November 21st, never had a chance to get questions answered since the original phasing plan. A problem with no response to how access is going to be provided. Did not discuss details of park closing or address questions in the phasing of today's meeting with DDC.
  - D. Dianne: I would echo what Christine just said. I still feel questions about access to the amenities are not responded to. People are still not aware this project is going to happen and we are getting vague answers.
  - E. Trevor: For the upcoming (CB 3) Parks meeting, the closures are the only things on the agenda; hopefully, particular details will be discussed at the community board meeting.
  - F. Tara: Trevor, did you receive questions from the community that are going to be addressed at the community board meeting?
    1. Trevor: Not as many as hoped but will also take questions from this meeting.

- G. Tara: What are everyone's thoughts on generating information on a list of concerns on phasing moving forward?
  - 1. Nancy: This project has been so delayed that we should consider not imposing more delays, everyone knows about the park as it has been a two-year battle.
- H. Wendy: Back in March of 2018, CB 3 voted down the previous plan. Need to recognize that was the beginning of the delays. Park users are just as affected as people who live nearby.
- I. Charles: Accessibility to the park is a huge deal, if you cannot access there will be a lot of upset people in the neighborhood.
  - 1. Trevor: I have asked DDC to bring specifics on accessibility to the community board meeting.
  - 2. Dianne: The rationale for phasing was to keep accessibility open for people.
- J. Frank: We should pick our battles; there are no incentives for these construction companies to delay.
- K. Martin: People who use the park know that it is closing. Contractors are getting paid based on the work they get done. As far as extending the time, they are still on target for ending early. If we stop them from working it's on us not them.
- L. Robin: I would like to ask to not make generalizations, 95% of people in the park don't know it is closing based on personal experience. Does anyone else at DDC have more details on the project?
  - 1. Tara: We can make the ask.
- M. Trevor: DDC will be at the community board meeting, too.
- N. Tony: Access to ballfields is critical for us in 2022 and 2023; we want to make sure access to ballfields should be drilled down before they start closing things up.
- II. Quorum on by-laws:
  - A. Paula: Please vote on the CAG by-laws to release a final draft of by-laws to then vote again.
- III. Moving meeting dates:
  - A. Tara: We want to put out other dates and times that might be more ideal to have the CAG meeting, can be done via email?
    - 1. Michael: For me to be consistently there, fully daytime might be easier but depends on work. Or later in the evening. The time when people are getting off at work is harder.
    - 2. Martin: This is as good a time or bad a time as any.

**Next CAG Meeting TBD**