

GREEN RESOURCE GUIDE

June 2020

HUDSON RIVER PK

#SingleUseless

HUDSON RIVER PK

PARK OVER PLASTIC HUDSON RIVER PK

**Plastics are
harming
our waters.
How can
you help?**

Every day, we see the damage that plastics have on local wildlife and habitat in the Hudson River.

Park Over Plastic is an initiative among Park staff, vendors and community members, like you. Let's decrease plastic in the Park and support a more sustainable environment.

We're over it, aren't you?

Learn more at [hudsonriverpark.org](https://www.hudsonriverpark.org)

#ParkOverPlastic
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All photography by Max Guliani
for Hudson River Park

INTRODUCTION

Preserving Hudson River Park's 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary and its 70+ species of fish inform virtually every aspect of Park planning and programming. The River is a vital ecological resource for wildlife and millions of visitors and patrons of the Park each year. Hudson River Park supports these protected waters with a dynamic preservation plan to enhance the Park's aquatic habitat. Our unique programs and events build community and promote sustainable practices and stewardship of the Hudson River and local wildlife.

We all have the same problem, plastic in our waterways.

Research has shown that 4.8 to 12.7 million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year causing irreparable harm to wildlife and habitat, while releasing toxic chemicals into the water and air.

Plastic waste is a growing concern for the Park and our community. To advance Park sustainability and promote the reduction of plastic pollution, Hudson River Park (HRPK) launched, Park Over Plastic (POP) in 2019. This initiative brings together community, Park staff and vendors to help preserve the long-term health of the Hudson River and local wildlife. HRPK aims to become a local leader in reducing single-use plastics and to inspire parks across the country to advance plastic free goals. Join HRPK in this journey. We can do better!

- › NO single use water bottles or bags by end of 2020
- › NO single use plastic utensils/ straws by end of 2021
- › NO single use plastics by end of 2022

Park Over Plastic 2019 Highlights:

› INSTALLED

25 additional recycling bins and 40+ water refill stations Park-wide

› ENGAGED

14 Park vendors as Park Over Plastic Green Partners in committing to plastic reduction

› EDUCATED

nearly 10,000 students and Park visitors in plastic reduction programs

› IMPLEMENTED

plastic reduction policies for Park permittees

› DISCONTINUED

the sale and distribution of single-use water bottles at Park events

› EXPANDED

shoreline cleanup and research sites to include Pier 76

› REMOVED

555 pounds of marine debris from Park shorelines

› DEVELOPED

the Green Resource Guide available for public and tenant use

“Chronic over-reliance on plastic is overwhelming our planet and harming the health of our waterways – and we see the impact right here in Hudson River Park. That is why we are taking action and launching Park Over Plastic to significantly reduce single-use plastics in the Park and educate New Yorkers on the dangers of plastic pollution.”

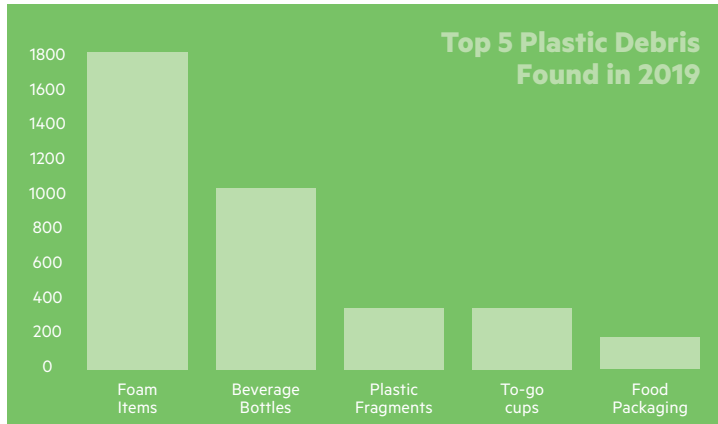
– Madelyn Wils, President and CEO Hudson River Park Trust

FOCUSING ON PLASTICS

Despite the Hudson River being much cleaner than it was only 40 years ago, plastic pollution is a growing challenge, negatively impacting the River's water quality and wildlife. Hudson River Park's Estuary Lab conducts research and volunteer activities to collect and categorize both macroplastics (plastics larger than 1inch) and microplastics (plastics smaller than 5 millimeters) in Park waters to better understand the scale and impacts of this problem.

Macroplastics Research Since 2015

- › 24,300 pieces of plastic debris counted, categorized and shared with NOAA's national database
- › 3,000 lbs. of maine debris removed from the Park's shorelines



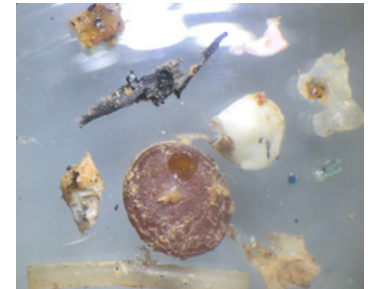
Microplastics are now found in even our world's most isolated corners. Microplastics have been engineered into products including textiles, cosmetics and hygiene consumables. Plastic debris also photodegrades into microplastics over time causing harmful impacts to the environment.

Since 2016, microplastics concentrations in the Park fluctuate around 200,000 pieces/km², except for 2018, which spiked over 800,000 pieces/km².

Microplastics Impacts

- › Contains toxic chemicals
- › Contaminates water quality
- › Harms wildlife and human health

Through continued research and strong records of plastics in the Estuarine Sanctuary, Hudson River Park hopes to better address the sources of plastic contamination and proactively reduce single-use plastic consumption within HRPK.



IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGY: PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES

When seeking alternatives to single-use plastics, it is helpful to understand some key terminology. See below for distinctions of alternative materials.

› **“Compostable”** is a certification that given by a third party such as BPI, the Biodegradable Products Institute (bpiworld.org), or ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials). Such certified compostable products are fully biodegradable and are considered to be the greenest choices.

› **“Biodegradable”** products degrade, but can sometimes release toxic chemicals that are not suitable for composting, often because the product is petroleum based.

Greenest Choice: choose compostable, bio-based products so that the product can degrade quickly and decompose into organic waste at a compost facility.

Important Note: PLA and other compostable products cannot compost in landfills. For protocol on commercial organic waste, visit www1.nyc.gov/dsny and see Department of Sanitation's Commercial Organics Requirements. Otherwise, PLA products and paperboard cartons must be placed in Metal/Plastic/Glass recycling streams.

Examples of plastic alternative materials:

› **Polylactic Acid (PLA):** most common plastic substitute for items like utensils and clear beverage cups.

PLA is a plastic substitute made from fermented plant starch (usually corn). It is biodegradable and sometimes compostable, depending on the brand.

› **Bagasse:** made with sugarcane fiber.

In addition to bagasse, there are alternatives made of a variety of plants, including bamboo, potatoes, etc. Many are certified compostable.

› **Aluminum:** another alternative for items like soda or water.

Aluminum is arguably more sustainable than plastic water bottles. Aluminum products have very high recycling rates and the most recyclable components.

› **Paperboard:** paper board is commonly found as a plastic substitute for food containers, and is often compostable.

Paperboard is often reinforced with a lining of wax or plastic. Avoid “poly-coated” products and opt for PLA or wax coating.

Greenest Choice: choose reusable products when possible and deposit compostable products at a local compost drop off site or have a commercial compost company pick up your compostable waste.

To view a list of alternative products [click here](#) or visit our website at hudsonriverpark.org

ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC: WATER BOTTLES

As part of the Park Over Plastic initiative, HRPK has installed 43 bottle refill and drinking fountains throughout the Park for visitors, in addition to providing access to portable Hydration Stations at many Park events. HRPK encourages Park patrons, tenants, occupants and permit holders to consider using or providing refillable containers where feasible.

The commercial market is increasingly offering alternatives to plastics. Below are examples of brands with plant-based and/or recyclable materials that have already been approved by the HRPK as alternatives to single use plastic water bottles. HRPK will also consider additional products.

Open Water (drinkopenwater.com)

- › Packaged in aluminum, with an option to buy cans or re-sealable water bottles
- › Pros: strong structure and refillable, aesthetic appeal, and fully recyclable
- › Cons: some may notice a metallic taste
- › Price: \$96/case of 48 *

Flow Water (flowhydration.com)

- › Packaged in paperboard with a plant-based plastic cap
- › Pros: variety of flavors and sizes, pH balanced alkaline water in modern containers
- › Cons: plastic film lining, although 100% recyclable
- › Price: \$20/case of 12 *

Just Water (justwater.com)

- › Packaged in paperboard with a plant-based plastic cap
- › Pros: variety of flavors and sizes, reusable to a limited extent
- › Cons: uses a plastic film lining, although 100% recyclable
- › Price: Free shipping, \$39.99/case of 24 *

Flexi-Fountain (waterboysports.com)

- › Portable hydration station for large events, serving six at a time
- › Pros: No plastic waste and easy to assemble
- › Cons: Needs access to water and sanitizing
- › Price: approx. \$1,400–\$2,000 *

*Prices as of May 2020



Hudson River Park Reusable Water Bottles

Encourage your community, employees and customers to make plastic-free choices with reusable options.

Email info@hrpt.ny.gov for information on receiving reusable, branded water bottles at your event or business.

ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC: FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE

For both sanitary and convenience reasons, single-use plastic is widely used in the food and beverage industry. However, options for biodegradable and compostable plastic alternatives are becoming more readily available.

HRPK strongly suggests providing reusable cutlery and dishes and offering bamboo, paperboard or stainless steel straws.

For a comprehensive plastic-free guide for food preparation and service, visit: plasticpollutioncoalition.org/guides-eats

Plastic alternative retailers with extensive product lists that are compostable and plant-based:

BioMass Packaging:

- › Biobased food service products:
biomasspackaging.com

Greenware:

- › BPI compostable-certified:
fabri-kal.com

EcoProducts:

- › BPI compostable-certified:
ecoproductsstore.com

World Centric:

- › BPI compostable-certified:
worldcentric.org

Straws

- › Fully compostable straws:
ecoproductsstore.com
- › Reusable, stainless steel straws in different sizes and styles:
amazon.com
- › Natural grass straws - NYC based:
eightysixstraws.com

Cutlery

- › PLA compostable cutlery:
store.worldcentric.com
- › SpudWare - made from potatoes, heat resistant and BPI-certified compostable:
amazon.com
- › Biodegradable and compostable flatware:
webstaurantstore.com

Hot & Cold Cups

- › Compostable clear cups:
store.worldcentric.com
- › No Tree Paper Cold Cup with bio-based lining:
store.worldcentric.com
- › Hot cups with PLA coating (hot cups should not be wax coated because the wax can melt off at higher temperatures):
webstaurantstore.com

ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC: FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE

Food Packaging

- › Take out containers by World Centric: store.worldcentric.com
- › PLA deli Containers by Webstaurant store: webstaurantstore.com
- › Clear containers by Eco Products: ecoproductsstore.com
- › Biodegradable Condiment Cups by Green Paper products: greenpaperproducts.com
- › Biodegradable, compostable food trays: webstaurantstore.com
- › Biodegradable and compostable take out bags: mrtakeoutbags.com
- › Compostable food prep gloves by Vegware: amazon.com

Trash Bags

- › Compostable trash bags: webstaurantstore.com
- › PLA trash bags: bgreentoday.com
- › Cheapest options for starch-based 55-gallon bags: store.worldcentric.com
- › BPI certified compostable: greenpaperproducts.com
- › BPI certified compostable - partially corn starch based, but still a partially plastic product: amazon.com
- › Consider an oxo-degradable additive technology: symphonyenvironmental.com

ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC: EVENTS

The Park is a perfect venue for gathering groups on the waterfront. Large and small Park events are opportunities to think sustainably and creatively avoid single-use plastics. Below are tips to help you reduce plastics at your next event. Let's celebrate special occasions and be kind to the earth!

- › Decorate with recycled paper products and say no to balloons: greenpartygoods.com
- › Compostable table cloths by Green Elephant: amazon.com
- › Reusable cable ties: uline.com
- › Paper or reusable cotton table cloths
- › Skip juice boxes and use insulated coolers or pitchers for beverages
- › Paper confetti.
- › Plastic-free snacks
- › Low waste local catering



OUR WEST SIDE STORY

Pre-European Contact

The Original New Yorkers

The Lenape people farm tobacco and conduct trade along the lower Hudson River.

19th Century

Canal Era

Hudson River waterfront transforms into one of the world's busiest working waterfronts due in part to the opening of the Erie Canal and the advent of the steamship. Oyster barges proliferate along the shoreline and oyster carts are as plentiful as current day hot dog stands.

Early 20th Century

All Aboard!

Some of the world's most celebrated ships—the *Lusitania*, *Carpathia*, and the *Normandie*—came and went from piers in Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, transporting soldiers, celebrities, immigrants and more to and from Europe.

1973

West Side Highway Collapses

A section of the elevated West Side Highway collapses, bringing attention to NYC's deteriorated infrastructure and leading to plans for a never-built project called "Westway" that would have filled in a portion of the Hudson River to create an underground interstate highway.

1985

A Catchy Tale

New York State and New York City halt plans for Westway due to political pressure and community concerns, including impacts to juvenile striped bass. The State and City begin discussing alternative solutions for Manhattan's West Side waterfront and piers.

1998

A Park is Born

The Hudson River Park Act is signed into law—designating approximately 150 acres of land and piers and 400 acres of water as a major, new park and Estuarine Sanctuary—happy news for New Yorkers and the 70+ species of fish in HRPK.

2018

20 Years Young

Hudson River Park celebrates its 20th Anniversary, attracting 17 million visits each year. With 75% of the Park's 4-mile footprint complete, HRPK offers over 700 cultural, educational and family programs annually. HRPK's Estuary Lab conducts original research on oyster restoration and microplastics.

2019

#singleuseless

HRPK launches Park Over Plastic, a multi-year initiative to rid the Park of single-use plastics.

2020 & Beyond

There's More to This Story

With the openings of Hudson River Park's Pier 26 (the first pier to feature an "ecological get down"), Gansevoort Peninsula, PIER55, Pier 57 and Pier 97—the completion of HRPK is now in sight!

Visit hudsonriverpark.org to learn more about the waterfront's history and the future of HRPK.

PARK OVER PLASTIC HUDSON RIVER PK

BOTTLE FILLERS & RECYCLING STATIONS IN HUDSON RIVER PARK

Bottle Fillers & Recycling Stations in HRPK

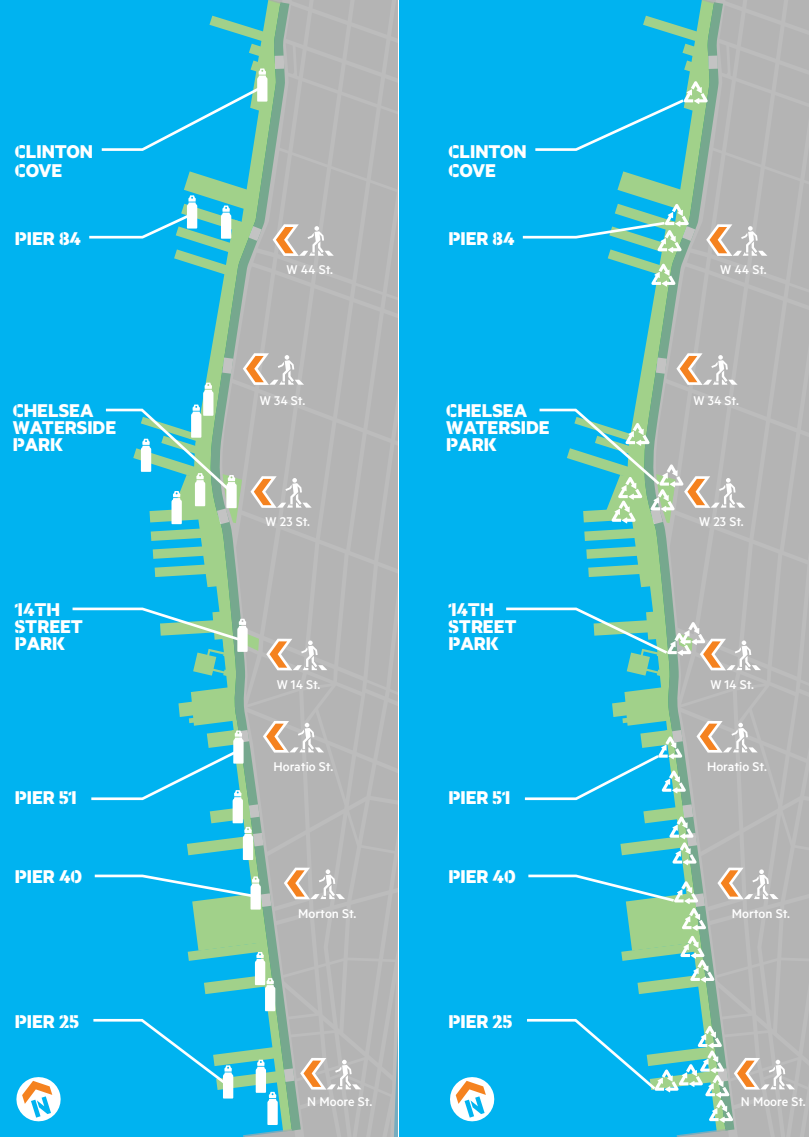
Single-use plastics have become a nearly invisible staple in our day-to-day lives but by making a few simple swaps when you come to the Park, you can help us build a greener open space! On this map, you'll find convenient bottle-filler & recycling stations all over our four-mile footprint.

Park Over Plastic

Every day we see the damage that plastics have on local wildlife and habitat in the Hudson River. Hudson River Park is taking steps to fight plastic pollution. And, you can help, too! Park Over Plastic is an initiative among Park staff, vendors, and community members like you to help reduce our plastic footprint and improve the health of the Hudson River.

KEY

-  Recycling
-  Bottle Fillers
-  Crossing



PARK **OVER PLASTIC**



HUDSON RIVER PK

GREEN RESOURCE GUIDE

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