

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7/22/20

CONTACT: Cheryl Herman
cherman@hudsonriverpark.org

Hudson River Park's Estuary Lab Announces Name Change to Hudson River Park's River Project

New park brand "Hudson River Park's River Project" reflects history and expands education and science in Hudson River Park

NEW YORK - Today, Hudson River Park Trust announces a new name for its growing environmental research, science and public education initiatives – Hudson River Park's River Project. The new name represents an expansion of environmental education and research in the Park as well as the culmination of a year-long strategic alliance between the Trust and The River Project, a nonprofit founded 30+ years ago by marine scientist Cathy Drew.

Last year, the Trust's Estuary Lab – the Park's environmental science and education arm – and The River Project initiated a formal process to merge their respective commitments to river education and research. This has resulted in an expansion of Hudson River Park's educational and science staff, programming and scientific research, while The River Project phases out its operations. As part of this process, the Trust and The River Project agreed that the Trust would adopt the River Project name as an important symbolic connection to the past and as a sign of its commitment to the future.

"The River Project was the original research and education group studying the Hudson River Estuary since the 1980's," said **Madelyn Wils, President and CEO of Hudson River Park Trust**, "and through the years, we have taken their lead and proudly been able to grow and expand the research and our educational offerings to students and adults all over New York City and the region."

Richard Corman, Executive Director of The River Project said, "With Cathy Drew's retirement last year, we saw the opportunity, by joining with Hudson River Park, to build on and extend into the future her love for science, education and this wondrous Hudson River. This new name and the extraordinary programs that the combined organization has already begun to produce, represent that future and the ability to have so many more people see, appreciate and want to protect our rich and vulnerable marine life."

Hudson River Park's River Project remains committed to sharing experiences that harness the transformative power of science even in challenging times presented by COVID-19. As parents and teachers adapt to provide virtual education for students, the Park's River Project has created and shared resources that enable families to connect to our local ecosystems, even while at home. Following the success of the STEM Activity of the Week, a series of free hands-on activities that are an engaging way to connect with the Hudson River from anywhere, the Park's River Project plans to expand this season's offerings with numerous programs that share dynamic research and inspiring river education as part of HRPK's virtual Summer of Fun.

Research and community science will also continue to be major priorities of Hudson River Park's River Project. Continuous monitoring of changing water quality conditions and fish population dynamics

through trap surveys and new environmental DNA methods will advance with expanded resources to enrich local scientific understandings. Partnerships and community participation are both key in advancing these monitoring initiatives and Hudson River Park's Pier 40 Wetlab will remain as an invaluable facility to showcase native fish species, river research and scientific partnerships.

Looking ahead, Hudson River Park's River Project will proudly continue to carry out robust environmental education, research and science programs that connect New Yorker's to our local environment and the Park's 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary. These ongoing scientific and educational initiatives will further the Park's mission on a year-round basis and provide a greater variety of opportunities for engaging with the River and its diverse wildlife.

###

About Hudson River Park

Hudson River Park extends from Chambers Street to W 59th Street along Manhattan's West Side, making it one of the longest riverfront parks in the United States and an essential outdoor recreation area for countless New Yorkers. The Park plays a critical role in protecting the Hudson River ecosystem and is committed to educating residents on the local habitat and environment.

More information about our research and sustainability initiatives is available at [hudsonriverpark.org](https://www.hudsonriverpark.org)