

STATE OF NEW YORK

9408

IN SENATE

May 15, 2024

Introduced by Sen. HOYLMAN-SIGAL -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cities 1

AN ACT to amend the Hudson river park act, in relation to the rights, powers, duties and jurisdiction of the Hudson river park trust and the boundaries and uses of the Hudson river park

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision (e) and subdivisions
2 (g), (j) and (m) of section 3 of chapter 592 of the laws of 1998,
3 constituting the Hudson river park act, as amended by chapter 517 of the
4 laws of 2013, are amended to read as follows:

5 "Hudson river park" or "park" means the area in the city and county of
6 New York within the following boundaries, but excluding [~~pier 76 except~~
7 ~~as otherwise provided in paragraph (e) of subdivision nine of section~~
8 ~~seven of this act and~~] piers 78, 88, 90, 92 and 94 and their associated
9 upland areas:

10 (g) "Park/commercial use" means a use that is not a prohibited use and
11 is compatible with park use, and that is:

12 (i) a transportation water dependent use, including commercial mari-
13 time and marine ferry terminals;

14 (ii) an entertainment, retail, restaurant, broadcast, television, or
15 film or media studio facility, commercial recreational use, commercial
16 amusements, performing arts, schools and educational facilities;

17 (iii) limited parking spaces incidental to permitted uses;

18 (iv) solely at piers 59, 60, and 61 and the headhouse (commonly known
19 as "Chelsea Piers") the uses authorized at such piers and headhouse as
20 of the effective date of this act;

21 (v) [~~a non-tourism/non-recreation heliport for commercial and emer-~~
22 ~~gency transportation use, and~~

23 ~~(vi)]~~ solely at [~~pier~~] piers 57 and 76, business, professional or
24 governmental offices~~[,]~~, provided that at pier 76, the height of any
25 commercial office building may not exceed a height of one hundred eight-
26 y-five feet measured from the deck of the pier, excluding building
27 mechanicals, and provided further that any such office building may not

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 be located proximate to the pier's edge along the western or southern
2 portion of the pier; and

3 (vi) solely at pier 76, large-scale amusement rides and other tourist
4 attractions; warehouse facilities needed for waterborne transportation
5 activities occurring at the pier; and floating restaurants.

6 (j) "Prohibited use" means any of the following uses:

7 (i) residential;

8 (ii) manufacturing, except in furtherance of and incidental to park
9 uses, provided that small scale creation of artisan foods or other craft
10 products shall not be considered manufacturing;

11 (iii) warehousing;

12 (iv) hotel;

13 (v) incompatible governmental uses;

14 (vi) casino and riverboat gambling, and the docking of vessels to be
15 used substantially for gambling or for transportation to such a vessel;

16 (vii) any facility for motorized aircraft, including a heliport
17 [~~except a heliport which is defined as a park/commercial use~~];

18 (viii) commercial office, except office space that is incidental to a
19 permitted use, and further provided that such prohibition shall not
20 apply to [~~pier~~] piers 57 and 76; and

21 (ix) other uses determined by the trust to be incompatible with the
22 purposes of this act.

23 (m) "Water dependent use" excludes any prohibited use and means:

24 (i) any use that depends on utilization of resources found in the
25 water section;

26 (ii) recreational activities that depend on access to the water
27 section, such as fishing, boating, swimming in such waters, passive
28 enjoyment of the Hudson river and wildlife protection and viewing;

29 (iii) facilities and incidental structures needed to dock and service
30 boats;

31 (iv) scientific and educational activities that by their nature
32 require access to marine reserve waters; and

33 (v) [~~the development, operation and maintenance of a non-tourism/non-~~
34 ~~recreational heliport located between west 29th and west 32nd streets~~
35 ~~provided (A) that there shall be no structures other than the helicopter~~
36 ~~take-off or landing pads built on floating structures; and (B) such~~
37 ~~floating structures shall be no higher than a pier deck at low tide; and~~
38 ~~(vi)~~]

39 mooring or docking of a barge used as part of a cultural, educa-
40 tional, historic or other public programming in the park; provided that
41 no more than two barges may be moored or docked per year and provided
42 further that the duration of any such mooring or docking of a barge
43 shall be limited to six months per year at any location within the boun-
44 daries of the park, except that at pier 76, the limit of six months per
45 year shall not apply.

45 § 2. Subdivision 1-a of section 7 of chapter 592 of the laws of 1998,
46 constituting the Hudson river park act, as added by chapter 517 of the
47 laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

48 1-a. The trust shall not be authorized to forgo or assign any revenues
49 or payments due to it by law, provided however that the trust may assign
50 revenues or payments to maintain, reconstruct and repair the piers and
51 bulkheads existing and as depicted in the May 20, 1998 final environ-
52 mental impact statement within their historic footprints or boundaries
53 subject to a determination by the department of environmental conserva-
54 tion that, to the maximum extent practicable, any significant adverse
55 impact on the marine environment resulting from such maintenance, recon-
56 struction or repair will be minimized or avoided, and provided further

1 that the reconstruction of pier 54 and pier 76 shall not be subject to
2 the historic footprint restriction, provided that at pier 76, any change
3 to the historic footprint shall result in the same size footprint and in
4 more than fifty percent of the footprint dedicated to a park use.

5 § 3. Paragraphs (c) and (i) of subdivision 9 of section 7 of chapter
6 592 of the laws of 1998, constituting the Hudson river park act, para-
7 graph (c) as amended by section 2 of part WW of chapter 56 of the laws
8 of 2020 and paragraph (i) as amended by chapter 517 of the laws of 2013,
9 are amended to read as follows:

10 (c) [~~(i) On or before July 1, 2020, the city of New York shall convey~~
11 ~~to the state of New York under the jurisdiction of the office of parks,~~
12 ~~recreation and historic preservation its interest in Pier 76, who, upon~~
13 ~~such conveyance shall immediately lease a possessory interest to the~~
14 ~~trust. Upon such conveyance, Pier 76 shall become part of the park and~~
15 ~~shall remain part of the park under the operational control of the trust~~
16 ~~and following redevelopment at least] No less than the equivalent of
17 fifty percent of the Pier 76 footprint shall be used for park uses that
18 are limited to passive and active open space [and which shall be contig-
19 uous to water; and provided further that the remaining portion shall be
20 for park/commercial use. (ii) The city of New York shall, prior to
21 December 31, 2020, cease using or occupying Pier 76 for any purposes.
22 Should the city of New York continue to use or occupy Pier 76 for any
23 purpose subsequent to December 31, 2020, the city of New York shall (A)
24 compensate the trust in the amount of twelve million dollars, and (B)
25 beginning February 1, 2021, pay fees in the amount of three million
26 dollars for each complete or partial month of occupancy. (iii) On or
27 after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of 2020 which
28 amended this paragraph, the trust shall be entitled to timely and
29 reasonable access to Pier 76 for the purpose of conducting assessments
30 and inspections necessary to further redevelopment of Pier 76 following
31 its inclusion in the park. (iv) Beginning July 1, 2020, the city of New
32 York shall periodically prepare and submit a report to the state of New
33 York, with a copy to the trust, detailing actions taken by the city of
34 New York to relocate the tow pound. In the event that the city provides
35 demonstrable evidence of its effort to relocate the tow pound or any
36 other city uses of Pier 76, initiation of and compliance with land use
37 review processes and environmental review processes, such as, issuance
38 of a request for qualifications or request for proposals for design or
39 construction services for the project; and initiation and completion of
40 construction of, and relocation to a replacement tow pound, the state of
41 New York, in its sole discretion, may waive the fees assessed in subpar-
42 agraph (iii) of this paragraph. (v) This paragraph may be enforced by a
43 court of competent jurisdiction and in any suit brought by the state,
44 through the attorney general, the trust shall not be a necessary party];
45 provided that up to one hundred percent of this pier may be limited to
46 park use as determined by the trust. Notwithstanding any other
47 provision of this act to the contrary, commercial or municipal parking
48 garages or facilities are not permitted at Pier 76.~~

49 (i) Consistent with the general project plan, the area of the park
50 east of the bulkhead line shall be used solely for park use and to
51 permit access to permitted uses; provided that this limitation shall not
52 apply to (i) the area east of the bulkhead line at pier 76 or those
53 areas east of the bulkhead line that are occupied by pier headhouses or
54 other pier-related structures at the base of piers 57, 59, 60, and 61;
55 (ii) [~~a one story heliport terminal building, fuel tank structure and~~
56 ~~five accessory parking spaces used in connection with a water dependent~~

~~1 non-tourism/non-recreational heliport to be located on a floating structure located between west 29th and west 32nd streets provided that the landing and takeoff area located east of the bulkhead may continue to operate until the landing and takeoff area west of the bulkhead is completed and operational; or (iii)]~~ an interim commercial recreational use along the upland park area between 29th and 34th streets, provided that: (A) any such related enclosed structure shall not exceed two stories; (B) any such use and any related enclosed structure shall not exceed a maximum of two hundred feet in length and shall maintain open view corridors to the Hudson river from streets running towards and away from the park and shall not be located within any designated visual corridors consistent with and to the extent required under the city of New York zoning requirements; and (C) such interim upland commercial recreational use shall not be permitted to be located or continue to operate [~~after July 1, 2024~~].

§ 4. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 of section 8 of chapter 592 of the laws of 1998, constituting the Hudson river park act, is amended and a new paragraph (g) is added to read as follows:

(c) Paragraph (b) of this subdivision shall not prohibit floating structures, and lateral stabilizing elements to secure such floating structures, for water dependent uses; minor improvements along the shore front including bulkhead and other repairs, habitat restoration, and platforms either for a waterfront esplanade or to allow public access to the Hudson river; subject to the limitation that, in the aggregate, no more than eight acres of the water section may be covered or altered by floating structures or minor improvements at any time. Any building or other structure constructed on a floating structure must be limited to water dependent uses and may not exceed one story. No dredge spoils shall be allowed for any purpose. Nothing in this subdivision shall impair the ability of the trust or other persons to maintain navigability or maintain, reconstruct and repair the piers and bulkheads existing and as depicted in the May 20, 1998 final environmental impact statement within their historic footprints or boundaries or as otherwise authorized in this chapter subject to a determination by the department of environmental conservation that, to the maximum extent practicable, any significant adverse impact on the marine environment resulting from such maintenance, reconstruction or repair will be minimized or avoided.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or section 382-a of chapter 190 of the laws of 1990, pier 76 may be reconstructed outside of its historic footprint provided that any change to the historic footprint shall result in the same size footprint and in more than fifty percent of the footprint dedicated to a park use.

§ 5. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, or to violate or be inconsistent with any federal law or regulation, that shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act, or of any other application of any provision of this act, which can be given effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the provisions and applications of this act are severable.

§ 6. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.