



Hudson River Park's Research Pilot: CUNY Visiting Scholars RFP 2023

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2023 11:59PM

Introduction

Hudson River Park (the Park) is a 550-acre park and estuarine sanctuary that runs from Chambers Street to W 59th Street in Manhattan, including distinctive and varied piers, uplands, embayments and water-based uses. Hudson River Park Trust's River Project is a regional leader in hands-on education and scientific research with the purpose of understanding, communicating and protecting the ecological importance of the Park's estuarine sanctuary. In recent years, the Park's research and habitat enhancement program has expanded with the installation of 31 million oyster spat and various research initiatives centered on the estuarine sanctuary's wildlife, health and restoration.

The Park and City University of New York (CUNY) are partnering to facilitate opportunities for CUNY faculty and students to utilize Park resources for applied, estuarine research. With this funding opportunity, the Park will engage CUNY's accomplished faculty in its Visiting Scholars program to help meet research, data analysis, and resource management goals as outlined by the [Park's Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan](#) (ESMP), a forward looking action agenda that describes goals and projects in three management areas:

1. Research & Habitat Enhancement
2. Environmental Education
3. Public Access & Resource Management

This funding opportunity will connect CUNY faculty and students to the Park's science facilities and staff, as appropriate, to conduct research that addresses knowledge gaps and provides focused outcomes that could serve as a catalyst for innovative and ongoing research projects. The Park's River Project team will coordinate with awardees to share applicable Park resources, such as piers, docks, flow through aquaria, vessels, collection gear, and scientific instruments, while proactively aligning with current Park research.

With the Park's growing research arm, our two institutions can work together to advance research that thoughtfully engages CUNY faculty and students in solving New York City's greatest natural resource challenges.

Funding Scope & Areas of Priority Research

There will be one funding cycle in 2023 for the CUNY Visiting Scholars Research Pilot. This year's call for proposals will focus on identifying projects that reflect the Park's interest in innovative approaches to understanding current and emerging issues for the Lower Hudson River Estuary.

The Park intends to fund two projects with budgets up to \$10,000 each, inclusive of a 12% indirect cost rate.

Areas of Priority Research include:

- **Climate Change & Resilience:** Research to further understand the impacts of climate change on biological communities and the environmental system. There is particular interest in strengthening habitat resilience within the Park’s estuarine sanctuary. ([ESMP, Research & Habitat Enhancement, Action 1.8](#))
- **Wetland & Nearshore Habitat Enhancement:** Research to understand the ecology and observed effects of artificial wetlands and habitat enhancement projects within the Park, including the Gansevoort Salt Marsh and the Pier 26 Tide Deck. ([ESMP, Research & Habitat Enhancement, Goal 2](#))
- **Water Quality & Modeling:** Research that produces models to better understand the dynamic Hudson River estuary and estimate effects of tides, currents, and general hydrology on biotic and abiotic factors including pathogen and pollutant contamination, species distribution, and overall ecosystem health. ([ESMP, Research & Habitat Enhancement, Actions 1.4 & 1.6](#))
- **Terrestrial Ecology & Land Management:** Research and synthesis regarding terrestrial ecosystems including trees and plants, birds and insects and their relationship to physical conditions affected by Park design and development. ([ESMP, Research & Habitat Enhancement, Action 1.7](#))
- **Sustainability & Stewardship:** Research that qualifies and quantifies the efficacy of Park led environmental behavior change endeavors including community and tenant sustainability and stewardship initiatives (e.g. [Park Over Plastic](#) and annual waste audit, [Community Composting](#), WasteShark and Oyster volunteer programs). ([ESMP, Environmental Education, Goal 4](#))

Park Resources

The Park’s River Project regularly works with scientists to provide access to Park resources and facilities, such as piers, docks, flow through aquaria, and vessels, in support of estuarine sanctuary research projects. Resources include but are not limited to:

- Facilities: Pier 40 [Wetlab](#) (with flow through aquaria), [Pier 57 Discovery Tank](#)
- Estuarine Habitats: Pier 26 [Tide Deck](#), Oyster [Enhancement Areas](#), [Habitat Garden](#), and [Gansevoort Peninsula Salt Marsh](#) (opening fall 2023)
- Instruments: Continuous USGS weather & water quality sensors (located at Pier 25 & Pier 84), pathogen & eDNA laboratory equipment, underwater videography equipment, water, fish, plankton, & sediment sampling equipment
- Misc: Park vessel, Park [data](#), floating dock access, & more

Eligibility

- Full-time, tenured or tenure-track CUNY faculty are eligible to apply. This funding specifically encourages applications from junior faculty, though faculty at all levels are eligible.
- Adjunct faculty and lecturers may receive funding from this program as a co-PI or research associate if they partner with a full-time faculty member.
- Faculty may only participate in one proposal as a PI or co-PI.
- Preference will be given to proposals that include CUNY postdoctoral scholar, graduate student, and/or undergraduate student participation in research with an emphasis on mentorship in STEM.
- All proposals must be based on researchable questions or hypotheses aligned with the Park's *Areas of Priority Research* outlined above. Web or media development, workshops, book authorship, or similar types of initiatives are ineligible.
- The Institutional Review Board (IRB) must approve research involving human subjects prior to the release of funds. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must approve all research involving animals prior to the release of funds. For more information about IRB and human subjects research, visit: [Human Research Protection Program – The City University of New York \(cuny.edu\)](https://www.cuny.edu/irb/)
- All awardees must submit a 5-10 page report at the end of the funding period and share relevant data with the Park. Additionally, the awardee will be asked to share findings at up to two Park meetings or events.
- Future eligibility for participation in this and other internal funding programs is contingent on the submission of a post-award report and participation in dissemination of findings.

Submission Guidelines (only complete proposals will be reviewed) The proposal document should include the following:

1. **Proposal Summary.** The proposal summary is a maximum of 200 words. Please include the project title and the names and affiliations of the PI and co-PI(s).
2. **Project Narrative.** The project narrative is a maximum of two (2) pages single-spaced, excluding references and citations.
 - a. Clearly describe the research question addressed in the proposal, and provide detail about how the work will further the Park's *Areas of Priority Research* as detailed above. What knowledge will be generated and what outcomes are expected? Why is the project innovative?
 - b. Describe proposed methods and need for Park facilities and/or resources.
 - c. Describe student participation including:

- i. number of students
 - ii. academic status (postdoc, graduate, undergraduate, etc.)
 - iii. planned research & mentoring activities
3. **Project Schedule.** The project schedule is a maximum of one (1) page single-spaced. This should include a sampling timeline and map of sampling locations, if applicable.
4. **Abbreviated Biographical Sketch.** Each participating faculty member must submit a one (1) paragraph bio outlining relevant work and research interests.
5. **Budget & Budget Justification.** Applicants must submit an itemized budget (up to \$10,000) and brief budget justification paragraph. Please include a rate of 12% for indirect costs.
6. **List of Current & Pending Funds.** Each participating faculty member must submit a list of active research funding.

Complete proposals must be submitted by **May 15th, 2023 by 11:59 pm EST**, via the online proposal submission form, found here: <https://tinyurl.com/4mt46jhm>

Note: The signature page, full proposal and summary page are all available for download as Microsoft Word documents but must be converted into PDF format before submitting online through the link provided above.

Signature page: a scanned copy including college Grants Officers and Campus Endorsement signatures (e.g. Chair, Dean, etc.) from each participating institution (note: you may use multiple signature pages but they must be uploaded as one [multi-page] pdf). **File name: HRPT2023_LastNameOfLeadPI_signature.pdf**

Full proposal: to be submitted on the proposal template available for download online. See full requirements below. **File name: HRPT2023_LastNameOfLeadPI_proposal.pdf**

Budget & Budget Justification

Budgets up to \$10,000 will be considered. The funding timeline is June 1st, 2023 to January 31st, 2024. All projects are required to include a 12% rate for indirect costs.

Funds can be requested in any of the following categories:

- **Other Than Personnel Services (OTPS):** research supplies, equipment, travel, and field expenses
- **Personnel:** Research associates and research assistants (may include undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars)
- **Summer Salary:** Each participating faculty may request summer salary, but the cumulative maximum cannot exceed \$10,000 for all investigators in any proposal
- **Fringe benefits**

All student research assistants must complete the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training in compliance with federal requirements. For further information, see the [CUNY Research Compliance webpage](#).

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by a review panel composed of Park and CUNY Office of Research staff.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of these criteria:

1. Proposal quality and feasibility
2. Alignment to one or more of the Park's Areas of Priority Research
3. Potential for impact
4. Budget justification
5. Though not required, preference will be given to proposals that provide CUNY students with immersive research experiences

Please direct any questions to Carrie Roble, VP Estuary & Education (croble@hrpt.ny.gov).

Eligibility

- Full-time, tenured or tenure-track CUNY faculty are eligible to apply
- Adjunct faculty and lecturers may receive funding from this program as a co-PI or research associate if they partner with a full-time faculty member.
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