



Local Nonprofit Sues to Remove Major Interruption in Hudson River Waterfront Walkway

The Admiral's Walk Condominium Complex Is Alleged to Have Illegally Excluded the Public from Public Trust Lands

March 6, 2020, for Immediate Release - The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway, one of the great successes of New Jersey public infrastructure, took a step toward completion on Friday as the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy sued Admiral's Walk Condominium Association under the Public Trust Doctrine to open 900 feet of fenced waterfront to public access.

The Walkway is an immensely popular public amenity and a defining feature of the New Jersey waterfront. Envisioned in 1984 to offer an uninterrupted thruway for foot and bicycle traffic from Bayonne to the George Washington Bridge. The Walkway has become a major pedestrian thoroughfare connecting area residents to ferry terminals, parks and retail establishments along its way in lieu of the pedestrian unfriendly and constricted sidewalks along River Road.

New Jersey has long been a leader in the development of the Public Trust Doctrine, the legal principle that lands below the mean high water line, including lands subsequently filled and built upon, are held in trust by the state for public enjoyment forever. The Doctrine has been used countless times to ensure access to New Jersey's shore beaches, but this suit is a rare occasion where it is applied to the Hudson River Waterfront.

The 900 feet of fenced waterfront at the Admiral's Walk Condominiums in Edgewater is one of the Walkway's last gaps, but it is one that may close after the self-described luxury condo complex was sued by a local watchdog group seeking an order to tear down their barbed wire fences.

"The Admiral's Walk gap covers a key link between the Veterans Park and the Community Center, Edgewater's major park and recreation area, on the north side, and the Edgewater Marina on the South side," said Ron Klemptner, HRWC Vice President. "Nobody keeps stats but ask anyone living in Edgewater and they immediately say that the walkway is one of the town's major amenities."

"The Conservancy has attempted to work with Admiral's Walk management for over two years but, to date, they have refused to initiate any actions that would open the private fenced walkway to the public" said Don Stitzenberg, the Conservancy's president.

The Conservancy is assisted by the Clean Water Advocacy Center, a public interest environmental law firm based in Montclair. Its executive Director, Christopher Len is representing the Conservancy in this matter. "The shores of New Jersey's tidal waterways belong to everyone, and CWAC is proud to help HRWC and its members fight for everyone's right to pass freely along the waterfront. it's about time that folks in luxury towers recognize that they have no right to fence ordinary people out of public land."

Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy is a non-profit organization that serves as an advocate for the Walkway and its users. Clean Water Advocacy Center is a non-profit public interest law firm that provides affordable legal services to ordinary people with water quality, quantity and access problems.

Contact:

Christopher Len
clen@cwacenter.org,
541-941-6998
<https://www.cwacenter.org>

Don Stitzenberg,
destitz@yahoo.com
201-519-7057
[http://www.hudsonriverwaterfr
ont.org/](http://www.hudsonriverwaterfront.org/)