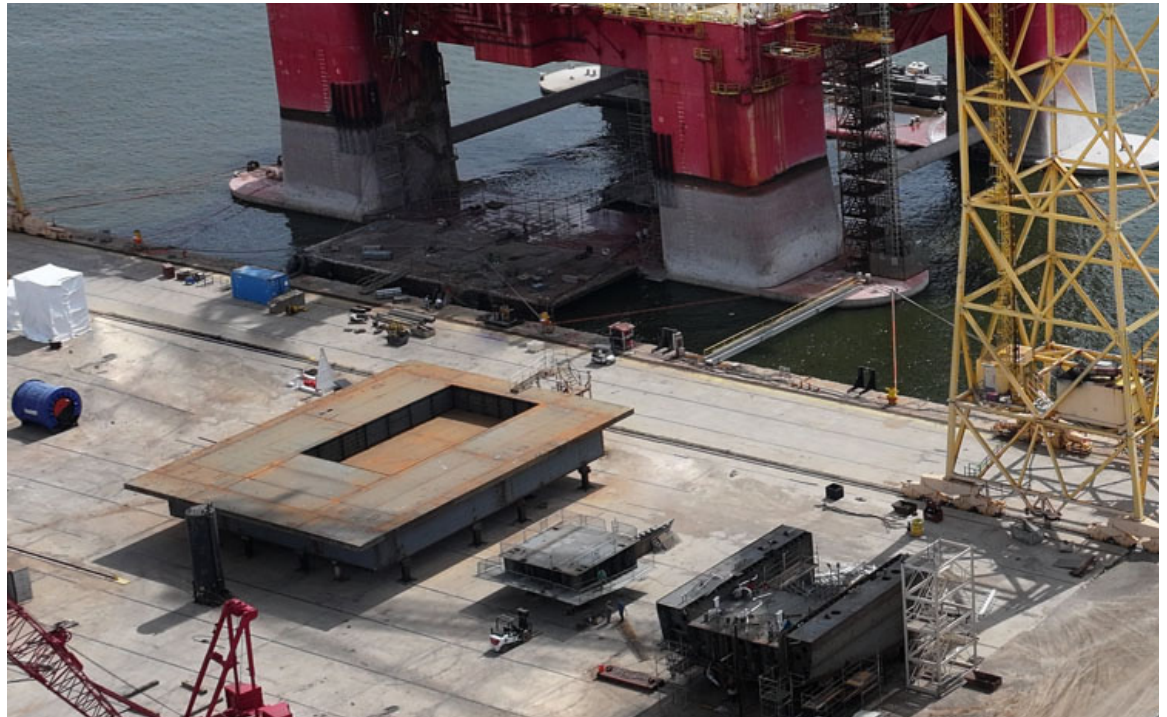


+ POOL Starts to Take Shape: Construction of the first portion of + POOL is Underway



The shell of + POOL's first facility under construction at Bollinger Shipyard in Mississippi, May 2025. The 2,000 sq.ft. rectangular version of + POOL will be installed at Pier 35 in NYC's East River for final testing in 2026.

New York, N.Y. (June 11, 2025) Friends of + POOL today announced the next steps in the construction and advancement of NYC's first water-filtering, floating swimming pool, an innovative design that will deliver safe access to NYC rivers for public swimming at Pier 35, just north of the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges.

"+ POOL remains committed to bringing river swimming back to NYC and advancing job creation through its annual operations (filtration system maintenance, lifeguards)," says Friends of + POOL Board Chair George Fontas. "A little over a year ago, there was no pathway to building this kind of innovation for NYC. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams, a massive interagency collaboration across city and state government has ushered in a new set of rules for engaging with the river in an effort to open up public waters across New York State."

In January 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the **new regulations**, funding for the construction of a pilot + POOL, and the **NY SWIMS initiative**, the largest investment in public swimming facilities since the WPA. The project is anticipated to be the first innovation permitted by local authorities using the new regulations and a catalyst for future proposals for swimming safely in New York's waterways.

Last summer, Friends of + POOL successfully **tested its water treatment process in the river at Pier 35** and submitted findings to NYC and NYS permitting agencies. The **detailed filtration report is available** on the nonprofit's website. Global built environment consultancy Arup engineered the filtration system. This summer, weekly water quality testing at Pier 35 will continue in partnership with the Interstate Environmental Commission in an effort to continue to establish baseline criteria.

Today, Friends of + POOL announced it has completed the construction of a specialized barge at Bollinger Shipyard in Mississippi and released images of the barge under construction. The custom-made vessel is designed to house the filtration system, pool, and on deck amenities for the organization's first pool — a 2,000 square foot rectangular version of the iconic plus-shaped design. The vessel will be dry towed on a larger ABS-certified barge from the shipyard in Mississippi to New York this June to be retrofitted into the world's first water-filtering floating swimming pool once health agencies have approved the final design of the facility. The journey will traverse several bodies of water from Pascagoula, Mississippi, through Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay, continuing along the eastern U.S. Atlantic coastline before arriving at a shipyard in New York City.

"We are currently designing the below deck and above deck components of our first facility for health agency review," says Kara Meyer, Managing Director of Friends of + POOL, the nonprofit developing the pool and its ongoing free swim and environmental education programs for the public. "Thanks to the incredible support of our city and state partners, we are advancing this innovation so that New Yorkers can have safe ways to reconnect to their natural environment."

The 2,000 square foot rectangular floating structure will be installed in the river at Pier 35 in May 2026 for final evaluation. Public swimming will be contingent upon completing the pool's final filtration testing at scale and the full build-out of the facility for safe public use once testing is complete. Renderings of the first facility are expected to be released at the end of 2025, pending agency approvals.

+ POOL Community at Pier 35

"As a resident of Two Bridges and Founder of the Friends of Pier 35, I'm proud to welcome + POOL as it begins to take shape on our waterfront. This first-of-its-kind floating pool is not only a recreational space but also a powerful step toward environmental equity and public access to clean river water. Our community is honored to host this innovation at Pier 35 and excited for the opportunities it will bring for health, education, and connection to the East River," says Trevor Holland, Two Bridges Resident and Founder of Friends of Pier 35.

"For far too long NYCHA affordable housing communities along the Lower East Side waterfront have had to

contend with viewing the estuary of the East River as solely a means for transportation or as a warning sign for rising seas and climate change. While the city itself is managing a lifeguard shortage, + POOL has offered free swim programs across this city for nearly a decade and is now poised to provide a much needed waterfront connection to the underserved Lower East Side and greater outlying area. Even more impressive, communities get to foster educational development to learn how to better care for their waterways and help to make this a more livable city where nature and urban landscapes can coexist and thrive for generations," says Frank Avila-Goldman, waterfront community activist / Friends of Pier 42.

About Friends of + POOL

Friends of + POOL was founded in 2015 to build, operate, and maintain + POOL, educate the public on the issues affecting our water quality, and promote water stewardship. The nonprofit develops educational, recreational, and cultural programming that enhances the lives of New Yorkers, including free learn-to-swim and environmental education programs. Visit pluspool.com to learn more.