

# FIRST PHASE OF POOL1 CONSTRUCTION WRAPS AT BARGEPORT AS NYC'S CRITICAL SHORELINE RESILIENCY WORK CONTINUES AROUND PIER 35 THROUGH FALL

Pilot Pool installation and operational demonstration at Pier 35 now scheduled for 2027.



*POOL1 pilot pool under construction at the Erie Basin Bargeport in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Photo courtesy Friends of + POOL, 2026.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York, NY—Friends of + POOL continues coordination with the NYC Brooklyn Bridge-Montgomery Coastal Resilience (BMCR) project team to install the required utility lines for the pilot pool facility and demonstration without interrupting the resiliency project's construction timetables. The on-site construction and installation timeline for POOL1 at Pier 35 is dependent on logistical coordination with the BMCR team, as both projects share a site. As utility construction work for BMCR must continue around Pier 35 through the fall, the nonprofit is unable to attach to the permitted sewer lines for waste discharge until the critical waterfront shoreline resiliency project is complete. The on-site operational demonstration is now scheduled for 2027.

Construction of the pilot pool's floating barge and innovative filtration system is nearing completion at the Erie Basin Bargeport in Red Hook, Brooklyn. The installation and testing phase of the project requires 17 approvals across City, State, and Federal agencies, all of which have been received. The organization is working with these partners to carry over or amend approvals to support a testing installation next year.

Despite these complexities, on-site coordination with the BMCR team has been an exemplary exercise in interagency coordination and public-private partnerships. When Pier 35 was designated for + POOL by New York City in 2024, the site lacked power, water, and sewer lines needed to operate the river water filtering swimming pool. Utility lines installed for the project are planned to accommodate the pilot pool (POOL1) but are also scoped to ensure the necessary volumes for the future Olympic-length plus-shaped river pool.

Thanks to support from Governor Hochul's and Mayor Mamdani's teams, the nonprofit has been actively coordinating with government partners to install on-site infrastructure needed for POOL1 in tandem with the ongoing work to reduce flood risk and increase coastal resiliency and public access along the NYC waterfront.

"Our primary responsibility, as stewards of such a large-scale, publicly funded project, is to pivot when necessary to support the needs of our City and State partners, investors, and the people of New York," said Kara Meyer, Managing Director, Friends of + POOL. "While this shift comes at a cost to the organization and the project, those realities will feel insignificant when we are living in a New York City that has advanced infrastructure to protect from storm surges while opening up safe public river access for healthful recreation."

The Governor of New York, with support from New York City, has funded the pilot version of + POOL and helped establish new regulations to allow for swimming in New York City's waters. This first pool (POOL1) allows the nonprofit to collaborate with City and State agencies to finalize the design for the future plus-shaped pool and potentially subsequent river pools thereafter, while testing operations and piloting programs with local residents on deck.

### **About POOL1**

The pilot pool testing facility deploys all mechanics of the pool to bring East River water into the facility, treats it on site, feeds the pool, sends waste to the sewer, and discharges filtered water back to the source. This includes full construction of all components below deck for the organization's first publicly occupied pool – POOL1 – including a completed pool basin and fully functioning advanced river water filtration system.

The more than 320-ton floating steel structure features a **1,745 square foot pool** consisting of a stainless steel shell with a reinforced PVC membrane liner and **22 individual peripheral wall jets**. The pool **slopes from 4 ft to 7 ft**, (with an average depth of 4.76 ft), and holds **62,126 gallons (8,305 cubic ft) of water**, replenished from the surrounding river water every 1 to 2 hours. Below deck, POOL1 houses hundreds of feet of piping, dozens of valves,

21 pumps, 3 filtration/disinfection systems, controls equipment, and is accessible to pool operators by a ships ladder.

Phase two construction of the 7,000 sq ft on-deck components will commence once the full-scale operational demonstration of the filtration system is concluded and observed by health agencies. This includes lifeguard stations, showers, bathrooms, and locker rooms to facilitate public pool occupancy.

Friends of + POOL is committed to making research and development transparent and all project milestones can be tracked via a Timeline at [pluspool.com/timeline](https://pluspool.com/timeline)