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Little Red Lighthouse Lantern Room Shines Again!
A Sustainable LED Light Installed at the Little Red Lighthouse



New York City, NY: The Historic House Trust of New York City (HHT) and the Riverside Park Conservancy collaborated with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services' (DCAS) to bring a more sustainable light source to the decommissioned historic Little Red Lighthouse in Fort Washington Park, under the Eastern Tower of the George Washington Bridge. Over the last year they worked with NYC Parks' Sustainable Facilities division, and DCAS' Expenses for Conservation and

Efficiency Leadership program (ExCEL). The Little Red Lighthouse's new LED light glows within its lantern room for visitors to enjoy as they pass by.

The Historic House Trust of New York City helps to preserve 23 historic house sites, including the Little Red Lighthouse, across the 5 boroughs of New York City. Built in 1880, the 40-foot tower was moved in 1921 to Jeffrey's Hook, a rocky point on the Hudson River near Manhattan's northern edge. Now decommissioned, it is a reminder of a time when the lighthouse warned ships away from the shore as they made their way down the narrow channel between New York and New Jersey.

NYC Parks' Sustainable Facilities division has been retrofitting parks facilities with energy efficient light fixtures for the last six years and had previously worked with Mr. Krawchuk in his former position as Director of Historic Preservation for NYC Parks on an LED lighting fixture upgrade for the Washington Square Park Arch in May 2015. The success of that project led Mr. Krawchuk, now the Executive Director of HHT, to identify other landmark sites that would benefit from the program, primarily within the historic house collection.

"Our goal was to bring new sustainable technology to this landmark site while preserving interpretive historic elements within the lantern room for visitors to see," said Krawchuk.

Annette Ben-Habib, Director of Parks' Sustainable Facilities division provided further background on the importance of the ExCEL program in meeting city goals to reduce

greenhouse gas stating, “NYC Parks is working to meet the Mayor’s greenhouse gas reduction plan by modernizing our facilities with energy efficient equipment, while still retaining the historic aspects of famous New York City landmarks.”

DCAS launched the competitive ExCEL program in 2013 to provide expense funding to further energy efficiency projects in City agencies. NYC Parks has consistently employed the program to eliminate about 1,574 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and save almost \$600,000 in energy costs.

Fiscal year 2017 proved no different as NYC Parks continued this trend by targeting strategic improvements to their portfolio such as high-efficiency boilers, window treatments and additional lighting retrofits.

Subsequently the program and technology was brought to HHT’s historic house collection, including interior lighting of the Dyckman farmhouse porch and period rooms.

Although the lighthouse is technically decommissioned for ship guiding use, the fixture replacement work was performed in compliance with US Coastguard standards. The glass Fresnel lens remains in place, enhancing the effect and allowing the



light to be viewed from different vantage points along the Hudson River including 148th Street and Riverbank State Park. John Herrold, President of the Riverside Park Conservancy and Riverside Park Administrator commented “One of the defining elements of Riverside and Fort Washington Parks is of course the Hudson River and few things evoke the allure and excitement of the river as a lighthouse.”

Today, visitors travel around the world to visit the lighthouse and partake in the annual Little Red Lighthouse Festival which has been famously depicted in *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge* written in 1942 by Hildegard H. Swift and illustrated by Lynd Ward. The best view would be directly at the base of the George Washington Bridge Eastern Tower where it has proudly stood for the past 96 years.

Image credit: NYC Parks/Malcolm Pinckney