

Manhattan Bridge debris shuts area

B'klyn Bridge Park closing a section

BY IVAN PEREIRA
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The administrators of Brooklyn Bridge Park announced Thursday they are taking steps to protect parkgoers from falling debris from the Manhattan Bridge by temporarily closing a section of the park.

Although the Department of Transportation and MTA declared the area safe, Eric Landau, president of Brooklyn Bridge Park, said park crews have found small bits of debris on the ground over the last couple weeks.

Last May, a piece of the bridge fell onto the climbing wall located in the affected area, causing a short closure for the facility.

Scaffolding will be erected in the northern area of the park bounded by Plymouth Street and the East River, due to concerns over the falling debris from the bridge, Landau said.

"We don't know whether all of those few items are MTA-related or not," he said. "Now we will erect something temporarily so we can have a cover overhead."

In addition to the climbing wall, the affected 37,500 square-foot section includes the dog run and paths that give visitors a



An area of Brooklyn Bridge Park will likely be closed until April due to falling debris.

view of the East River. Landau expects the area will be off-limits until early April, before the climbing wall opens for its new season.

He said the scaffolding will be similar to ones used for pedestrian walkway construction projects. It will be tall enough for the climbing wall, according to Landau.

"The goal is to certainly not be intrusive, but the most important thing is that we have public space open and protective," he said.

An MTA spokesman could not give an immediate comment about the closure. A DOT spokesman said the agency is working with the park staff and

MTA on the issue.

Landau said the goal is for a long-term solution to the debris problem and that he has already reached out to the city and MTA for assistance.

"That is the most important thing for us, that everyone who comes into the park is safe," he said.



The newly-renamed Hulu Theater at the Garden.

Hulu takes over MSG theater

"The Handmaid's Tale" and "Future Man" are moving in.

The theater at Madison Square Garden was re-named following a partnership with Hulu, the streaming service announced Thursday.

The new Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden will stream the network's original programming in the lobby, according to the company.

"The Theater at Madison

events," Darren Pfeffer, the executive vice president of MSG Live, said in a statement. "We are thrilled to have such an acclaimed partner in Hulu, which is also known for its commitment to celebrating the very best in entertainment."

The theater holds 5,600 seats and has featured stars such as John Legend, Florida Georgia Line and Elton John, as well as the NBA draft, "Sesame Street Live" and auditions for "America's Got Talent."

Queens kids read for Mets tickets

BY LISA L. COLANGELO
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This reading program is a home run with Queens kids.

The Mets are challenging more than 5,000 students in nine schools to read at least one book a week during the team's spring training session as part of the expanded "Ya Gotta Read!" program.

The challenge runs through March 29 and includes incentives ranging from keychains to pencil pouches to game tickets. Kids can keep track of their progress with special reading score cards that help them round the bases with every book.

Teachers will act as "umpires" and monitor book reviews written by their students.

The program, a joint effort with Delta Air Lines, is designed to boost reading skills for kids in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.



The Mets are expanding the "Ya Gotta Read!" program to more than 5,000 students at nine schools in Queens.

The student who reads the special visit from a Mets player.