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A NOTE ABOUT THE COVER: After reading our annual report, we hope you’ll remove the cover and keep the map of our gardens and parks that’s printed across the inside spread.
Dear Friends,

Over the last quarter century, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) has transformed New York City’s landscape. Bette Midler founded NYRP in 1995 to clean up the city’s open spaces and give public land back to New Yorkers—work we continue wholeheartedly in our 52 community gardens and beyond. In the past year alone, we:

- Renovated 10 community gardens;
- Repaired or replaced 100 garden beds; and
- Worked with neighbors to green 34 school yards, housing campuses, senior citizen centers, local gardens, and other public spaces.

Our Engagement and Programming team:

- Led workshops with over 1,000 gardeners and community members;
- Taught more than 7,500 K-8th grade students;
- Produced 65 free cultural events; and
- Hosted 22 free tree giveaway events, supplying over 3,000 trees throughout all five boroughs.

NYRP also welcomed new leadership with our election as Co-Chairs of the Board and the announcement of our new Executive Director, Lynn Kelly. Lynn is an experienced and recognized voice in the New York City open space movement. We are delighted that she will be bringing her deep knowledge, commitment to partnerships, and strategic mindset to NYRP starting in February 2020.

Achieving environmental and social justice in our city is more critical today than ever before. We are a strong example to the entire United States of how to invest in, value, and activate our green spaces. Thank you for sharing our belief that nature is a fundamental right of every New Yorker. With your support as NYRP enters its 25th year, we are equipped to collaborate with communities across the city to green more spaces, cultivate more environmental leaders, and build more resilient urban ecosystems.

We look forward to working with Lynn, and with you, to ensure that all New Yorkers enjoy the benefits of clean, green open space for years to come. On behalf of our Trustees and staff, thank you for being part of the NYRP community—you make our work possible.

With gratitude,
Helena Durst and Darcy A. Stacom
Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees

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**THANK YOU: Benjamin F. Needell**

Ben Needell has supported NYRP since 1997 and served as Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2019. We made great strides throughout Ben’s 18-year Board Chair tenure thanks to his expert knowledge of the local real estate landscape, legal acumen, and passion for our cause. He has been a true partner and we are delighted that he will continue to serve as a member of NYRP’s Board of Trustees. Thank you, Ben—we are forever grateful!
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LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Ben with honoree Amy Goldman Fowler at Spring Picnic 2019 at the New York Botanical Garden.

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MISSION

New York Restoration Project (NYRP) revitalizes green space in under-resourced communities. We partner with neighborhood residents, public agencies, and the private sector to create, maintain, and program shared open areas, making nature accessible to all New Yorkers.

Since our founding in 1995 by Bette Midler, NYRP has renovated gardens, restored parks, planted trees, educated students, and forged partnerships to transform the City’s landscape. As New York’s only citywide nature conservancy, we bring resources to public open spaces that need support in order to create a greener, more resilient City.

NYRP also welcomed new leadership with our election as Co-Chairs of the Board and the announcement of our new Executive Director, Lynn Kelly. Lynn is an experienced and recognized voice in the New York City open space movement. We are delighted that she will be bringing her deep knowledge, commitment to partnerships, and strategic mindset to NYRP starting in February 2020.

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With gratitude,

Helena Durst and Darcy A. Stacom

Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees
REVITALIZING OPEN SPACE

THE FIRST STEP in revitalizing an open space can be as basic as providing a water line. “Irrigation is a lot of work for gardeners otherwise,” says Jason Sheets, NYRP’s Director of Garden Horticulture. “Carrying water by hand, connecting to a hydrant across busy two-way streets, having hoses bust—just being able to have water on site improves so much for our gardeners.”

It’s easy to understand then why securing water lines for 14 of NYRP’s Brooklyn gardens in 2019 was one of several capital improvement priorities under New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Vital Brooklyn Initiative.

The State selected NYRP as a Vital Brooklyn open space grant recipient in 2017, aligning with us to help realize $3.1 million in capital funding improvements for 22 Kings County community gardens (NYRP also completed work at 8 Brooklyn-Queens Land Trust sites).

Keeping our commitment to participatory design process, NYRP’s community engagement team began the work by reaching out to garden members and operations staff, requesting their input on upgrade priorities. Water access topped the list. These lines were just the beginning in some gardens, though. In 2019, NYRP also completed infrastructure upgrades at Decatur, Bedford-Stuyvesant, McLeod’s, Target Brooklyn, and Green Acres Community Gardens that included replacing composting bins and rebuilding tool storage sheds.

Additionally, two gardens—Williams Street and Hull Street—underwent full redesign and reconstruction. Williams in particular became more of a gardening and gathering space than it had been previously, adding a raised stage, shade structure, garden beds, and other communal amenities.

“With the assistance of Vital Brooklyn funds, NYRP transformed a blighted site into a field of dreams in an at-risk underserved community,” says Williams Street Garden member Bill Wilkins. “It’s an urban oasis that’s tastefully designed with top shelf plants and infrastructure, and that level of care isn’t usually expressed in this community,” he continues. “Normally our residents would have to go to the Botanic Garden for this quality of green space but now it’s in our neighborhood.”

Post-construction, NYRP has helped garden groups fully utilize their new space. Beyond an opening party, this has included movie nights, fitness classes, live performances, and craft workshops among other activities. “These gardens are safe open spaces that are accessible to all,” says Public Events Manager Matthew Dain. “Members can host programs with or without NYRP,” he assures. “At the end of the day, it’s about what the community wants.”
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ONE OF NYRP’S CLASSROOMS is in Manhattan’s last remaining salt marsh. At high tide, our team of four environmental educators suits up local 3rd-8th graders at Inwood’s Swindler Cove. Flanked by staff, two students at a time wade into the Harlem River with a seine net, hoping to snag some sign of life.

It’s not surprising that most of these city kids have never been face-to-face with a live fish, let alone while standing in the New York Harbor. Understandably, trekking into the silty shoreline for the first time can be intimidating. “We sing, we chant, we joke... we make it silly, fun, and physical because sometimes [seining] can be a scary thing for students,” says environmental educator Tess Wenstrup.

It turns out, though, that actually catching a jellyfish, crab, eel, or whatever turns up in the net ignites students’ best instincts.

“First they’re surprised to see a huge fish flopping around and spraying water all over,” says Tess. “But then the students get this determined look when they pick up their fish. They seem to take ownership and are just really proud.”

It’s transformative moments like these that motivate our next generation of environmental leaders. “[Our students] were buzzing about it long after we left and I know it made a huge impression on all of them,” says Rosemary Puckett of BioBus, one of our local nonprofit partners that helps minority, female, and low-income K-12 and college students discover, explore, and pursue science. “Perhaps [we even have] some future ecologists and just humans who feel responsible for observing and caring for their ecosystem.”

These kinds of immersive lessons can also be critical since many participating schools don’t have any science teachers and look to organizations like NYRP to fill in the knowledge gap on everything from photosynthesis to climate change.

“This work speaks to anyone,” says Director of Educational Programs Nina Salzman. “Seining in particular reveals that there’s life in the river that they can see and touch,” she adds. “The experience can spark desire to care for the river because it’s not a lost cause—there’s still life there worth fighting for.”
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OUR PROGRAMS

GARDEN GROWERS
Planting, Maintenance, Harvesting

NATURE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD
Swindler Cove Habitat Rove, Dig It, Talking Trees, Our River the Giver, Highbridge Hike

NATURE IN MY CLASSROOM
Botany
Life Through the Seasons, Eat Your Leaves!, Seed to Plate, Compost: Nature’s Recycler
Ecosystems
Interdependence, Habitats for All, Animal Adapt-Ability, Look Up!
Earth Science
What on Earth Is Soil?, Wonderful World of Water, Run Water Run, Our Estuary Explained
BUILDING URBAN RESILIENCE

WE OFTEN HEAR ABOUT New York’s vulnerability as climate change churns: sea levels rise, the heat island effect intensifies, Hurricane Sandy was just a warm up. But is it possible to imagine an environmentally resilient city that lessens climate change’s consequences instead of contributing to or being subject to them?

This is one of the questions we’re investigating with our living shoreline work at Inwood’s Swindler Cove. “This site is actively mitigating climate change,” says Director of Northern Manhattan Parks Jason Smith. “We expect it to substantially improve the carbon storage at this location, as well as the water quality.”

Our living shoreline work began in 2017 as part of an effort to protect and expand a small patch of salt marsh—the last remaining ecosystem of its kind in Manhattan. In 2020, Swindler Cove will become a multifaceted example of what an environmentally resilient New York waterfront could look like, including installing an oyster reef, adding more wetland plantings, and making structural improvements. We will also begin plans for incorporating this work into our education programs at the site.

Additionally, we have partnered with Baruch College professor Chester Zarnoch and his students to measure the environmental impact of what has
In our nearly 25 years of work, NYRP has helped plant hundreds of thousands of trees throughout New York City in partnership with NYC Parks and dozens of community-based organizations. In 2019 alone, we organized 22 free tree giveaway events throughout the five boroughs, adding more than 3,000 trees to the urban canopy.

Each tree was one of 17 native species—including pawpaw, bald cypress, witch hazel, and red bud—specifically selected for New York City’s evolving natural environment. These hardy trees are known for their valuable ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, air pollutant removal, and storm water interception.

Looking ahead to 2020 and beyond, trees remain vital to NYRP’s mission of bolstering New York City’s resilience. From reforestation of Inwood’s Highbridge Park to neighborhood tree distributions on Staten Island’s North Shore, NYRP is committed to working with partners city-wide to combat the climate crisis.

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# FINANCIALS

## 2019 Revenue $8,936,457

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td>$2,723,769</td>
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All figures based on audited financials.
**2019 Expenses** $6,996,718

![Graph showing expenses.

- **Garden & Park Operations and Maintenance**: $3,314,542
- **Community Engagement & Programming**: $1,167,230
- **Capital Construction**: $559,392
- **Management & Administration**: $826,925
- **Fundraising**: $1,128,629

*All figures based on audited financials.*
SUPPORTERS

Our Founder Bette Midler with her namesake rose the “Divine Miss M” at NYRP’s Spring Picnic at the New York Botanical Garden.

Home Depot replaces garden beds at the Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson Community Garden.

Bloomberg Philanthropies helps remove invasive species from Highbridge Park.

FISCAL YEAR 2019
October 1, 2018–September 30, 2019

Foundations
Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Blooming Prairie Foundation
The Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation
The Ferriday Fund
John and Marcia Goldman Philanthropic Fund
The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
The J.M. Kaplan Fund
The Liebowitz and Greenway Charitable Family Foundation
The Longhill Charitable Foundation
New York State Health Foundation
Newman’s Own Foundation
The Rudin Foundation
The Shubert Organization
The Dorothy Strelsin Foundation
Tiger Baron Foundation

Corporations
American Express
Antares Capital, L.P.
Atlas Capital Group
Bank of New York Mellon
Bon Jovi Productions, Inc.
Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center
Brookfield Properties
Capalino+Company
CB Richard Ellis
CBRE Foundation, Inc.
Chubb
Columbia Sportswear
Cravath, Swaine, & Moore
Creative Artists Agency
Discovery Inc.
The Durst Organization
EarthShare New York
Ernst & Young LLP
EvensonBest LLC
Global Holdings Management Group
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
GreenOak Real Estate Advisors LP
Hines Interests LP
SUPPORTERS FISCAL YEAR 2019
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Cravath, Swaine, & Moore
Creative Artists Agency
Discovery Inc.
The Durst Organization
EarthShare New York
Ernst & Young LLP
EvensonBest LLC
Global Holdings Management Group
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
GreenOak Real Estate Advisors LP
Hines Interests LP
HOLLANDER design | Landscape Architects
Home Box Office
The Home Depot
HPS Partners
IAC
Jamestown LP
L&L MAG
Lee & Associates
Michael Levitt Productions Inc.
NARS Cosmetics
Nederlander of New York, Inc.
Oxford Properties
Paradigm Talent Agency
Penske Business MediQ LLC
Rockwell Group
RXR Realty
S&P Global
Sage Realty Corp.
The Sapiro Organization, LLC
Shiseido Americas Corporation
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
SL Green Management LLC
Taconic Investment Partners
TIAA
Tishman Speyer Properties, L.P.
The Travelers Companies, Inc.
United Airlines
The Walt Disney Company, Inc.
WarnerMedia
WebMD Health Corp.

Government
Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
New York City Department of Design and Construction
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Environmental Protection Fund

From left to right: Lance Le Pere, Founder Bette Midler, Trustee Michael Kors, and Jane Krakowski on the red carpet at Hulaween 2019.

From left to right: Carole Bayer Sager, Bob Daly, and Candice Bergen at Spring Picnic at the New York Botanical Garden.

Trustee Shelly Malkin and her husband Tony Malkin with friends at Hulaween 2019.
SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUALS

$150,000 AND ABOVE
Mica Ertegùn
Michael Kors and Lance Le Pere
Shelly and Tony Malkin
Bette Midler and Martin von Haselberg
Benjamin F. and Kathleen C. Needell
Estate of Nancy Rosenthal
Darcy A. Stacom, CBRE
Ann Ziff

$100,000 - $149,999
Anonymous
Linda Allard
Diane and Clyde Brownstone
Todd DeGarmo - STUDIOS Architecture
Amy Goldman Fowler and Cary Fowler
Fred and Nancy Poses

$50,000 - $99,999
Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation
Barry C. Diller
Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones
Susanne and Douglas Durst
Jane H. Goldman
Sol Goldman Charitable Trust
Kitty Hawks and Lawrence Lederman
Edmund D. Hollander, FASLA
Margo M. and James L. Nederlander
Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
Samuel Ashner
Carole Bayer Sager and Bob Daly
Elliot Friman
Scott and Laura Malkin
Ryan Murphy
Darryl Pardi
Janice Parker, ASLA
Margie Perenchio
Andrew & Ann Tisch Foundation, Inc.
Dan and Sheryl Tishman
Linda J. Wachner

$10,000 - $24,999
Anonymous (2)
Lovee and Bob Arum
Kim and Pamela Baptiste
Laurence and Carolyn Belfer Family Foundation
Charles Bendit
Betty Y. Chen and Peter Coombe
Anke Dening-Volcker
David Geffen
Robert Goldberg
Joyce & Irving Goldman Family Foundation
Tim Gunn
The Joseph Handleman “I Believe in You” Trust Foundation
Elton John Charitable Fund
Sophie Coquillette Koven
Estate of Liam Lacey
The Ralph & Ricky Lauren Family Foundation, Inc.
Edith W. MacGuire
The Malkin Fund, Inc.
Sherri Marton
Elizabeth Peabody
David Hyde Pierce
Katharine J. Rayner
Ann R. Roberts
Rockwell Group
Lily J. Safra
Paul D. Selver
Bill Shanahan
Joshua Sirefman
The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust
Jon Recor and Daniel Stewart
Linda and Brian Tauscher
Barbara E. Wilks
Andrea Woodner
Bruce Yablon

$5,000 - $9,999
Candice Bergen and Marshall Rose
Robert M. Browne
Peter L. Christensen
Laurie David
Peggy & Millard Drexler Foundation
Thomas and Mindy Fortin
The Gluck Family Foundation
Joshua Goldfarb
Marc Jacobs
Frank Pellegrino
Scott Rudin
Larry A. Silverstein
Robert A.M. Stern
The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation
Margaret and Michael Valentine
Harry T. Wilks Family Foundation
Bunny Williams
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bette Midler  
FOUNDER

Helena Durst  
CO-CHAIR

Darcy A. Stacom  
CO-CHAIR

Vered Rabia  
PRESIDENT

Darryl Pardi  
TREASURER

Adrian Benepe  
Betty Y. Chen  
Todd DeGarmo  
Edmund D. Hollander  
Michael Kors  
Shelly Malkin  
James L. Nederlander  
Benjamin F. Needell  
Janice Parker, Ex Officio  
David Rockwell  
Mitchell J. Silver, Ex Officio  
Joshua Sirefman  
Sophie von Haselberg  
Ann Ziff  
Jann S. Wenner, Emeritus

CHAIRMAN’S COUNCIL

Janice Parker  
CHAIR

Samuel Ashner  
Pamela S. Baptiste  
Charles Bendit  
Diane Brownstone  
Alexandra Cohen  
Sophie Coquillette Koven  
Douglas Durst  
Richard Gess  
Amy Goldman Fowler  
Tim Gunn  
Marc Heiman  
Mychal Johnson  
Rob Light  
Margo MacNabb Nederlander  
Yoko Ono Lennon  
Frank Raffaele  
Paul D. Selver  
Barbara E. Wilks  
Andrea Woodner

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Catherine Hall
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