



NEW YORK  
RESTORATION  
PROJECT

# NYRP



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

# NYRP 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## INDEX

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	2
OUR MISSION AND VISION	3
HERE IS HOW WE DO IT	4
HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS	8
FINANCIALS	9
DONOR LIST	9
LEADERSHIP	14

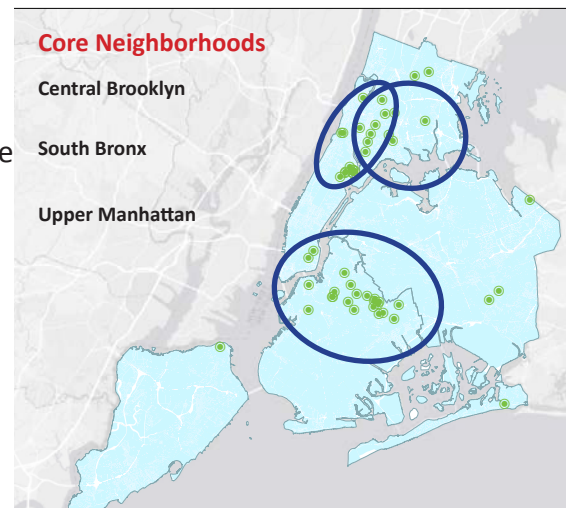
# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Nature is a fundamental right of every New Yorker.** At New York Restoration Project, we believe everyone deserves access to clean, safe and beautiful public green space. Since our founding in 1995 by Bette Midler, we have been partnering with high need communities to take back public space by picking up trash, planting trees, and renovating parks and gardens. Working together, neighbors become neighborhoods, and our city is safer, happier, and healthier for everyone. Your support makes that possible.



Deborah Marton  
Executive Director

Across all five boroughs, in our city's most dense, least green, highest need communities, we see the results of our commitment to environmental justice every day. A family of five living in an 850 square foot apartment gets the space to throw a birthday barbeque in a beautiful garden. A grandmother grows fresh vegetables for her family's table. There is justice when a 10-year-old touches soil for the first time and squeals with delight at a worm, or when a single mom lets her kids run around freely, knowing they're safe and she can rest. There is a generation spanning connection for a teenage high school dropout when she learns to plant seeds from her elderly neighbor on a sunny summer day. When these neighbors come together, there's justice in the strong ties they forge and collective actions they take as a community that accepts responsibility and caretaking for a shared green space.



This is what we hear from the growing community directly impacted by your support:

*This garden is everyone's second home. People play dominos, kids have birthday parties, and the whole community enjoys having coffee and spending afternoons here.*

— Jose Reyes, El Cataño Garden, East Harlem

*Most of our students have been traumatized physically and mentally. They've been in the foster care system. Some of them are homeless, or have been homeless. For a lot of my young people there are very few places they have to physically go. NYRP gardens are a refuge from the turmoil in their lives.*

— Heather Butts, Co-Founder/Executive Director, H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths

*This past growing season we grew, harvested, and donated over 1,000 pounds of organic and nutritionally dense veggies and herbs to our local community of West Brighton. We established a relationship with a Senior Center where our produce was cooked and served to the seniors in a day program.*

— Kim Cohen, West Brighton Community Member

*What we grow here is always better because it's fresh and free of chemicals. It's organic, so it is 100% better than in the grocery store.*

— Elvia Campos, Clinton Avenue Garden, East Tremont

Two thousand and seventeen was an exciting year for NYRP. We opened gorgeous new community gardens in low-income neighborhoods across the city and in other open spaces where neighbors asked for our help – schoolyards, senior centers, public housing developments, and community centers. We advanced the design of what will be the South Bronx’s first waterfront open space, a street-end pier park as part of the Haven Project. We educated more than 10,000 K-8th grade students about nature, nutrition, and urban ecosystems; moved hundreds of people outside to exercise through our fitness classes; brought together 5,000 neighbors at our arts and culture events that included dance, movie nights, and theatre; and helped neighborhood resident gardeners grow 89,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to feed their families and friends. We held 20 Tree Giveaway events giving away an average of 250 trees at each event, totaling 5,000 new trees planted on private land. We completed more than 20 Gardens for the City projects citywide ranging from a complete garden rebuild in the Bronx to greening school grounds in East Harlem to building raised garden beds to grow vegetables in Brooklyn, and many more. Countless New Yorkers in all five boroughs enjoy a respite from the city because of your generosity.

Many thanks to all our supporters for your work and contributions. Thanks also to our visionary founder Bette Midler, our dedicated Board and Chairman’s Council, our hard-working staff, dozens of community-based partners, residents who work hand-in-hand beside our staff, and elected officials of New York City and New York State.

Please see the report that follows for many examples of how your support for NYRP makes New York a safer, healthier, and happier city.

With appreciation,



Deborah Marton

## OUR MISSION AND VISION

*Nature is a fundamental right of every New Yorker.*

NYRP partners with local communities, public agencies, and the private sector to acquire, create, maintain, and program public open spaces. Our sustained partnership with communities promotes strong social ties and collective action.

We aspire to expand our footprint and impact in all five boroughs to *make a safer, healthier, and happier city.*

# HERE IS HOW WE CREATE SAFER, HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER SAFER COMMUNITIES



Safer because NYRP's "Blue Shirts" and the communities we partner with ensure that neighborhood gardens and open spaces are available for all to enjoy. NYRP and its partners work as a force of stability - building, renovating, and activating green open space, educating children to be environmentally conscious, engaging communities through fitness programming, arts and culture workshops, community celebrations and sometimes we are there just to shovel snow and ice.



Safer because NYRP invests in and activates open space for everybody in New York City. Highbridge Park is home to two New York City Housing Authority developments, whose residents benefit from the removal of dangerous debris and the restoration of ecologically valuable and historically important green space.



Safer because our investments make communities more environmentally and socially resilient. We're working to restore the Sherman Creek Park shoreline in Upper Manhattan to help control erosion caused by wave energy and global climate global change, and have installed solar panels at a garden in Brooklyn to provide power and an off-the-grid resource in the event of a power outage.

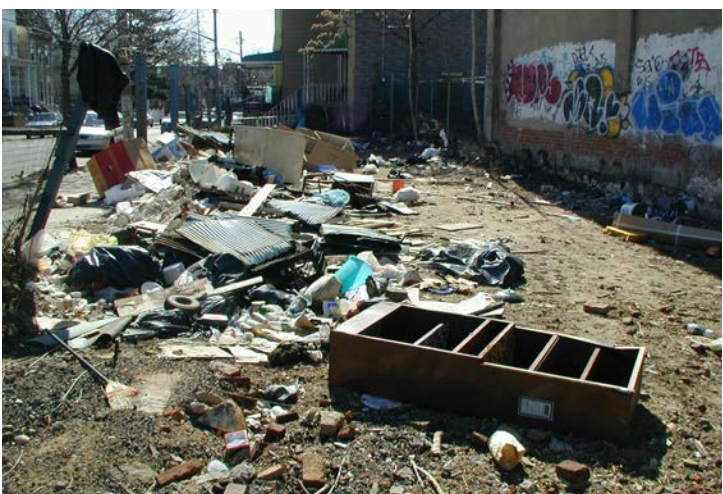
## HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES



Healthier because we improve human and environmental health holistically, from planting trees that sequester carbon, to bringing back native species, like the American Eel, through our restoration efforts.



Healthier because we help advance physical health in community gardens by offering fitness programming that includes yoga and dance. We also support our gardeners growing efforts. In 2017, NYRP gardeners grew 89,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables... 89,000 pounds!!!



Healthier because our lot restoration efforts reduce crime and make people in the community feel safer. Essex Street Community Garden (pictured above) was full of garbage before being transformed into the lush bastion of neighborhood calm it is now.

## HAPPIER COMMUNITIES



Happier because NYRP gardens provide a space for neighbors to gather. Every year at El Cataño Community Garden, people get together for an annual garden domino tournament, while art is an integral part of programming at gardens in every borough.



Happier because community gardens empower local residents and partners. Garden Group leaders like Reginald Germain (left) and Ana Torres (right) open the gardens in which they grow food and flowers, and coordinate other activities with neighbors.



Happier because community gardens promote equity. NYRP's environmental education programs for K-8th grade students use parks and gardens as outdoor classrooms to provide hands-on learning experiences.

# HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Central to New York Restoration Project's mission is creating a context for community to happen. Every space that NYRP adopts receives a range of services and physical improvements intended to provide beautiful, safe, clean, environmentally functional spaces. We believe this work is critical to the health of our city and its residents.

NYRP reclaims and restores spaces as a shared community resource and envisions a future where open space is an integral and essential right of every community, contributing to the health and well-being of all citizens. Some of our biggest achievements to date follow below:

- Co-led MillionTreesNYC with the New York City Parks Department, planting 250,000 of the million trees, and reaching our million tree goal two years ahead of schedule.
- Transformed four city parks – Ft Tryon, Ft Washington, Highbridge, and Sherman Creek. For example, we transformed Sherman Creek Park from a five-acre dumping ground on the Harlem River into an urban forest, a children's garden, and a saltwater marsh.
- Acquired and run 52 community gardens in all five boroughs of New York City to save them from commercial development.
- Revitalized more than 400 acres of public land throughout New York City.
- Planted over 350,000 trees (including those 250,000 from MillionTreesNYC), 19,000 shrubs, 135,000 plants, and 56,000 bulbs throughout parks, community gardens, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) campuses, schools, and other public spaces citywide.
- Gave away 60,000 trees to New York City residents to plant on privately-owned land (back, side, and front yards).
- Renovated and upgraded over 40 community gardens in the least green and most economically depressed and underserved neighborhoods of New York City, meeting the needs expressed by community stakeholders.
- Educated more than 54,000 K-8th grade students about ecology, nutrition, and the environment using our community gardens and parks as outdoor classrooms.
- Entertained over 20,000 attendees of our arts, culture, and fitness programs.
- Engaged over 61,000 volunteers in community greening projects.
- Removed over five million pounds of trash (2,500 tons) from highways, abandoned lots, gardens, and parks.
- Diverted 950,000 pounds (475 tons) of food scraps from the waste stream through composting

## FINANCIALS

Please see attached “NYRP FY17 Consolidated Statement”

## DONOR LIST



*Clyde Brownstone, Bette Midler, and Diane Brownstone share a moment at Spring Picnic 2017. Photo by Mia McDonald*



*Michael Kors, Freja Beha Erichson, and Martha Hunt have a laugh at Essex Community Garden in Brooklyn*



*Marc Jacobs and Charlie DeFrancesco pose at Hulaween 2016. Photo: Anna Yatskevich*



*NYRP Board Member Ann Ziff gestures toward the MC during Spring Picnic 2017*



*BNY Mellon volunteers helped build four raised garden beds and installed benches at Los Sures, a social service organization in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.*



*William Morris Endeavor volunteers removed invasive vegetation and helped to prepare Highbridge Park for the spring season.*



*App Nexus volunteers helped to plant a portion of 2,000 trees, including 300 disease-resistant Chestnut Trees, as part of a reforestation project NYRP began in 2015.*



*Barbara Wilks, founder of W Architecture and Landscape Architecture and NYRP Chairman's Council member, takes a breather during 2017's Five Boro Bike Tour.*

## FOUNDATION FUNDERS

Anonymous (2)  
Lily Auchincloss Foundation Inc.  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
Chartwell Charitable Foundation  
The Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation  
Dyson Foundation  
Fidelity Foundation  
Foundation Source  
The David Geffen Foundation  
John and Marcia Goldman Philanthropic Fund  
The Rona Jaffe Foundation  
JM Kaplan Fund  
JPB Foundation  
The Longhill Charitable Foundation  
The Leon Lowenstein Foundation  
New York Community Trust  
New York State Health Foundation  
Newman's Own Foundation  
The Paestum Foundation, Inc.  
May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation  
The Dorothy Strelsin Foundation  
The Robert C. and Tina Sohn Foundation  
The Thompson Family Foundation  
Tiger Baron Foundation  
John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation

## CORPORATE FUNDERS

1 Hotel  
American Express  
Antares Capital  
AppNexus  
Manolo Blahnik USA, Ltd.  
Brooklyn Nets/PwC  
CB Richard Ellis  
Brown Harris Stevens Residential Sales, LLC  
CleanChoice Energy  
Columbia Sports Wear  
The Corcoran Group  
The Walt Disney Company  
Douglas Elliman  
EarthShare New York  
EcoMedia  
EvensonBest LLC  
Five Boro Bike Tour  
Frankfurt, Kurnit Klein & Selz  
Gabelli Funds, LLC  
General Atlantic  
Goldman Sachs  
Google  
Home Box Office  
The Home Depot  
IAC  
The Jordan Company  
MICHAEL KORS  
The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc.  
Mirage Resorts, Inc.  
The Mosaic Financial Group LLC  
Oldcastle  
Pace University  
Perella Weinberg  
Pernod Ricard  
PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Seeds of Change  
S&P Global  
Sidewalk Labs  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
Target

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

New York City Council  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
New York State Energy, Research, and Development Authority

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

### **\$150,000 and above**

Diane Von Furstenberg and Barry Diller  
Shelly and Tony Malkin  
Bette Midler and Martin von Haselberg

### **\$100,000 - \$149,999**

Glenn Close  
Michael Kors and Lance Le Pere  
Clifford Ross  
David E. Shaw

### **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

Linda Allard  
Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde R. Brownstone  
Steven A. and Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation, Inc.  
Todd DeGarmo  
Amy P. Goldman Fowler and Cary Fowler  
Mr. Christopher Kraus  
Mr. Dan Lufkin  
William W. Sales, Jr.  
Darcy Stacom, CBRE, Inc.  
Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation  
Ann Ziff  
The Bill & Ann Ziff Foundation

### **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Mr. Hugo Barreca  
The Durst Family  
The Durst Organization  
Mr. Elliott Friman  
Marcia and John Goldman  
Ms. Kitty Hawks and Mr. Lawrence Lederman  
Marc Jacobs  
Scott and Laura Malkin  
Mrs. Joann McPike  
Benjamin F. Needell, Esq.  
Paine Webber Group Inc.  
Ms. Vered Rabia  
Mr. Scott Rudin  
Ms. Deborah Simon  
STUDIOS Architecture  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tisch  
Daniel R. Tishman and Sheryl Tishman

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS CONT.

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

1011 Foundation, LLC  
Mr. Roger Altman and Ms. Jurate Kazickas  
Mr. Tim Armstrong  
Dr. Paula Botstein and Mr. Robert Usadi  
Mr. Thomas Capasse  
Mr. Fred Cowett  
The John R. and Kiendl Dauphinot Gordon Fund  
Phil Donahue and Marlo Thomas  
The Double-R Foundation  
Mr. Jamie Drake  
Ms. Helena Rose Durst  
The Mitzi & Warren Eisenberg Foundation  
Nora Ephron and Nicholas Pileggi Foundation  
Mica Ertegün  
Vernon Evenson  
Fisher Brothers  
Mr. Adam Flatto  
Mr. David Geffen  
John and Kiendl Gordon  
Ms. Cathy Guenther  
Tim Gunn  
Marc Heiman  
Edmund Hollander  
Elton John Charitable Fund  
Bobby Kotick  
Jonathan LaPook and Kate Lear  
The Ralph & Ricky Lauren Family Foundation, Inc.  
Mr. Ed Lefferson  
Yoko Ono Lennon

Mr. Robert Light  
The Malkin Fund, Inc.  
Ms. Sherri Marton  
The Neil and Shelly Mitchell Foundation  
Nederlander of New York, Inc.  
James L. Nederlander and Margo MacNabb Nederlander  
Mr. Darryl Pardi  
Janice Parker  
Ms. Anna Polk  
Mr. and Mrs. William Rayner  
Amanda J. Riegel  
Mr. David Rockwell  
Mrs. Marilyn Simons  
Ms. Andrea Woodner  
Mr. William Zabel

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS CONT.

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

The Loreen Arbus Foundation  
Pamela and Robert Beck  
Laurence and Carolyn Belfer Family Foundation  
Ruth and Louis Brause  
Brezner Steinberg Partners  
Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center  
Mr. John K. Castle  
Mr. Irwin Chafetz  
Betty Chen and Peter Coombe  
Ms. Joan Corell  
Davler Media Group LLC  
Mr. Craig Dean  
Ms. Beth Rudin DeWoody  
Mr. Mike Frankfurt  
Miguel A. Fuentes Jr.  
Mr. Mario J. Gabelli  
Sandra and Laurence Gluck  
Patricia and George Grunebaum  
Mr. Robert Jacobs  
The Katzen Team  
Mr. Brian Kaufmann  
Ms. Sophie Koven  
The Leibowitz & Greenway Charitable Family Foundation  
Robert and Rochelle Light Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Linden  
George Malkemus and Anthony Yurgaitis  
Agnes Marton  
Mr. David Miller  
Ms. Lynne Ryan  
Ms. Ambre Seltzer  
Joshua Sirefman  
David Steinberg and Brynn Thayer  
Daniel Stewart and Jon Recor  
Linda and Jerry Stone  
Linda and Brian Tauscher  
Ms. Linda J. Wachner  
Mr. Jason Yeung

## LEADERSHIP

Founder: Bette Midler  
Board of Trustees  
Chairman's Council  
Executive Director: Deborah Marton