

NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT INSTALLS 28 NEW LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

PROGRAM EXPANDS ACCESS TO BOOKS ACROSS ALL 5 BOROUGHS



Heather Butts of H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths stands with the “Read in Color” Little Free Library at NYRP’s Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson Community Garden in Jamaica, Queens.

[PHOTOS HERE](#)

Courtesy of New York Restoration Project

For more information, please contact:

Lauren Wilson and Erica Helms
lwilson@nyrp.org | ehelms@nyrp.org

NEW YORK, NY – August 9, 2022 – [New York Restoration Project](#) (NYRP) is thrilled announce that free book-sharing boxes from [Little Free Library](#) (LFL) are now available at community gardens citywide. Twenty-five of NYRP’s [52 community gardens](#) and three [Gardens for the City](#) partners now have free libraries to bring new and diverse reads to neighborhoods across the city.

With the motto “take a book, share a book,” Little Free Libraries are part of a global movement to increase access to reading materials through book-sharing boxes. Every NYRP library comes stocked with at least ten books including the [LFL Scholastic Read in Color](#) bundle—titles that share perspectives on racism and social justice, celebrate BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices, and incorporate experiences from all identities to engage all readers. The libraries have also been stocked with book donations from individuals and institutions including from the [NYPL Tompkins Square Branch](#).

NYRP thanks Diane and Clyde Brownstone for generously supporting the expansion of Little Free Libraries at gardens citywide.

NYRP Little Free Library locations include:

Gardens with LFLs	Borough	Neighborhood	Type
Rainbow Garden of Life and Health	Bronx	South Bronx	NYC Parks GreenThumb Community Garden renovated by NYRP in 2022
Bathgate Community Garden	Bronx	Tremont	NYRP Garden
Glover Street Community Garden	Bronx	Castle Hill	NYRP Garden
Bette's Rose Garden	Bronx	Melrose	NYRP Garden
Paradise on Earth, Fannie's Garden	Bronx	Morrisania	NYRP Garden
Target Bronx Community Garden	Bronx	Highbridge	NYRP Garden
Farmers Garden	Brooklyn	Crown Heights	NYC Parks GreenThumb Community Garden renovated by NYRP in 2022
Cooper Street Community Garden	Brooklyn	Bushwick	NYRP Garden
Williams Avenue Community Garden	Brooklyn	East New York	NYRP Garden
Greene Acres Community Garden	Brooklyn	Bedford-Stuyvesant	NYRP Garden
Imani Community Garden	Brooklyn	Crown Heights	NYRP Garden
Bridge Plaza Community Garden	Brooklyn	Downtown BK	NYRP Garden
Aberdeen Community Garden	Brooklyn	Bushwick	NYRP Garden
Gil Hodges Community Garden	Brooklyn	Gowanus	NYRP Garden
Hull Street Community Garden	Brooklyn	Ocean Hill	NYRP Garden
Target Brooklyn Community Garden	Brooklyn	Bedford-Stuyvesant	NYRP Garden
Jane Bailey Community Garden	Brooklyn	Bedford-Stuyvesant	NYRP Garden
Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Garden	Brooklyn	Bedford-Stuyvesant	NYRP Garden
Union Settlement	Manhattan	East Harlem	East Harlem community center with garden; to be renovated by NYRP in fall 2022
Maggie's Garden	Manhattan	Hamilton Heights	NYRP Garden
El Barrio Community Garden	Manhattan	East Harlem	NYRP Garden
Toyota East Children's Learning Garden	Manhattan	Lower East Side	NYRP Garden
Riley-Levin Children's Garden	Manhattan	Inwood	NYRP Garden
The Dorothy Strelsin Memorial Community Garden	Manhattan	Lower East Side	NYRP Garden
Herb Garden	Manhattan	East Harlem	NYRP Garden
Friendship Garden (Wicked) (to be installed fall 2022)	Manhattan	West Harlem	NYRP Garden
Seagirt Boulevard Community Garden	Queens	Far Rockaway	NYRP Garden
Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden	Queens	Jamaica	NYRP Garden
Westervelt Community Garden	Staten Island	St. George	NYRP Garden

QUOTES

“We are so pleased to now have Little Free Libraries in half our gardens throughout New York City. NYRP's mission is to create equitable access to quality green spaces, and we are excited to now incorporate these book-sharing boxes to serve this mission,” said **New York Restoration Project Executive Director Lynn B. Kelly**. “Knowledge is power, and Little Free Libraries will allow New Yorkers from all walks of life to share resources and stories. We are constantly reimagining the potential uses of our NYRP parks and gardens and are now proud to not only provide a place to enjoy a book, but to get one, too!”

“I am thrilled to hear about the collaboration between New York Restoration Project's community gardens and the Little Free Library book-sharing boxes located throughout New York City,” said **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson**. “During COVID-19, finding places to safely recreate became essential. With this added book-sharing program, communities can enjoy well-stocked libraries with books that celebrate historically underserved communities, reflecting the rich culture found in our Black and Brown neighborhoods. I want to thank New York Restoration Project and Little Free Library for their commitment to increasing literacy and community-building on a grassroots level.”

"Manhattanites are fortunate to have so many NYRP gardens, and, now, Little Free Libraries that expand literary equity and community story-sharing," said **Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine**. "The LFL furthers NYRP's mission of improving public space in neighborhoods that have experienced chronic disinvestment. Equally important is how the diversity of books in LFL reflect and celebrate New York's vibrancy."

“Little Free Libraries not only encourage literacy, but also foster a sense of community. Thank you to New York Restoration Project for bringing this community resource to 28 new locations, spanning each of our City’s boroughs,” said **Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso**.

“I’m thrilled to see New York Restoration Project and Little Free Libraries working together to expand accessibility to books and other reading materials for families in Jamaica, Far Rockaway and in other neighborhoods across our city,” said **Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr.** “We must always find creative ways to encourage and cultivate literacy—and what better way to do that than by engaging our communities in our open spaces.”

"I am immensely proud that the first Little Free Library at a NYRP location was established at Westervelt Community Garden in my home district on the North Shore of Staten Island,” said **New York City Council Member Kamillah Hanks**. “The expansion of Little Free Libraries to other community gardens citywide is an incredible step toward encouraging literacy and increasing access to books, particularly in historically underserved communities. I look forward to seeing even more Little Free Libraries in our green spaces across Staten Island.”

"New York Restoration Project and the Little Free Library nonprofit organization have been committed to addressing systemic inequality by providing readers with access to social justice books,” said **New York City Council Member Nantasha Williams**. “I am excited to have one of these libraries at the Curtis ‘50 Cent’ Jackson Community Garden, located in my district. These libraries will be a valuable part of our community and will provide diverse reading materials for all readers and identities. I also want to thank Daryl Murphy for his fundraising campaign to bring awareness to these important social equity issues.”

"Community engagement is a core feature of Little Free Library's mission and we believe that everyone should have easy access to a book that excites them,” said **Little Free Library Executive Director Greig Metzger**. “We are proud to partner with NYRP and H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths as we work together to expand book access and inspire readers in New York City's green spaces.”

“It has been an honor to work with NYRP and the Little Free Library nonprofit organization. Little Free Libraries are an important tool to bring literacy to youth and adults,” said **Heather Butts, founder of the [H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths](#)** nonprofit. “With LFL in NYRP gardens, we can now organize reading programs, give students the opportunity to participate in the [New York City LFL Summer Art Contest](#), and host book giveaways across the city.”

“Since we installed the Little Free Libraries, we have seen the donated books disappear almost overnight! The demand speaks volumes for the need for books in the underserved communities where our NYRP gardens are located,” said **New York Restoration Project Director of Engagement & Programming Yolanda Rodriguez**. “Little Free Libraries help to mitigate literacy disparity by providing books for all to read, enjoy, and share.”

ABOUT NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

New York Restoration Project (NYRP) is a nonprofit organization driven by the conviction that all New Yorkers deserve beautiful, high-quality public space. Since its founding in 1995 by Bette Midler, **NYRP** has planted trees, renovated gardens, restored parks, and transformed open space for communities throughout New York City's five boroughs. As New York's only citywide nature conservancy, **NYRP** brings private resources to spaces that lack adequate municipal support, fortifying the City's aging infrastructure and creating a healthier environment for those who live in the most densely populated and least green neighborhoods.

Learn more about NYRP at nyrp.org

For more information, please contact:

Lauren Wilson and Erica Helms

lwilson@nyrp.org | ehelms@nyrp.org