



**NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT AND CITIZENS
Announce *FREE “Backpacks and Blockbusters” Event Series***

**NYRP WILL HOST FREE MOVIE NIGHTS WITH SELECT BACK TO
SCHOOL GIVEAWAYS IN THE BRONX, BROOKLYN, MANHATTAN,
AND STATEN ISLAND**



****PHOTOS HERE****

(Courtesy of New York Restoration Project)

For more information, contact:

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

NEW YORK, NY—Wednesday, August 2, 2023—With generous support from Citizens, [New York Restoration Project \(NYRP\)](#) is thrilled to announce “Backpacks and Blockbusters”, a **FREE** movie series throughout New York City from **August 11, 2023** through **October 13, 2023**. Select movie nights will also include **FREE** backpacks and school supply giveaways organized by local garden groups.

NYRP is a 28-year-old nonprofit nature conservancy founded by Bette Midler. The organization owns and operates 52 community gardens throughout all five boroughs, which includes supporting **FREE** public programming in these spaces.

Movies scheduled to be shown in NYRP gardens include *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, *The Wiz*, and *Friday the 13th* (which will screen on Friday, October 13) among others. Further details will be announced, and **all events are listed in the NYRP calendar at nyrp.org/free**

NYRP thanks Citizens for its generous support of our work to provide FREE programming in our community gardens throughout New York City.

New details may be announced closer to the event dates—go to nyrp.org/free for updates. As of August 2, 2023 dates, locations, movies, and giveaways include:

Date & Time	Borough & Neighborhood	Location & Address	Movie	Backpack Giveaway Y/N
Friday, August 11 Giveaway: 3:00 PM Movie: Sunset	Brooklyn, Cypress Hills	Essex Street Community Garden ; 3030 Fulton St., Brooklyn	The Super Mario Bros Movie (2023)	Y
Sunday, August 13 Giveaway: 4:00 PM Movie: Sunset	Staten Island, St. George	Westervelt Family and Community Garden ; 143 Westervelt Ave., Staten Island	The Super Mario Bros Movie (2023)	Y
Friday, August 25 Giveaway: 5:00 PM Movie: Sunset	The Bronx, Castle Hill	Glover Street Community Garden ; 1642 Castle Hill Ave., The Bronx	The Super Mario Bros Movie (2023)	Y
Saturday, August 26 Movie: Sunset	Manhattan, East Harlem	El Barrio Community Garden ; 415 East 117th St., Manhattan	The Wiz	N
Saturday, August 26 Giveaway: 5:00 PM	Manhattan, East Harlem	Home Depot Children's Garden ; 421 E. 117th St. Manhattan		Y
Saturday, September 2 Giveaway: 5:00 PM Movie: Sunset	Brooklyn, Brownsville	McLeod's Community Garden ; 130 Liberty Ave., Brooklyn	Black Panther: Wakanda Forever	Y
Friday, September 8 Movie: 7:00 PM	Brooklyn, Bushwick	Aberdeen Community Garden ; 91 Aberdeen St., Brooklyn	Black Panther: Wakanda Forever	N
Saturday, September 23 Movie: 7:00 PM	Manhattan, East Harlem	Herb Garden ; 176 East 111th St., Manhattan	Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse	N
Friday, October 13 Movie: 7:00 PM	The Bronx, Highbridge	Target Bronx Community Garden ; 1025 Anderson Ave., The Bronx	Friday the 13th	N

QUOTES

“New York Restoration Project is thrilled to partner with Citizens to bring ‘Backpacks and Blockbusters’ to our community gardens,” said **New York Restoration Project Executive Director Lynn Bodnar Kelly**. “The gardens are the best place to be on a summer night, and with Citizens’ support, we are proud to help students around the city prepare for the new school year.”

“Citizens takes pride in supporting the neighborhoods we serve, and we’re thankful for the terrific partnership we’ve built with NYRP to bring together this fun and creative movie night series for families across the city to enjoy,” said **Rebecca O’Connell, NYC Metro Region Executive, Citizens**. “Plus, young people in our community will receive backpacks and school supplies to help them thrive this coming schoolyear, which is what really makes this initiative special.”

ABOUT NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

New York Restoration Project (NYRP) is a non-profit organization driven by the conviction that all New Yorkers deserve access to high-quality public green space. Since our founding in 1995 by Bette Midler, NYRP has worked collaboratively with residents in communities across the five boroughs to renovate gardens, restore parks, plant trees, promote urban agriculture, and build partnerships that transform the city’s landscape. We are committed to creating a greener, more resilient city for all.

NYRP cares for 52 community gardens and 80 acres of parkland citywide. We support communities in activating these green spaces year-round through urban agriculture and public programs including live performances, food distributions, and other neighborhood-centered activities. Each year, we also refurbish and create over 20 entirely new gardens in some of the city’s least green neighborhoods at schools, community-based organizations, and senior centers. More information is available at nyrp.org or visit us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [TikTok](#), or [Facebook](#).

About Citizens Financial Group, Inc.

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****PHOTOS HERE****

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Learn more about NYRP at nyrp.org

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