

# Contacts & Partners Listing

This listing is provided to assist educators and constituents in connecting with their Bronx River neighbors for advice, assistance and services.

Our first listing is the Bronx River Alliance, publisher of this guide. Other listings are alphabetical.

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## Bronx River Alliance

**Contact:**

Anne-Marie Runfola, Education Coordinator

P: 718-430-1846

F: 718-430-4658

E: [anne-marie.runfola@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:anne-marie.runfola@parks.nyc.gov)

One Bronx River Parkway  
Bronx, NY 10462

[www.bronxriver.org](http://www.bronxriver.org)

**Mission/Description:**

The Bronx River Alliance is a partnership of more than 100 organizations and agencies dedicated to restoring the Bronx River and creating continuous public access along its length so that it can be an economic, environmental, recreational and educational resource for Bronx communities. Fundamentally, the Alliance aims to empower and revitalize some of New York City's most underserved neighborhoods through the process of river restoration, open space development and education.

The mission of the Education Program is to incorporate the Bronx River Watershed as a critical component of school and community education curricula through the promotion of the river and its watershed as an educational resource. The program works toward its mission with the guidance of the Bronx River Education Team, a committee of teachers, scientists and community educators who are actively involved with education programs along the river.

**Materials Available:**

- Bronx River Educator Guide (Grade: K - 12. Cost: Free, but donations for all products and services are gratefully accepted.)
- Bronx River Map and Guide (Grade: All levels. Cost: Free) - This colorful map describes sections of the Bronx River, which begins south of the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County and empties into the East River.
- Bronx River Walking Guide (Grade: All levels. Cost: Free) - This self guided brochure with colorful maps, points of interest, restrooms and public transit stations is an ideal educational tool for leading students along the Bronx section of the river. The walk is continuous from the Westchester/NYC border to the New York Botanical Garden. The southern portion of the walk clearly demonstrates the lack of green space in the south Bronx and the need for parks to be acquired and developed along these reaches.

**Programs Available:**

- Bronx River Stewards Volunteer Monitoring Program - Volunteers can adopt a section of the Bronx River and receive guidance in sound monitoring and restoration techniques. To become a Steward, volunteers must attend biannual training sessions, monitor the river on a weekly basis following strict protocols, and report data and activities on a regular basis.

- Bronx River Classroom (Grade: K - 12. Cost: Free) - The Bronx River Alliance provides a variety of professional development opportunities for educators to help them create Bronx River projects for their students. Educators may receive assistance for visits from the Bronx River Alliance staff or other resource experts, depending on the project.

Other Offerings:

- Equipment for Loan (Cost: Free) - Available to Education Team members and/or educators who commit to a Bronx River Classroom project for one semester or longer. Includes the EnviroScape Watershed Model, water quality testing kits, field microscopes, kick nets, Leaf Pack Kits, soil analysis kit.
- Reading Library (Cost: Free) - The Bronx River Alliance houses a small reading library in its office. Books and articles on the river, Bronx neighborhoods, history, water quality, environmental education, and more are available to be reviewed on site.
- Also available: Bronx River Slideshow presentations (or will lend slides and notes to educators); Educator Training Workshops; Bronx River Student Symposium; outdoor hands-on restoration projects and volunteer opportunities; educational canoeing and walking tours.

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

The Bronx River Alliance partnership model creates a structure for community residents and organizations to engage with public agencies and mainstream institutions to determine how this unique asset will develop. The Alliance provides these stakeholders with opportunities to contribute their perspectives and skills through four interconnected programs: Ecological Restoration and Management, Greenway, Outreach and Education. The program teams work together actively to restore the river's ecosystem, facilitate the creation of an eight-mile greenway, and engage and educate the public in the protection of these resources.

## Banana Kelly High School

Contact:

Nicola Vitale, Math/Science Coordinator  
Joshua Laub, Principal

P: 718-860-1242

E: [nicola.vitale@verizon.net](mailto:nicola.vitale@verizon.net)

995 Longwood Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Bronx, NY 10459

Mission/Description:

BKHS is a small, humane, and encouraging school where students interact with multiple caring adults throughout the course of the day. The school is staff-run, meaning decision-making and responsibility is shared amongst the teachers, administration and support staff. We strive to create rigorous, engaging curricula rooted in real issues, where students are introduced to experiences that stimulate inquiry, learning, cooperation, and critical thinking. We stress the idea of community and social justice and integrate these themes in daily instruction. The goal of BKHS is to prepare students to help themselves and their communities in their adult lives.

Materials Available:

Some instructional materials including river activities.

**Other Offerings:**

Experience planning and executing river field trips and activities.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

We have developed a 9<sup>th</sup> grade integrated math and science curriculum that centers on research activities at the Bronx River. As part of the class, students visit the river weekly, performing learning activities and fieldwork. Through weekly visits to various river sites students are able to carry out a variety of research activities, including: collection and classification of biotic and abiotic samples, population surveys and ecosystem mapping, macro and micro-invertebrate collection, extensive water quality monitoring and analysis, also river cleanup activities.

Based on their study of the Bronx River ecosystem, students are able to build their environmental and community awareness and strengthen their skills in the areas of scientific investigation and inquiry, while reinforcing the math and science concepts taught in the classroom.

We have worked closely with the Bronx River Alliance and Rocking the Boat, who have both been invaluable resources in the development of our curriculum. BKHS also serves as a member of the Alliance's Education Team.

## **Bronx Aerospace Academy High School**

**Contact:**

Tom Burkert, Science Department

E: [janarrah1@aol.com](mailto:janarrah1@aol.com)

800 E. Gunhill Road  
Bronx, NY 10467

[www.bronxaerospace.org](http://www.bronxaerospace.org)

**Mission/Description:**  
High School

**Offerings:**

Mr. Burkert is willing to speak with other educators about how to get students out of the classroom and onto the Bronx River.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

Mr. Burkert and students from Evander Childs High School (Bronx Aerospace Academy is housed within the Evander Childs High School building) have been Bronx River Stewards water quality monitors for the past two years. Mr. Burkert also serves on the Alliance's Education Team as co-chair, on the Educator Guide Committee, and as a board member.

## Bronx Academy High School

Contact: Bob Ward, Teacher

P: 718-378-5646

F: 718-860-5063

E: [robert.ward1@verizon.net](mailto:robert.ward1@verizon.net)

1440 Story Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10473

### Mission/Description:

The Bronx Academy is an alternative, transfer high school that offers instruction in all subjects that students need in order to earn a High School Diploma. Students at the Bronx River Academy are offered the opportunity to participate in neighborhood environmental monitoring organizations. These organizations do water testing and related environmental work in the estuary section of the Bronx River Watershed. When students participate in supervised programs that meet standards for a high school credit, then such a credit may be awarded.

### Materials Available:

Materials are provided to Bronx Academy students when they participate in after-school neighborhood-based environmental programs. In the past these programs have been at no cost to our students.

### Programs Available:

Students have participated as Drew Gardens Interns, and as Rocking the Boat Crew Members.

### Other Offerings:

Bronx Academy science classes are routinely enriched with environmental investigations through collaboration with the Council on the Environment of New York City (CENYC).

### Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

For years, Bronx Academy students have participated in environmental monitoring of the Bronx River at and near Drew Gardens. Bronx Academy is also a member of the Alliance's Education Team.

## Bronx River Art Center

Contact:

Ellen Schneiderman

P: 718-589-5819

F: 718-860-8303

E: [eschneiderman@bronxriverart.org](mailto:eschneiderman@bronxriverart.org)

1087 East Tremont Avenue  
PO BOX 5002  
Bronx, NY 10460

[www.bronxriverart.org](http://www.bronxriverart.org)

### Mission/Description:

The Bronx River Art Center (BRAC) is a non-profit multi-arts organization dedicated to providing art and environmental education to Bronx residents. BRAC offers studios for emerging and established artists, a gallery to present professional contemporary art, and a place for students, particularly Bronx youth, to develop their creative talents while learning about the natural resources in their community. The goal of BRAC's programs, art classes, studio spaces, exhibitions and special event (music and dance performances, poetry readings, lectures and film screenings) is to provide Bronx residents an opportunity to participate in, and experience, the arts in an urban setting.

**Programs Available:**

*Education Program* – Our FREE after school arts classes for youth ages 8 – 21, as well as evening and weekend art classes for adults, provide professional level art training in a range of media including painting, drawing, printmaking ceramics, darkroom and digital photography, stop animation, 3D game design, graphic design and narrative and documentary film making. Our program is supplemented with visits to museums, galleries, media centers, production studios, lectures and film screenings.

*Exhibition Program* – Yearly, BRAC presents six professionally curated exhibitions featuring emerging and mid-career, regional, national and international artists in our ground floor gallery space. In addition to our six shows, BRAC presents two students exhibitions that highlight artwork created by youth and adults in our education programs.

*Presenting program* – BRAC has offered the West Farms community culturally challenging performing arts productions through our “High/Low” series of contemporary music, theatre and dance. Our performances are culturally and aesthetically diverse, ranging from new, classical and electronic music through Modern, Jazz, Blues, Salsa and Latin Jazz; socially relevant theatre, contemporary and avant-garde dance and hip-hop poetry and “spoken word” presentations.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

- The Bronx River Art Center is an active member of the Bronx River Alliance.
- BRAC regularly attends Education and Greenway Team meetings.
- BRAC’s Executive Director, Gail Nathan, is a founding member of the Bronx River Alliance Board of Directors.
- In 1999, BRAC developed an interdisciplinary curriculum to teach students about the Bronx River through the arts. Several successive grants from NYSCA, NOAA and the Center for Arts Education supported growth of this programming over the past seven years. Through funding from Jose E. Serrano’s WCS-NOAA Lower Bronx River Partnership, BRAC is currently collaborating with Phipps Community Development Corporation to offer free classes to youth, adults and parent/child teams to engage in media arts projects that are interactive with informative environmental workshops about the Bronx River.

## The Butterfly Project

Contact:  
Jane Jackson,  
NYRP Director of Programming

P: 212-333-2552  
E: [jjackson@nyrp.org](mailto:jjackson@nyrp.org)

[www.wcs.org/butterflyproject](http://www.wcs.org/butterflyproject)

New York Restoration Project  
254 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001

**Mission/Description:**

The Butterfly Project seeks to increase appreciation and understanding of wildlife in New York City by involving local groups in conservation of native plants, butterflies, and other insects through the development of native plant butterfly gardens.

**Materials Available:**

We are a volunteer organization, and our main strength is in the connections one can make by joining. Our members are gardeners, teachers, scientists, community activists and lovers of NYC nature, many of whom work for NYC-based conservation groups. Further, we will provide curriculum for educators by Fall 2007 and

plant materials each spring for members (dependent on funding sources). We also have lists of recommended native vegetation to attract pollinating insects.

**Programs Available:**

We may be able to provide an educator or consultant to help guide conservation education initiatives.

Through networking and our annual Native Plant Share, we help participants create and enhance butterfly gardens throughout the City, while engaging community members in stewardship activities.

**Other Offerings:**

See our website for free information and pictures.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

Many of the green spaces we work with are located near the Bronx River or within the Bronx River watershed, and many of the organizers and participants are Bronx River Alliance partners.

## City of New York Parks & Recreation Urban Park Rangers

**Contact:**

Sara Hobel, Director

1234 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY 10029

P: 212-360-2774

F: 212-360-2794

E: [rangers@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:rangers@parks.nyc.gov)

[www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks)

**Mission/Description:**

Link New Yorkers to the natural world. Teach them to care for the environment and their parks. Defend the parks and their wild residents. Restore New York's natural heritage. For more information call 311 (or 212-NEW-YORK outside of NYC) and ask for the Urban Park Rangers. Or, visit the website, [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks).

**Programs Available:**

*The Natural Classroom* (\$100)

This exciting series of hands-on programs provide unforgettable experiences for students. These programs help students meet Department of Education performance standards and are available through any of New York City's nature centers, which are staffed by Urban Park Rangers. There are activities for every season, every educator, and every student. Choose a program: Investigate a salt marsh, explore a piece of history, or learn about New York City's extraordinary wildlife. At any time of year, you and your students can take advantage of the Natural Classroom.

*Explorer Programs* (Free)

Every weekend in all five boroughs there is an Explorer Program in a park near you. Families, adults and seniors are welcome at these evening and weekend programs. These programs help you experience New York City's 28,000 acres of parkland as you never have before and discover areas you never knew existed. You will forget you are in the city entirely! Programs last about an hour and a half unless otherwise specified, and are guaranteed to bring out the explorer in everyone.

*Ranger Conservation Corps (Free)*

The Ranger Conservation Corps (RCC) is an urban environmental internship for high school students. RCC participants work on environmental restoration in Forever Wild sites located in our flagship parks. There are two RCC sessions each year (fall and spring), and each session lasts a total of 10 weeks. The program is offered every school day afternoon from 4 – 6pm. Students attend one day a week. There are openings for 900 students per year. RCC students receive community service hours, and the experience looks great on a college application. They also go on exciting field trips, such as a sail on the sloop Clearwater.

*Junior Rangers (\$50/week)*

The Junior Ranger program is open to children ages 8 – 11. It runs from the beginning of July to mid-August, in locations in the Bronx, northern Manhattan, and Brooklyn. Participants learn such skills as fishing, canoeing, orienteering, team-building, restoring trails, and building wildlife habitats.

## Other Offerings:

Nature Centers in Crotona, Pelham Bay, and Van Cortlandt Parks.

## Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

Urban Park Rangers (UPR) have led guided canoe tours of the Bronx River, and they helped make the annual Bronx River Flotilla possible. The Rangers have been involved in other Bronx River events as well, including the Bronx River Bio Blitz. The Alliance and the Rangers are working together to identify future programming opportunities for educators and students in the watershed.

## Clearpool Education Center

## Contact:

Heather Boylston, Director of Operations  
 Chrissy Word, Director of Development, Educator  
 Stephanie Bergman, Director of Education

P: 845-225-8226 (x103)

F: 845-225-6337

E: [adminassit@clearpool.org](mailto:adminassit@clearpool.org)

[www.clearpool.org](http://www.clearpool.org)

33 Clearpool Road  
 Carmel, NY 10512

## Mission/Description:

Clearpool is a year-round, outdoor education center set on 350-acres of protected woodlands in the Croton Watershed. We specialize in environmental sciences and team building. At the Clearpool Education Center, we believe that our job is to provide a learning environment that supports the academic, physical and emotional growth of our students. In both our day and residential programs, our goal is to foster self confident, independent thinkers who are motivated to collaborate with others as they explore the world around them.

## Materials Available:

Journals, class materials, use of binoculars, nets, etc. are included in programming.

## Programs Available:

(Call for Pricing)

Environmental Sciences, Plant and Garden Sciences, Birds and Mammals of the Northeast, Social Studies, Writing and Drawing, Human Body, Earth Science, Evening Programs, Learning Through Games.

Adventure Programming offerings include teambuilding, ropes courses orienteering and camping.

In-depth workshops include NYS Wildlife ecology, stream ecology and watershed research, plus Project Feederwatch (in conjunction with Cornell University).

Cost: Lodging - \$65/day per person  
 Instruction/Facilitation - \$200/day per facilitator (one facilitator for every 15 students)

**Other Offerings:**

Professional Development for Educators, Project Wild, several Red Cross Certification Courses, and more.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

The majority of our students come from schools located in the Bronx. It is our interest to educate students as to the importance of the Bronx River Watershed and the natural resources of the city as it relates to the Croton Watershed where their drinking water comes from, and the natural resources of New York State.

Chrissy Word is the co-chair and an active member of the Alliance's Education Team.

## **Council on the Environment of New York City**

**Contact:**

Mike Zamm, Director of Environmental  
 Education

P: 212-788-7932

F: 212-788-7913

E: [cenyc-50@hotmail.com](mailto:cenyc-50@hotmail.com)

51 Chambers Street, Room 228  
 New York, NY 10007

[www.cenyc.org](http://www.cenyc.org)

**Mission/Description:**

The Council on the Environment of New York City (CENYC) is a privately funded citizens' organization in the Office of the Mayor. CENYC promotes environmental awareness among New Yorkers and develops solutions to environmental problems. The Training Student Organizers (TSO) program trains high school and intermediate school youth to organize and participate in environmental improvement projects in their neighborhoods, schools and homes. Students learn about environmental issues, hone academic skills, deliver services and develop confidence as citizens capable of constructive action.

**Materials Available:**

Training Student Organizers Curriculum (cost: \$5.00)  
 Urban Environmental Education (cost: \$8.00)  
 Energy and Energy Conservation Education, Service & Action (cost: \$3.00)  
 Greenpoint/Williamsburg Environmental Curriculum (FREE)  
 Infusion of Environmental Concepts into High School Curriculum (cost: \$10.00)  
 Environmental Education Introduction Units (cost: \$1.50 each or \$4.00 for 3)  
 NY State Regents Chemistry: An Environmental Infusion Approach (cost: \$10.00)

**Programs Available:**

Training Student Organizers Program - Staff visits schools on a weekly basis to teach about environmental issues and motivate 2-3 classes to do environmental improvement projects. No direct cost to schools, but money must be raised from private or government sources to support the work.

**Other Offerings:**

Workshops for teachers and students on organizing environmental improvement projects. Costs range from \$75 for 1 hour to \$450 for a whole day (ability to pay considered).

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

In collaboration with CENYC over the past five years, students from DeWitt Clinton and Bronx Regional High Schools and Bronx Satellite Academy have planted over 2,000 native trees and shrubs along the Bronx River, removed thousands of invasive plants and picked up hundreds of pounds of litter. The Alliance has set up all these field projects, provided materials and come to the classrooms to orient the students. CENYC is also a member of the Alliance's Education Team.

## Crotona Park Nature Center

Contact:  
Amy Landau, Nature Center Coordinator

P: 718-378-2061  
F: call before faxing  
E: [amy.landau@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:amy.landau@parks.nyc.gov)

c/o Steven Cain  
1 Bronx River Parkway  
Bronx, NY 10462

[www.parks.nyc.gov](http://www.parks.nyc.gov)

### Mission/Description:

The Crotona Park Nature Center (CPNC) is a small environmental center located on the shore of Indian Lake in beautiful 127-acre Crotona Park. We serve visitors to the park and provide school, after-school, camp, and public programs for all ages. The mission of the Crotona Park Nature Center is to increase environmental knowledge and stewardship among park users, to increase usage of the park, and to serve the many facets of our community – educational institutions, service organizations and agencies, volunteers, and residents of all ages.

Visitors of all ages are always welcome to visit the Crotona Park Nature Center to view our exhibits and partake in our activities. Structured public programs are offered on two Saturdays of each month beginning in the spring. The Nature Center is open seasonally 10:30am – 4:30pm. All programs are free. Donations for all materials and services are gratefully accepted. Please call to confirm hours.

### Programs Available:

Lake Ecology, Tree, Leaf & Seed Programs, Fishing, Botany Tours, Park Clean-up/Community Service, Water Quality & Testing, Groundwater, Watersheds in Our World. Please call ahead to arrange your visit.

### Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

The Alliance and CPNC cross-promote events and have collaborated on activities. In addition, the CPNC coordinator is a member of the Alliance's Education Team.

## Friends of Brook Park

Contact:  
Harry J. Bubbins

P: 646-206-5288  
E: [information@friendsofbrookpark.org](mailto:information@friendsofbrookpark.org)

PO Box 801  
Mott Haven Station  
Bronx, NY 10454

[www.friendsofbrookpark.org](http://www.friendsofbrookpark.org)

### Mission/Description:

Friends of Brook Park is a coalition of residents, parents, educators, workers, home and business owners, and community based organizations in the South Bronx dedicated to revitalizing and providing stewardship to important and unique, open, green spaces in the South Bronx, and you can be involved! Our Community Supported Agriculture, Farmer's Market and community gardening project provides organic vegetables to the community. We cultivate the Earth and introduce youth and adults to indigenous teachings. We host

Labyrinth walks, art and dance workshops and a mentoring program. Our waterfront initiatives include park design and advocacy, shore-clean ups, bike tours and introductory canoe and kayak paddling and more adventurous Eco Tours!

**Materials Available:**

Gardening Supplies, Art Supplies, Canoes, Tipi, Bikes

**Programs Available:**

Community gardening projects, volunteer and intern opportunities, canoe paddling excursions, labyrinth walks, Mexica Danza performances, hula hoop classes and dance workshops, planting; drawing; journal writing; community service; labyrinth walking; banner making; insect collecting; tree identification; architecture and design; measuring; Native American cultural workshops; free play...and more!

**Other Offerings:**

Environmental justice advocacy and activism, health and nutrition services, raw food classes.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

Supporting waterfront and environmental efforts and linkages with the Bronx River communities by advocating access and leading programs on the East and Harlem Rivers and the Bronx Canal.

## Friends of the Zoo / Bronx Zoo Volunteers

**Contact:**

Leslie Schneider, Coordinator of Volunteers

P: 718-220-5141

F: 718-733-2921

E: [lschneider@wcs.org](mailto:lschneider@wcs.org)

**Education Department**

2300 Southern Boulevard

Bronx, NY 10460

[www.bronxzoo.com](http://www.bronxzoo.com)

**Mission/Description:**

The Friends of the Zoo is a volunteer unit of the Education Department of the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Society, a non-profit membership corporation founded in 1895. The Society's purposes in environmental education, conservation and research are served by the Bronx Zoo, The New York Aquarium, the Central Park Zoo, the Prospect Park Zoo, the Queens Zoo, and the International Division of the Wildlife Conservation Society. The Society seeks aid for its staff and the fulfillment of its programs from qualified volunteers.

The Friends of the Zoo are a unique cadre of individuals trained by the Society and dedicated to the furtherance of its goals and programs through volunteer service to the Society.

**Programs Available:**

Free guided tours for adults and family groups of the admission free Mitsubishi Riverwalk exhibit. This exhibit is located at the Bronx River entrance of the Bronx Zoo and can be accessed on foot at no admission cost. Reservations required for groups. Call 718-220-5141.

**Other Offerings:**

The Friends of the Zoo offer guided tours of all the exhibits of the Bronx Zoo for all ages. For more information call 718-220-5141 or visit the website [www.bronxzoo.com](http://www.bronxzoo.com) - click on Education, then click on Tour the Bronx Zoo!

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

Participation in the Bronx River Alliance's Golden Ball event and volunteer water monitoring program.

## **Mosholu Preservation Corporation**

**Contact:**

Dart Westphal, Director

P: 718-324-4461

F: 718-324-2917

E: [dwestphal@mpcbronx.org](mailto:dwestphal@mpcbronx.org)

3400 Reservoir Oval  
Bronx, NY 10467

[www.mpcbronx.org](http://www.mpcbronx.org)

**Mission/Description:**

A comprehensive community development organization involved in housing, economic development and community development. Publishes the Norwood News and manages the Gun Hill Business Improvement District. A support corporation of the Montifiore Medical Center.

**Materials Available:**

*Norwood News* (free)

**Programs Available:**

Jerome/Gun Hill Business Improvement District. Conference Room available for meetings of up to 30. Includes AV equipment and computer lab.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

Works with high school students and others in the Fort Knox and Bronx River Forest areas. Dart Westphal is Chair of the Bronx River Alliance board and a founding board member.

## **Neighborhood Initiatives Development Program (NIDC)**

**Contact:**

Rob Bennaton

P: 718-231-9800x16

F: 718-231-9898

E: [robbennaton@yahoo.com](mailto:robbennaton@yahoo.com)

2523 Olinville Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10467

[www.nidcny.org](http://www.nidcny.org)

**Mission/Description:**

Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation is a not-for-profit community based organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Community District 11.

NIDC provides a broad range of services including youth programming, tenant and landlord housing assistance, environmental education and restoration, health promotion, the Allerton Neighborhood Food Pantry, job readiness, immigrant services (ESL), public safety and community events.

Programs Available:

- Youth C.A.N. afterschool program at PS 96
- NIDC Summer Enrichment Group
- Environmental education, recreation and restoration
- Tenant/landlord housing assistance
- Immigrant services (ESL)
- Job readiness
- Allerton Neighborhood Food Pantry

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

NIDC works collaboratively with the Bronx River Alliance in educating the public about this vital natural resource in their backyard, volunteer restoration activities, recreational events and environmental testing.

## New York Botanical Garden

Contact:

Jamie Boyer, Manager of Professional Development

P: 718-817-8177

F: 718-817-8178

E: [jboyer@nybg.org](mailto:jboyer@nybg.org)

Bronx River Parkway East @ Fordham Road  
Bronx, NY 10458

[www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

Mission/Description:

The New York Botanical Garden is an advocate for the plant kingdom. The Garden pursues its mission through its role as a museum of living plant collections arranged in gardens and landscapes across its National Historic Landmark site; through its comprehensive education programs in horticulture and plant science; and through the wide-ranging research programs of The International Plant Science Center.

Materials Available:

Simple water monitoring equipment is given in teacher workshops. Visit [http://www.nybg.org/chil\\_edu/teachersprograms.html](http://www.nybg.org/chil_edu/teachersprograms.html) for more information

Programs Available:

Many programs for teachers and children available. Visit [http://www.nybg.org/chil\\_edu/](http://www.nybg.org/chil_edu/) Access to the Garden grounds, 50-acre forest and Bronx River is free to NYC schools. Call 718.817.8181 to register a class.

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

Member of the Alliance's Education Team; NYBG Ecology Group monitors the river.

## New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Contact:  
Kim Estes-Fradis, Director of Education

P: 718 595-3506  
F: 718 595-3477  
E: [kestes-fradis@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:kestes-fradis@dep.nyc.gov)

59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Flushing, NY 11373

[www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep)

### Mission/Description:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) protects the City's environmental health, welfare and natural resources. DEP operates, monitors and protects the City's water supply, which provides over one billion gallons of quality drinking water daily, serving over half the population of New York State. In addition to a system of dams, reservoirs, aqueducts, and water tunnels, DEP maintains approximately 6,600 miles of water mains which distribute water through the five boroughs, and approximately 6,600 miles of sewers which collect and transport waste and storm water for treatment at the City's 14 wastewater treatment facilities. DEP also carries out federal Clean Water Act rules and regulations, handles hazardous materials emergencies and toxic site remediation and removal, enforces the City air and noise codes, bills and collects on almost one million water and sewer accounts and manages citywide water conservation programs.

### Materials Available:

The following list contains a sample of DEP's free publications for students and teachers. To receive copies, including a Teacher's Packet, class-sets, and information about other publications, please contact [educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov).

#### *Magic School Bus at the Waterworks, Special New York City Edition:*

This is a popular Scholastic book that examines the New York City water supply system with Ms. Frizzle. The book and Teacher's Guide are available exclusively through DEP.

#### *Drip Net:*

This is a lively nine-minute videotape that teaches youth and adults about the importance of water conservation. New York City Junior Drip Patrol badges are also provided.

#### *New York Water Saver's Workbook:*

This workbook is filled with water-related activities for elementary school children.

#### *New York City's Wastewater Treatment System:*

This is a detailed exploration of where our water goes after it is used.

The following Fact Sheets are also available:

- *Fire Hydrants:* Describing their proper use and safety issues.
- *Celebrating New York City's Clean Drinking Water:* Featuring the growth and scope of the City's extraordinary water supply system.
- *Watershed Maps:* Follow the flow of New York City's drinking water from the watersheds through aqueducts and tunnels into NYC.
- Great Books and Websites for Children and Adults
- *Water Supply Activities:* Classroom lessons to help students understand the importance of water and watersheds in their lives.

Visit the website, [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep) for the most up-to-date information about the City's environmental protection programs.

**Programs Available:**

DEP's free environmental education resources include professional development workshops for educators and administrators; classroom visits; assembly presentations; printed materials; curriculum development, science fair and research project assistance; and special events such as the annual Water Conservation Art and Poetry Contest and performances of *City that Drinks the Mountain Sky*. DEP's resources relate to drinking water and harbor water issues, water conservation, sound and noise, and air quality. Resources are inquiry-based and reflect a variety of learning styles. They compliment New York City Performance Standards in math, science, applied learning and language arts as well as standards in art and social studies.

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

In 2003, the DEP conducted the 94th annual New York Harbor Survey, which was originally initiated in 1909. This survey conducted water quality analyses at 34 regularly sampled sites. In developing and maintaining this long-term dataset, DEP monitors variation and trends in the region's water quality, measuring the physical, biochemical, and pathogenic condition of surface and bottom waters. Biochemical measurements are taken to determine the ecological health of the harbor and its suitability for recreation and commercial uses. These include: the level of dissolved oxygen; the presence and possible impact of nutrients; levels of chlorophyll-a (a cell component measured as a proxy for algae); and the presence of bacteria associated with human pathogens present in raw sewage. Physical parameters collected at each sampling point include: water clarity (since visibility may be influenced by algae growth or suspended solids); total suspended solids; tidal flow and current condition, as well as temperature, pH and salinity.

The DEP participates on the Bronx River Ecology and Education Teams.

## **New York City Soil and Water Conservation District (NYCSWCD)**

**Contact:**

Aubrey McMahon, Stewardship Program Director  
Shino Tanikawa, District Manager

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F: 212-965-1859

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121 Sixth Avenue, Suite 501  
New York, NY 10013

[www.nycswcd.net](http://www.nycswcd.net)

**Mission/Description:**

The New York City Soil and Water Conservation District assists New Yorkers and decision-makers in making wise use of the City's soil, water and other related resources. The District works to conserve, preserve, and enhance natural resources, improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and sediment damage, abate non-point source pollution, and protect public lands.

**Materials Available:**

All programs and materials are free to teachers:

*Wonderful Watersheds* Curriculum Guide, Water Quality Reference Guide: For Students, Teachers and Stewards, *Envirothon* student training materials.

**Programs Available:**

*Wonderful Watersheds Program*: Trains K-5 teachers on materials that integrate natural resources and the concepts of watersheds into a comprehensive curriculum. The curriculum includes activities on trees, forests, water and surveys of the local environment that are arranged into pre-trip, field trip, and post-trip segments. Each lesson plan is correlated to the New York State Standards so that teachers can easily incorporate watershed lessons into their curriculum.

*Water and Soil Monitoring Training:* Provides intermediate and high school teachers with background information, hands-on equipment experience, and technical support for starting a water or soil monitoring program with their students. Following a workshop, District staff work with teachers to design monitoring programs that best fit their needs.

*New York City Envirothon:* The *Envirothon* is a national competition for students interested in environmental studies. Students work in teams of five and are tested in the following categories: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a current event category that changes every year. The District provides teachers and students with trainings and resources in preparing for the *New York City Envirothon*. Each year, the District organizes the *New York City Envirothon* and works with groups that proceed to the *New York State Envirothon*.

*Harlem Hudson Program:* Works with teachers, students, and their families to use the Hudson River as a theme to address ecology, history, and community. The District provides teacher trainings on the program and the curriculum. District educators provide field support by conducting in-class education with teachers and students to explore the ecology and history of the Hudson River within their community. After the classroom visits, a field trip is taken to Riverbank State Park where students have an opportunity to assess water quality and survey the river and park.

#### Other Offerings:

- Information on the NYC Soil Reconnaissance Survey and the Gateway National Recreation Area Survey. Continuous water quality data-sets collected from the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin.
- NYC Volunteer Monitoring Listserv: Provides a network for teachers, students and stewards to discuss monitoring projects, programs, upcoming events, funding opportunities, and more. Sign up to the NYC Volunteer Monitoring Listserv by sending a message to: [tb-nycswcd-volunteermonitor-request@vs50.server4me.com](mailto:tb-nycswcd-volunteermonitor-request@vs50.server4me.com) with the word SUBSCRIBE in the body of the message and SUB ME in the subject line.

#### Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

The New York City Soil and Water Conservation District supports the programs and initiatives of the Bronx River Alliance. The NYCSWCD participates on the Bronx River Ecology and Education Teams.

## **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Region 2**

#### Contact:

Betsy Ukeritis, Environmental Educator II

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47-40 21st Street

Long Island City, NY 11101

[www.dec.ny.us](http://www.dec.ny.us)

#### Mission/Description:

NYSDEC's mission is to conserve, improve, and protect the state's natural resources and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the State and their overall economic and social well being.

**Materials Available:**

Contact Environmental Educator for more information.

**Programs Available:**

The Region 2 Education Program provides educators with hands-on professional development training to bring nature into the classroom and offers limited in-class presentations.

- Staff provides programming to scout groups, afterschool programs and school classes on the following topics: Mammals of NYS (free), What is NYSDEC? (free), Environmental Conservation Officers: Who are they and What They Do (free), Activities from Project WET/WILD/PLT (free).
- Professional Development for Educators includes: Project WET – Water education (\$5), Project WILD – Science and civics (\$5), Project Learning Tree (PLT) – Forestry education (\$10).
- Getting Started in Fishing - program consists of one or two in-class lessons covering fish anatomy and adaptations, and marine/aquatic food webs. These classes usually take place in the fall and winter. In the spring, we take the students on a fishing trip to a local water body. Poles provided by NYSDEC (free). Contact NYSDEC Biologist, 718-482-4022.

**Other Offerings:**

Career Fair/Day talks, information table for festivals and events (Earth Day, etc.).

**Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:**

Participates in Bronx River Alliance's Education Team, and plans events for educators and children along the Bronx River in conjunction with the Education Team.

## **New York Restoration Project (NYRP)**

**Contact:**

Jane Jackson, Director of Programming

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254 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001

[www.nyrp.org](http://www.nyrp.org)

**Mission/Description:**

To reclaim, restore, and develop neglected parks, community gardens and waterfront areas of New York City, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, and to conduct programs that bring people into those spaces and help instill a sense of stewardship in them.

**Materials Available:**

- EnviroScape Watershed Model (available for loan at no cost)
- Curriculum materials (no cost)
- Garden tools and materials (no cost)

**Programs Available:**

Environmental and gardening education, biking, boat building, competitive rowing, monthly field walks, festivals, summer garden film series, and cultural programs (all free).

**Other Offerings:** Free garden design consultation, volunteers, and community outreach.

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:  
 NYRP works with the Bronx River Alliance to conduct summer canoe trips with Casita Maria Settlement House on the Bronx River and participates in developing education programs. NYRP has also participated in Bronx River ecosystem restoration. NYRP is also a member of the Alliance's Education Team.

## **Phipps Community Development Corporation Greening Program**

Contact: Jennifer Plewka,  
 Director of Environmental Education

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 E: [jplewka@phippsony.org](mailto:jplewka@phippsony.org)

1030 E. 178th Street  
 Bronx, NY 10460

[www.phippsony.org](http://www.phippsony.org)

### Mission/Description:

Our aim is to increase community use and educational opportunities of Drew Gardens, while contributing to habitat protection and restoration. To achieve this goal, we offer student internships, hold workshops for community members, and provide hands-on environmental education programs for youths. The Phipps Community Development Corporation Greening Program offers High School Internships in which students receive a school credit during the school year and are offered a paid internship during the summer. The Greening Program has several types of internships: 1) Greening Program Assistant interns participate in workshops with guest teachers in fields such as Urban Forestry, Aquatic Biology, Medicinal and Edible Uses of Wild Herbs, Composting, and Horticulture Basics. These workshops are meant to give students basic knowledge to build on and use during their internship. Greening Program Assistants may also help monitor water quality through the Bronx River Stewards Program, since the river runs along the garden. 2) In conjunction with the Bronx River Art Center, Eco-Media interns are involved in creating documentaries of local places and issues with photos and video interviews. 3) The West Farmers Market held at Drew Gardens each week is also offering an internship opportunity. The Greening Program offers community workshops such as Basic Gardening, Composting, Herbal Gardening, Knowing the Benefits of Community Supported Agriculture, and Watershed Physics. Community workshops occur throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Topics are chosen according to expressed interests.

### Materials available for use while participating in activities in Drew Gardens:

- Gardening tools such as pruning shears, spades, gloves, rakes, and hoes for the garden beds.
- Seeds and seedlings of a variety of trees, shrubs, and herbs to plant in the Urban Forest on site and vegetable and herb seeds and seedlings to plant in the student garden beds.
- Complete water quality monitoring kit on loan from the Bronx River Alliance including hip waders. The Bronx River Alliance supplies refills and replacement parts for the kits.
- Seine net, dip nets, and buckets.

### Programs Available:

- Gardening Workshops.
- Planting Workshops of Native trees, shrubs, and herbs.
- Invasive Plant Removal Workshops.
- Aquatic Biology.
- Wild Edible Herbs.

### Other Offerings:

- Collaborative work with the Bronx River Alliance, Bronx River Art Center and other local organizations. In addition to the water quality monitoring, our organizations recruit at local high schools together and invite students to each other's activities.
- Drew Gardens has a flourishing Butterfly Garden, which is part of the Butterfly Project; we work with a variety of groups to begin, maintain, and expand Butterfly Gardens throughout our Bronx River Watershed. Some of these groups are the Bronx Zoo, the Botanical Garden, and a variety of others.
- We participate in the Bronx Green-Up program in which professionals from the New York Botanical Garden come to our site to conduct gardening, composting, and horticulture workshops. We also attend workshops at their site. Drew Gardens composting facility has been certified by Bronx Green-Up.

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to take students to Drew Gardens frequently, since it is an outdoor classroom located on the west side of the Bronx River. The river is easily accessible from the edge. Students perform bi-weekly water quality monitoring activities at our site alternating the responsibilities with other organizations. The data from the water quality monitoring is submitted to the Bronx River Alliance and made accessible to the public. The Bronx River Conservation Crew visits our site and has made recommendations for continuing restoration efforts along the river's edge and in the urban forest within Drew Gardens. With the help of the Alliance, native trees, shrubs, herbs, and vines will be planted and invasive plants and trees will be removed to increase the likelihood of the native species' success. The Bronx River Alliance conducts workshops jointly with the Greening Program staff for students and the public to increase their understanding of the ecology of the Bronx River and its watershed. An emphasis will be made on the science of Restoration Ecology. Additionally, Drew Gardens is an annual clean-up site for the Annual Bronx River Golden Ball Festival, and the site is used by the Alliance for a variety of events. We participate on the Bronx River Alliance Education Team, and our students present some of their work in the annual Bronx River Student Symposium.

## The POINT Community Development Corporation

Contact:

Maria Torres, President & COO

Kellie Terry-Sepulveda, Exec. Mng. Director

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940 Garrison Avenue

Bronx, NY 1047419

[www.thepoint.org](http://www.thepoint.org)

Mission/Description:

The Point is a non-profit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point Community. Our mission is to encourage the arts, local enterprise, responsible ecology, and self-investment in the Hunts Point Community.

Programs Available: Environmental stewardship, photography, circus arts, visual arts, music, radio, dance and theatre shows. Please see our website for a complete and current schedule.

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance: The POINT has participated in the annual Amazing Bronx River Flotilla and the Bronx River Golden Ball Festival, and has planned events, as well as conducted activities, at Hunts Point Riverside Park.

## Rocking the Boat, Inc.

### Contact:

Tony Archino, Co-director, On-Water Program  
& Bronx River Restoration Educator  
Samantha Heyman, Co-director, On-Water  
Program & Maritime Skills Educator

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E: [tony@rockingtheboat.org](mailto:tony@rockingtheboat.org)

[sam@rockingtheboat.org](mailto:sam@rockingtheboat.org)

[www.rockingtheboat.org](http://www.rockingtheboat.org)

60 East 174<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, NY 10452

### Mission/Description:

Rocking the Boat is a boatbuilding and on-water education program based out of the southwest Bronx, New York City. Through a hands-on alternative approach to education and youth development, Rocking the Boat addresses the need for inner city youth to achieve practical and tangible goals, relevant to both everyday life and future aspirations. This process allows high school students to acquire practical, academic, and social skills. Rocking the Boat runs programming in both boatbuilding and environmental science, coordinating three after school and summer programs in each discipline annually, working directly with over 150 students, all of whom receive high school credit. During the process of building a traditional wooden boat, Rocking the Boat students create something not only beautiful, but also practical in their own lives, bridging urban and natural life within their neighborhoods. This approach is mirrored in the on-water education program through direct focus on Bronx River habitat monitoring and restoration and through maritime skills programming. Both programs allow students opportunities to gain a deeper awareness of their own abilities and possibilities in the natural and urban world.

### Materials Available:

Water/soil monitoring equipment is available at no cost. A fleet of wooden rowing and sailing boats, the tools needed to build them, water monitoring equipment, and navigational tools. We do not currently provide educational reference materials.

### Programs Available:

- Traditional Wooden Boatbuilding Out-of-School Program: After school and summer program where 16 students build a traditional wooden boat from scratch.
- On-Water Education: The On-Water Education Program encompasses two programs that serve over 700 young people annually in order to increase community use, access, and understanding of the Bronx River.
- On-Water Program and the Community On-Water Program: Based out of their own riverside field site, the programs are focused on enabling local youth to develop the skills needed to use traditional wooden boats to explore and restore the Bronx and East Rivers. Importantly, the activities employ the Rocking the Boat boats powerfully and directly reinforcing the organization's message that their achievement is meaningful and valuable.

### Other Offerings:

- Friday afternoon community rowing and fishing programs.
- Social worker led life skills programming.
- CPR/First Aid programs.
- Swimming education.
- Teacher training in boatbuilding and on-water education.
- Professional development in group dynamics and teambuilding.

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

- Bronx River Stewards for two sites.
- Participation in diadromous fish reintroduction program.
- Habitat restoration at various Bronx River sites.
- Participation in Bronx River Flotilla and Golden Ball events.
- Participation in Bronx River Assemblies and River Monitoring Trainings.
- Representation on Education and Ecology Teams and on the Alliance board.

## Sustainable South Bronx

Contact:

Majora Carter, Executive Director  
Annette Williams, Project Coordinator

P: 718-617-4668

F: 718-617-5228

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890 Garrison Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10474

[www.ssbx.org](http://www.ssbx.org)

Mission/Description:

A community organization dedicated to the implementation of sustainable development projects for the South Bronx that are informed by the needs of the community\* and the values of Environmental Justice.

\*Sustainable development improves our standard of living today, while preserving our environment and natural resources for future generations.

Programs Available:

Bronx Ecological Stewardship Training Program (B.E.S.T.)

No cost – scholarship based. Three 10–week sessions per year; 35 hours/week: Monday and Friday- 8:30 – 4:30; Tuesday through Thursday- 7:30 – 3:30 with some Saturdays for hands-on training and special events. Three month unlimited MetroCard, Uniform provided, \$5 lunch stipend.

This program is designed to train individuals in ecological restoration. The Bronx River becomes the hands-on classroom, where the team is trained by doing the work to restore the Bronx River's natural habitat. Trainees learn the science and techniques of salt marsh restoration, streambed stabilization plant identification, and nursery management. Training for the safe use of small tools is provided and other skills training is offered.

Our holistic approach also includes valuable life skills in time management, financial management, resume writing and Environmental Justice. Trainees also obtain certification in First Aid and CPR, HAZMAT, OSHA, entry level tree climber and NYC Tree Pruner with additional classes from the New York Botanical Garden, USDA, Lehman College on invertebrates, vertebrates, tidal zones, water quality testing and soil testing.

Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

The Bronx River becomes the hands-on training, outdoor classroom from streambank restoration and stabilization, invasive removal, plantings, litter removal, and so much more for the B.E.S.T. training program. The Bronx River Conservation Crew and staff do most of the training. Since the beginning of the program, we have had ten of the B.E.S.T. graduates become crewmembers at the Alliance. SSBx is active on the Bronx River Greenway Team.

## United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Contact:  
Sara Kron, Resource Conservationist

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F: 845-883-7184  
E: [sara.kron@ny.usda.gov](mailto:sara.kron@ny.usda.gov)

652 Route 299  
Suite #202  
Highland, NY 12528

[www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov)

### Mission/Description:

NRCS technical experts provide one on one assistance to private landowners and local governmental units in all aspects of natural resource protection including soil erosion control, wetland restoration, grazing management, wildlife habitat restoration, water quality improvement, livestock manure management, nutrient management, and flood protection. NRCS soils experts map and classify soils. Within New York City, NRCS assists local communities and groups with environmental problems. Activities include assisting in organizing groups, education, and acting as a facilitator.

### Materials Available:

Publications and posters.

Web based information and educational materials on soils, plants, and various conservation practices.

### Programs Available:

Site specific and individually developed educational programs related to wise land use including, but not limited to soils, water quality, erosion control, watershed management, the water cycle, and water control. Provide training in both the classroom and field settings. Tools include both easy to make items and purchased items like the soil quality kit.

### Other Offerings:

Earth Team Volunteer Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Wildlife Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Small Watershed Program.

### Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

Founding member and initial funder of the Bronx River Working Group, the predecessor of the Bronx River Alliance. Active on the Alliance's Education and Ecology Teams and instructs at Alliance workshops for educators. NRCS is currently conducting a high intensity soil survey of the Bronx River Watershed within the Bronx. In New York City, NRCS does not work on projects outside of a partnership situation.

## Wave Hill

Contact:  
Courtney White, Director of Education

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F: 718-884-0096  
E: [courtneyw@wavehill.org](mailto:courtneyw@wavehill.org)

675 West 252<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Bronx, NY 10471

[www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org)

### Mission/Description:

A non-profit cultural institution located on 28 acres in the northwest Bronx, Wave Hill is dedicated to exploring and demonstrating the dynamic interaction between people and the natural world. Wave Hill maintains award-winning gardens and greenhouses; manages an urban woodland; provides environmental education for children, teachers and more than 110,000 visitors annually; offers arts activities for children that strengthen environmental awareness; and presents exhibitions, concerts, lectures and workshops that examine our response to nature.

### Materials Available:

Wave Hill's gift shop offers a variety of items, including books, guides and some educational materials. Costs vary.

### Programs Available:

Serving more than 10,000 students and teachers each year, Wave Hill's free and low-cost education programs target ethnically and economically diverse Bronx and upper Manhattan communities that have a substantial, demonstrated need for science and literacy enrichment. School programs bring public school students outdoors to learn in multiple-session explorations that use hands-on learning techniques. This year, new curricula match the city's newly introduced Scope & Sequence Science standards and Blueprints for the Arts guidelines.

- Our Teacher Training efforts include the Kerlin Summer Science Institute for Teachers.
- The Forest Project at Wave Hill engages community groups in volunteer fieldwork and environmental rehabilitation projects to help preserve the Bronx's natural resources and public green spaces.
- The Forest Project Summer Collaborative gives young people a chance to earn a wage for woodland conservation work while they gain new skills, abilities, and a deeper awareness of the natural environment. In FY2006, the Collaborative included a 7-week internship for 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Internships for sophomores, juniors, and seniors consist of four progressive levels of opportunities for students, and set the stage for valuable peer-mentoring relationships.

Also piloted this past year was the *Garden & Gallery Interpretation Internship* that teaches teens to lead public tours and discussions of Wave Hill's gardens and art gallery, providing valuable, job-applicable experiences.

Self-guided group visits are welcome, based on availability. Reservations are required.

### Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

Wave Hill's Forest Project Summer Collaborative's Plant Science Interns work in our 10-acre Abrons Woodland and at other Bronx sites – including sites along the Bronx River – on field trips with scientists, environmental stakeholders and community activists from backgrounds similar to their own. Arts programs at Wave Hill periodically connect with the Bronx River. *Bronx Lot Florilegium*, for instance, a summer 2005 [generated@wavehill](mailto:generated@wavehill) commission, focuses on the plant life of ecosystems in the South Bronx.

Wave Hill's Kerlin Learning Center, used for school groups during weekdays, serves as an indoor workshop featuring maps, aquaria and children's work on display. On weekends, free Family Art Workshops create nature-based art.

## Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ)

Contact:  
Jose Dobles  
Director of Youth Programs

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Bronx, NY 1047419

[www.ympj.org](http://www.ympj.org)

### Mission/Description:

Founded in 1994 by Executive Director, Alexie Torres-Fleming, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ) works in the Bronx River, Bruckner and Soundview neighborhoods in the South Bronx. YMPJ is a center for urban ministry dedicated to fostering peace and justice through youth leadership development and community organizing. At the heart of YMPJ's mission is a framework, which defines young people by their potential to make social change. YMPJ promotes the development of indigenous leadership by mobilizing the already existing capacities of young people to reconstruct and sustain their community.

YMPJ believes that young people have the power to mobilize, to develop their own capacity for self-reliance, and to participate in issues that affect their well-being, lives and communities.

They believe that through dialogue, sharing, collaboration and organizing, young people can define and construct the conditions of our common existence. This vision constitutes YMPJ's spiritual wellspring. It animates their movement, centers their actions, and has made a vocation of their advocacy.

YMPJ's work has led to the construction of Concrete Plant Park and the remediation of hazardous wastes at Starlight Park, both along the Bronx River. Current efforts involve de-mapping the Sheridan Expressway, a seldom-used highway along the Bronx River, advocating alongside other organizations for an efficient stormwater recovery infrastructure for New York City, and redeveloping underused industrial and commercial facilities for community purposes.

Our work is accomplished within the context of 6 centers:

- . The Center for Arts for Activism
- . The Center for Education for Liberation
- . The Center for Wellness
- . The Center for Youth and Community Organizing
- . The Center for Community Justice
- . The Center for Community Development and Planning

### Programs Available:

Water Quality, Anatomy of Fishes, Identification of Fishes in the Bronx River, Fishing and Fishing Safety, Diversity of Fishes, Health Advisory for Eating Fish: Who is Responsible?, Combined Sewage Overflows, Water Conservation, History of the Bronx River.

This list is the core curriculum for the Fall 2006 for a Community Building and Organizing Project involving fishing along the Bronx River and is just one example of what kind of training our members receive.

### Involvement in the Bronx River and Relationship with the Bronx River Alliance:

- . Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice has worked side by side with the Bronx River Alliance and its precursor organizations for years.

- YMPJ actively participates on the Bronx River Alliance board of directors. Alexie Torres-Fleming, the Executive Director of YMPJ, has served as the President of the board and is currently its Vice-President. Tawkiyah Jordan, Director of the Center for Community Development and Planning is the current co-chair of the Alliance's Greenway Team and serves on the Alliance board.
- YMPJ is a member of the Alliance's Education, Greenway and Ecology Teams.
- YMPJ is a founding partner of the Bronx River Alliance.
- YMPJ has led the Golden Ball launch ceremony for the past three years.
- YMPJ continues to use the river as a valuable resource to educate and foster stewardship among members.