

# Bronx River Alliance 2009 Annual Report



One Bronx River Parkway, Bronx, NY 10462  
(718) 430-4665  
[www.bronxriver.org](http://www.bronxriver.org)



# Our Team

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## Staff:

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## Interns:

Kevin Connolly, Raissa Dally, Jasmine Grayson, Monet Mason, Darlene Morales, Quameisha Moreno, Corinne Parker, Jahira Rodriguez, Nathaniel Saxton, Anthony Shell, Darnel Stalworth, Jasmine Wilson, LaRon Wilson

## Volunteers:

Amber Bennett, Brigitte Charlton, Carlos Cortez, Jairo Davila, Rhonda Lee Davis, Marty DeKadt, Priscilla Flores, Floritza Gomez, Michael Gupta, Judy Hutson, Ken Kostel, Alexey Kudryavtsev, Felicity Nitz, Kathleen O'Brien-Wagner, Nessie Payton, Angel Rivera, George Rivera, Gerry Segal, Martha Schwartz, Henry Stroobants, Glenda Toro, Betsy Ukeritis, Jennifer Ukeritis, Robert Ward, Pauline York

## Pro Bono Counsel:

John Denne and the law firm of Jones Day



# 2009 Financial Summary

Revenue		Expenses		Net Assets	
Grants – Foundation	354,526	Ecological Restoration	711,169	Temporarily Restricted	628,931
Grants – Corporation	67,628	Education	177,870	Unrestricted	320,368
Grants – Government	445,842	Greenway	210,550	Net Assets at end of year	949,299
Individual Donations	61,772	Outreach	146,621		
Other Income & Interest	97,663				
In-Kind Contributions, Parks Department	388,542	<b>Subtotal Programs 1,246,210</b>			
Other In-Kind Income	189,146	Administrative	164,603		
Prior year restricted revenue released from restrictions	406,882	Fundraising	104,323		
<b>Total 2,011,983</b>		<b>Total 1,515,136</b>			



# Partners

## COMMUNITY-BASED AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Museum of Natural History  
Beczak Environmental Education Center  
Bike New York  
Bike The Bronx  
Bissel Gardens  
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality  
Bronx County Historical Society  
Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy  
Bronx River Art Center  
Christodora Inc.  
City Parks Foundation  
Concerned Residents Organization, Inc.  
Council on the Environment of New York City  
Downtown Boathouse  
Drew Gardens  
East Bronx History Forum  
East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Environmental Education Advisory Council  
Five Borough Bike Club  
Friends of Brook Park  
Friends of the Bronx Zoo  
Friends of Van Cortlandt Park  
Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery  
Gaia Institute  
GLOBE- Queens College  
Harding Park Homeowners Association & Environmental Center  
Hutchinson River Restoration Project  
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Moshulu Preservation Corporation  
Nature Network  
Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation  
Neighborhood Open Space Coalition  
Nos Quedamos-We Stay  
New York Botanical Garden  
New York City Housing Authority Gardening Program  
New York City Open Accessible Space Information System Cooperative  
New York Restoration Project  
Partnerships for Parks  
Phipps Community Development Corporation  
Pratt Center for Community Development

The Point Community Development Corporation  
Racing Club of New York City  
Regional Plan Association  
Rocking the Boat  
Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance  
Storm Water Infrastructure Matters (S.W.I.M)  
Sustainable South Bronx  
Transportation Alternatives  
Trust for Public Land  
Wakefield, Williamsbridge & Woodlawn History Project  
Wakefield Taxpayer & Civic League  
Westchester Biking and Walking Alliance  
Wildcat Services Corporation  
Wildlife Conservation Society - Bronx Zoo  
Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice  
222<sup>nd</sup> St Block Association

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Park Service, Rivers and Trails  
Office of Congressman José E. Serrano  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bronx Borough President's Office  
Community Boards: 2, 6, 9, 11, 12  
Cornell Cooperative Extension – NYC  
New York City Department of Education  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
New York City Department of Homeless Services  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
New York City Department of Transportation  
New York City Soil & Water Conservation District  
New York State Office of the Attorney General  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
New York State Department of State  
New York State Department of Transportation  
Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation  
Westchester County Planning Department  
Westchester County Soil & Water Conservation District

## SCHOOLS

Academy of Environmental Science  
Banana Kelly High School  
Baruch College Campus High School  
Bronx Academy for Computer and Tech  
Bronx Guild High School  
Bronx International High School  
Bronx Lab School  
Bronx Light House Charter School  
Bronx Little School  
Bronx Satellite High School  
Bronx Science  
Collegiate Institute for Math and Science High School  
CUNY Prep  
DeWitt Clinton High School  
Explorations Academy  
Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School  
Fordham University  
Immaculate Conception  
Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers  
Lehman College—CUNY  
Manhattan College  
New York University Wallerstein Collaborative  
Pablo Neruda Academy for Architecture and World Studies  
P.S. 214  
Queens College—CUNY  
St. Simon Stock Elementary School  
SUNY Maritime  
The Learning Tree  
The New School  
Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation

# Financial Supporters

## Foundations

Altman Foundation  
Bodman Foundation  
Booth Ferris Foundation  
City Harvest  
Hagedorn Fund  
J. M. Kaplan Fund  
Lily Auchincloss Foundation  
Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City  
Merck Family Fund  
Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
New York Community Trust  
Norcross Wildlife Foundation  
Prospect Hill Foundation  
Rudy Bruner Foundation  
The Sarah K. de Coizart Article TENTH Perpetual Charitable Trust

## Corporations

Bloomberg L.P.  
Con Edison  
Danray Supply Co.  
Exact Meter Reading Corp.  
Goldman Sachs  
JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
New Yankee Stadium Benefits Fund  
Patagonia  
Rails to Trails Conservancy (Coca Cola)

## Soirée Sponsors

Montefiore Medical Center  
Sims Metal Management  
Bill and Paula Luria Caplan  
Community Preservation Corp.  
Con Edison  
D'Arrigo Brothers Co. of New York, Inc.  
The Durst Organization  
Hunter College President Jennifer K. Raab  
Hunts Point Cooperative Produce Market  
Tryax Realty Management  
The Riverdale Press (Media Sponsor)

## Public Funding

Bronx Council on the Arts through the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program

Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation/Bronx Initiative for Energy and the Environment  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation/  
Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant Program  
New York State Department of State  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation/Recreational Trail Program

## Individual Supporters

### Branch (\$1000+)

Anonymous  
Elizabeth L. Bennett  
Five Boro Bicycle  
Linda Cox and John G. Robinson  
Pamela Johnson Associates, LLC  
Jeffrey S. Myers and Patricia A. Farren  
Richard Reagan

### Stream (\$500+)

Joan Byron  
Helena Durst  
Donald Henley  
Vincent Pacifico

### Brook (\$250+)

Benjamin B. Beinecke  
Fernand Brunschwig and Jennifer Herring  
Edward Collopy  
Alfred C. Finger  
Stephen Franciosa  
Gerald Galison  
Madeline Hess  
Carol Kostik  
I.C. Levenberg-Engel  
Martha and David Schwartz  
Pamela Shaw and Kent Redford  
Marceil Tooley

### Rivulet (\$100+)

Rita and George Alexander  
Marcia and Franz Allina  
Michael Barr  
Robert Bender and Loretta Nash

Alexander Bing  
Louis Blumengarten  
Peter and Manuela Borbeau  
Kathleen Whitney Bukofzer  
Miquela Craytor  
Elena Conte  
Maarten de Kadt  
John Denne  
Robert Elburn  
Richard Epstein  
Joel Feinberg  
Patricia M and Ricardo Fernandez  
James and Christie Fountain  
Adam Green  
Jennifer Grossman  
Daniel F. Hamburg  
Dawn Henning  
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Carol Kennedy  
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G. Oliver Koppell  
Christfriede Larson  
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Thomas F. and Constance Moran  
Gail Nathan  
Michael Patrick and Carol Sedwick  
Catherine Greenleaf Rey  
Gerry Segal and Ellie Schoenbaum  
Christopher Snow  
Julia Steinmetz  
Henry G. Stroobants  
Brian T. Sullivan  
Kellie Terry-Sepulveda  
Tim Tompkins  
Sedra Jayne Varga  
Charles Vasser  
Robert and Hillela Ward  
Thomas & Christine Webler  
Dart Westphal

# The River as an Outdoor Classroom

The Bronx River Alliance has long used the Bronx River as not only a green space for recreation but also as a unique learning space within an urban setting. We provide resources and programs that encourage the use of the river as a classroom for scientific exploration, personal growth, and integrated learning experiences. The Bronx River Classroom engages teachers through training programs to monitor the river's health, encourages students to view the river as integrated aspect of their learning, and supplements curriculums as valuable skills are learned and then integrated in the classroom.

The Bronx River Stewards is a corps of trained student volunteers, community members, and curious citizens that are educated in safe practices for monitoring the health of the Bronx River and transmitting the data in a scientifically meaningful way. The training that is provided helps to contribute to the GLOBE program, an international community of citizen scientists.

These combined facets of the Education Program builds a bridge that extends from the classrooms and homes of Bronx residents and to the Bronx River. The end results foster positive relationships and creates an environmentally conscious and proactive group of students, teachers, youth, and adults that protect and advocate for the Bronx River.

The Education Program's activities and influences extend well beyond the classroom. Our influence also extended to a variety of on and off-river events, trips, and presentation. In 2009, the Education Program:

- worked with 133 educators and 797 students to enrich their educational experience by relating their lesson plans to the Bronx River
- distributed the educator's guide, *Bronx River Classroom: The Inside Track for Educators* (available on our website, or by calling (718) 430-4665 to request a free copy). The guide draws together lesson plans, maps, and resources that enable educators to use the river as a classroom
- held an Election Day Educators Workshop and a Student Symposium
- maintained our Stewards Program – 49 volunteers at seven sites along the river – with two Steward training days
- was featured in the National watershed publication River Voices as well as selected to offer a workshop at the National River Rally conference





# Protect and Enhance the River's Ecology

The Ecological Restoration and Management Program works to restore the Bronx River's ecology and to advance environmental stewardship of the Bronx River. The Ecological Restoration Program helps to develop an integrated approach for protection of the Bronx River, by implementing best management practices within parks, promoting stormwater capture throughout the watershed to reduce CSO's (combined sewage outfalls), and engaging the community to improve the health of the Bronx River ecosystem. These efforts are focused along the banks of the Bronx River or within communities that directly affect the hydrology of the Bronx River. The Ecological Restoration Program also works on a watershed basis, partnering with upstream communities in Westchester County to foster inter-municipal coordination. The most recent efforts have culminated in the development of an inter-municipal watershed management plan that will advance the restoration of the Bronx River through collaboration, prioritizing the most critical actions for protecting the health of the river. The goal is for our collective actions to lead to better environmental policy and stewardship in both the city and the region, strengthening efforts to restore the watershed.

The Bronx River Conservation Crew works to implement the practices of the Ecological Restoration Program through habitat restoration, conservation, and community stewardship of the river. The Conservation Crew works with a variety of agencies to advance the natural ecological systems of the Bronx River. These goals are also achieved through workshops, training and volunteer programs that directly connect the community with restoration efforts, while providing skills that may translate to career opportunities.

Our Ecology Program has made tremendous improvements to the Bronx River and in 2009 we:

- planted 580 trees, 199 shrubs, and 128 other native plants
- stabilized over 20 feet of stream bank
- removed 10 river blockages, 17.4 tons of trash, and 2433 tires
- worked with 2412 volunteers, including 919 new volunteers
- removed over 30,850 square feet of invasive plant species
- installed 5 rainbarrels to capture and use stormwater on site
- worked towards reconnecting migratory fish with their upstream spawning habitats



# Creating the Bronx River Greenway

When complete, the Bronx River Greenway will be a 23-mile long ribbon of parkland extending the full length of the river from the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County to the East River. The Greenway Program works to develop the greenway along the eight miles of the river in New York City, both improving existing parkland and opening up new green space and access to the river for neighborhoods that have long lacked it, in accordance with the Bronx River Greenway Plan. The Bronx River Greenway will aid in future efforts to restore the river by opening up access to its banks, as well as to new recreational and educational spaces in the densely populated borough of the Bronx.

In 2009, the Bronx River Greenway met the following milestones:

- construction completed at Concrete Plant Park, Soundview River Access, 219<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to Shoelace Park, and path improvements in Shoelace Park near 230<sup>th</sup> Street
- construction underway at West Farms Rapids and 211th Street entrance to Shoelace Park
- development of a master plan for Shoelace Park and Fort Knox through an extensive community design process
- raised \$550,000 for future greenway projects





# Community Outreach and Involvement

Outreach for the Bronx River Alliance continues to serve as the backbone of our work, drawing thousands of youth and residents to the river each year. Recreational activities, volunteer cleanups and plantings, and festivals provide Bronx River enthusiasts and novice learners opportunities to engage with the river in casual and fresh ways. The Bronx River Festival, for example, combines music, art, story-telling, and canoeing, to attract new audiences and old friends to the Bronx River. The Outreach Program cultivates learning and empowering opportunities for all that participate.

Our core volunteer group provides crucial support to Bronx River Alliance programs. These dedicated volunteers provide aid at community events and recreational day trips, and they help plan the greenway and develop ecologically sound principles along the river. Through the development of a unified community presence on the river, and a focused voice for the river, our Outreach Program strengthens the Alliance's ability to create lasting change.

In 2009 the Bronx River Outreach Program:

- brought 830 volunteers to the river to participate in our work
- hosted the Bronx River Flotilla and the Bronx River Festival bring-ing hundreds of people out to celebrate and paddle the river



# Recreation: Greenway to Blueway

2009 was yet another banner year for the Bronx River Alliance Recreation Program, reaching more than 1,300 people through paddling and cycling along the Bronx River. We reach novice and experienced community members while providing partnership opportunities and create uniquely varied experiences for local community members on the river. The Alliance's Recreation Program connects a host of individuals to the river through active outdoor participation and exploration.

In 2009 the Recreation Program:

- brought 1,293 paddlers to the river through canoe tours and free community paddles for the general public, at the Bronx River Festival, River Park, Hunts Point Riverside Park, Fort Knox, and Barretto Point Park
- hosted our annual Pedal and Paddle Day, and free bicycling learn-to-ride lessons with Bike New York to promote Greenway use.





