

# Bronx River Alliance 2008 Annual Report



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

# Our People

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## Pro Brono Counsel:

John Denne, James Periconi, and the law firm of Jones Day



# 2008 Financial Summary

Revenue		Expenses		Net Assets	
Grants - Foundation	200,732	Ecological Restoration	681,991	Temporarily Restricted	518,473
Grants - Corporate	65,825	Education	173,204	Unrestricted	230,403
Grants - Government	14,777	Greenway	154,603	Net Assets at end of year	748,876
Individual Donations	56,400	Outreach	167,740		
Other Income & Interest	77,308	<i>Subtotal Programs</i>	<i>1,177,538</i>		
In-Kind Contributions, Parks Department	362,944	Administrative	207,634		
Other In-Kind Income	107,700	Fundraising	183,679		
Prior year restricted revenue released from restrictions	396,890				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,683,791</b>		<b>\$1,568,851</b>		

# Partners

## **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Museum of Natural History  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Bike New York  
Bissel Gardens  
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality  
Bronx County Historical Society  
Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy  
Bronx River Art Center  
Car-Free Bronx Coalition  
Christodora Inc.  
City Parks Foundation  
Concerned Residents Organization, Inc  
Council on the Environment of NYC  
Downtown Boathouse  
Drew Gardens  
East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Environmental Education Advisory Council  
Five Borough Bike Club  
Forget-Me-Not Seniors  
Friends of Brook Park  
Friends of the Bronx Zoo  
Friends of Van Cortlandt Park  
Gaia Institute  
Greening for Breathing  
GLOBE/ Queens College  
Harding Park Homeowners Association & Environmental Center  
Hutchinson River Restoration Project  
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Mosholu Preservation Corporation  
Muskraters  
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 (OASIS)  
New York Restoration Project  
Partnerships for Parks  
Phipps Community Development Corporation  
Pratt Center for Community Development  
The Point Community Development Corporation  
Regional Plan Association  
Rocking the Boat  
Safe Streets in Co-op City  
Solar One  
Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance  
Storm Water Infrastructure Matters (S.W.I.M)  
Sustainable South Bronx  
Transportation Alternatives  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
Trust for Public Land  
Wakefield, Williamsbridge & Woodlawn History Project  
Wildcat Services Corporation  
Wildlife Conservation Society / Bronx Zoo  
Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice  
222<sup>nd</sup> Street 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, 7, 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 Technology  
Bronx Guild High School  
Bronx High School of Science  
Bronx International High School  
Bronx Lab School  
Bronx Light House Charter School

Bronx Regional High School  
Bronx Satellite High School  
Christopher Columbus High School  
CUNY Prep  
DeWitt Clinton High School  
Dual Language Middle School  
East Bronx Historical Society  
Explorations Academy  
Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School  
Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School  
Fordham University  
High School for Media and Communication  
Immaculate Conception  
Jane Addams  
Lehman College/ CUNY  
Manhattan College  
New York University Wallerstein Collaborative  
Pablo Neruda Academy for Architecture and World Studies  
P.S. 103  
Queens College, CUNY  
St. Simon Stock Elementary School  
SUNY Maritime  
The Learning Tree  
Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation

# Financial Supporters

## Foundations

Altman Foundation  
Booth Ferris Foundation  
City Parks Foundation  
The Hagedorn Foundation  
The J.M. Kaplan Fund  
Merck Family Fund  
The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund  
New York City Environmental Fund  
The New York City Food and Fitness Partnership  
The New York Community Trust  
The Norcross Wildlife Foundation  
The Prospect Hill Foundation  
The Round River Foundation  
The Sarah K. de Cozart Article TENTH Perpetual Charitable Trust  
The William and Jane Overman Foundation  
The Volpert Foundation

## Corporations

Bank of America  
Bloomberg LP  
Capital One Bank  
Community Preservation Corporation  
Con Edison  
D'Arrigo Brothers  
Dougert Properties  
Durst Organization  
Goldman Sachs  
Home Depot  
Horticulture, Inc.  
JPMorgan Chase Foundation  
Krasdale Foods  
New York Recycling  
Patagonia  
Sesame Workshop  
Sims Metal Management  
Synagro Northeast  
Tryax Realty

Vista Food Exchange Inc.

## 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  
Community Development Block Grant  
Congressman José E. Serrano's WCS-NOAA Lower Bronx River Partnership  
Councilmember Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Councilmember Oliver Koppell  
Councilmember Annabel Palma  
Councilmember Joel Rivera  
Councilmember Larry B. Seabrook  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Bronx River Watershed Initiative  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Long Island Sound Futures Fund  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Water Quality Urban Low Impact Development  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development  
New York City Environmental Fund  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation/Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant Program  
New York State Department of State  
Environmental Protection Fund  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation/Recreational Trail Program  
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection

## Individual Donors

**Tributary (\$5000+)**  
Richard Brause  
Edith McBean

Alan H. Rappaport

## Branch (\$1000+)

Elizabeth L. Bennett  
Peter & Manuela Bourbeau  
Linda Cox and John G. Robinson  
John Z. Kopec  
Jeffrey S. Myers and Patricia A. Farren  
Vincent Pacifico  
Richard S. Reagan and Sonia Manzano  
  
**Stream (\$500+)**  
Joan Byron  
Helena Durst  
Adam Green  
Ken Kostel and Anne-Marie Runfola

## Brook (\$250+)

Bill Aguado and Kathi Pavlik  
Richard Allen  
Frances Beinecke and Paul Elston  
Nathaniel Bradburd  
Bill & Paula Caplan  
Donald and Mary Coyle  
Terence Dorsey and Katherine McNabb  
Donald Henley  
James Lane  
Thomas McArdle  
Gerry Segal and Ellie Schoenbaum  
Alexie Torres-Fleming  
Harold E. Varmus  
Teri Volpert

## Rivulet (\$100+)

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Donna Walcavage  
Dart Westphal and Ellen Pollan  
Chrissy Word

## Soiree Sponsors

Montefiore Medical Center  
The Community Preservation Corporation  
Hunts Point Cooperative Produce Market

We also thank donors who provided goods and services in 2008:

Andy Boy, Arizona Beverages, The Bagel Zone, Elizabeth Bennett, Bissel Gardens, Brotherhood Winery, Bronx River Art Center, Bronx Tourism Council, Brooklyn Brewery, Con Edison, D'Arrigo Brothers, Down East Seafood, Frost Lighting, Google, Andrew Laiosa, Mark Manley, Marco's Salumeria Leone, The Market Kitchen, Montefiore Medical Center, Gail Nathan, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, New York State Soil and Water Conservation District, New York Restoration Project, Patagonia, Phipps CDC/Drew Gardens, The Point CDC, Jennifer Plewka, Luke Rasnake, Rocking the Boat, Eric Sanderson, Vista Food Exchange Inc., Whit Waterbury, Whole Foods Market, Wildlife Conservation Society

The Bronx River Cleanup Program was funded in part by the Wildlife Conservation Society through the resolution of an enforcement action against the Society brought by the New York State Attorney General.

# Teaching One Another About the River

Our Education Program promotes the river as an educational asset. We provide the resources and expertise that enable students, teachers and community members to use the river as a living laboratory for environmental studies and more. The Bronx River Classroom reaches out to schools with training, tools and other resources, engaging youth and adults in a variety of educational activities. The Bronx River Stewards is a corps of trained, committed volunteers who undertake weekly scientific monitoring of water quality at specific sites on the river, and who gather data vital to the long-term assessment of river conditions. These experiences collectively create an ecologically diverse, conscious, and engaged community of young adults who protect and improve the corridor and watershed.

The Public Education Program works farther afield, reaching out to people through presentations, canoe trips, public events, information tables. In 2008, the Bronx River Education Program:

- worked with 176 educators and 625 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.



# Restoring and Managing the River

**The Ecological Restoration and Management Program** works to restore the Bronx River's ecology and oversees the continuing environmental stewardship of the Bronx River. Our nine-member Bronx River Conservation Crew is the Alliance's active presence on the river, maintaining the river channel and the greenway, and implementing restoration projects. Our policy and planning activities focus on identifying means of addressing long-term threats to the river's health that result from land use planning and policy issues, such as storm water runoff, combined sewer outflows, and other factors contributing to pollution. Ecological planning efforts also identify data gaps and emphasize the need for ecological research within the watershed. Our Crew strives to keep the local community engaged by participating in events and workshop series. These opportunities ensure the continual up-to-date dissemination of knowledge about the condition and restoration of the river to Bronx residents.

Our Ecology Program has made tremendous improvements to the Bronx River and in 2008 we:

- planted 1370 trees, 1049 shrubs, and 1192 other herbaceous plants
- stabilized 240 feet of stream bank with coir logs
- removed 18 river blockages, 17.4 tons of trash, and 83 tires
- worked with 917 volunteers
- placed more than 350 educational storm drain markers in the Bronx River sewersheds with volunteers



# Developing 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 2008, the Bronx River Greenway met the following milestones:

- construction completed at Muskrat Cove and re-opened to the public
- improvements begun to Soundview River Access, West Farms Rapids, and 219th Street entrance to Shoelace Park
- construction underway at Concrete Plant Park
- creation of a Bronx River maintenance district and implementation of Phase I



# Community Outreach and Engagement

The Outreach Program draws thousands of youth and residents to the river through public events, such as the Amazing Bronx River Flotilla and the Bronx River Festival. These seasonal activities allow for a wide range of opportunities for residents to join the Bronx River Alliance as we continue to work for the restoration of the river and the development of the greenway. Whether you are an avid kayaker or an artistically inclined youth, there is always an opportunity to join in on the fun. The Outreach Program also engages and empowers young people and neighborhood residents by facilitating extensive involvement in the development of Bronx River parks and greenway projects. Through



continual community engagement the Bronx River Alliance has fostered a growing presence in the local community, solidifying relationships between the river and community groups -- ensuring stewards for tomorrow.

Our outreach efforts have made marked gains, and in 2008 the Bronx River Outreach Program:

- brought 972 volunteers to the river to participate in our work
- launched our Volunteer Docent Program
- hosted the Bronx River Flotilla and the Bronx River Festival bringing hundreds of people out to celebrate and paddle the river

# Getting Active on the River

2008 was yet another benchmark for the Bronx River Alliance Recreation Program, reaching more than 1,500 people through paddling, cycling, and guided walks along the Bronx River. The recreation program continues to reach novice and experienced community members while providing unique partnership opportunities, creating uniquely varied experiences for local community members on the river. The Bronx River Alliance Recreation Program connects a host of individuals to the river through active outdoor participation and exploration.



In 2008 the Bronx River Alliance Recreation Program:

- led nine paddling trips open to the general public, including Upper and Lower River Runs, Tidal Paddle, and Border to the Mouth.
- organized short boat rides at the Bronx River Festival and on summer Wednesdays at Barretto Point Park, which introduced new people to paddling and to the Bronx River.
- hosted our annual Pedal and Paddle Day, and free bicycling learn-to-ride lessons to promote Greenway use, along with the Bronx River start to the Tour de Bronx in October

