



NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT (NYRP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to reclaiming and restoring New York City parks, community gardens and open space. In partnership with the City of New York, NYRP is also leading MillionTreesNYC — an initiative to plant one million new trees throughout New York City's five boroughs by 2017.

# GOODdirt

NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER 2008

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Considering the current state of the economy, it is no surprise that most New Yorkers — including myself — have had one eye focused on the recent presidential election and the other on the status of their investments. Right now, I realize that greening our city's streets and parks might not be everyone's top priority. In times like this, it is crucial for all of us to remember that the livelihood — the very heart and soul — of our great city depends on our ability to maintain the green in New York City's public spaces.

Just remember the nightmare that we experienced only a decade ago when many of our city's public parks, community gardens and waterfronts were treated as mere dumping grounds and barren, forgotten places.

No one wants to repeat that era of neglect. But what might come as a surprise is how quickly our precious city could slide backward if we let down our guard, even for a little bit. In our relatively short history, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) has learned that restoring a public space is only the first — and perhaps easiest — step in the long process involved in greening and sustaining New York City. In fact, it's the maintenance and the community outreach needed to effectively engage residents in the long-term stewardship of their open spaces that is the real key to successfully changing and preserving the face of our urban environment.

In these uncertain times, it's certain that serious cuts will be made to many areas of the City's budget. Those of us who work in the environmental movement will need to redouble our efforts to make sure that our beautiful green gains over the last decade do not fall into new neglect — as we may not be able to dig ourselves out again!

The last time the environment fell off the City's radar, it was awful! I couldn't ignore it — neither could you. With your help, together we've restored six parks, scores of community gardens and acres of waterfront. We've planted hundreds of thousands of trees, shrubs and flowers — and with every New Yorker's continued support, we will plant one million new trees by 2017. This is a legacy we can't afford to squander!

So, join me in celebrating our successes and in committing to never letting our city fall into disrepair again. With your generous support, I know that together we can ensure that New York City remains healthy and green for generations to come.

Bette Midler  
Founder



## MillionTreesNYC Celebrates Successful First Anniversary!

On October 29, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg joined New York Restoration Project (NYRP) Founder Bette Midler and members of the citywide MillionTreesNYC family to celebrate the initiative's first year anniversary and to highlight their shared success in surpassing the one-year planting goal of 93,397 trees. Fourth-grade students from neighboring P.S. 155 began the day's celebration with a MillionTreesNYC anniversary cheer. Mayor Bloomberg and Bette Midler then recognized several New Yorkers who have gone

the extra mile in making the initiative a success before leading guests in singing "Happy Anniversary" and unveiling a jumbo MillionTreesNYC anniversary cake.

"I am thrilled to announce that MillionTreesNYC has planted over 110,000 trees in its first year, an impressive benchmark toward achieving the initiative's ultimate goal of planting one million new trees in New York City by 2017," said Midler. Celebrating the initiative's civic and community spirit, the Mayor added: "we have rallied communities and well exceeded our target

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



With the uncertainty of the fate of our economy weighing on everyone's minds, Americans everywhere are thinking and rethinking the wisdom of their financial decisions. For many people, the current events that have plagued the financial markets over the last month have only reiterated the importance of ensuring that every dollar spent is a dollar worth giving.

Everyone at NYRP understands the importance of giving our donors and supporters the biggest bang for their buck. In fact, while most New Yorkers are preoccupied with the current state of our economy, NYRP staff and its corps of volunteers are working harder and leaner to achieve the organization's mission of cleaning and greening New York City by utilizing corporate, foundation and individual funding in the most effective and creative ways possible.

There is no denying that without the support of our donors and individual New Yorkers, NYRP would not be able to continue its dream of creating a greener and more sustainable New York City. To see how NYRP is spending your hard earned money, all you have to do is enjoy one of our newly renovated community gardens; visit one of the six parks we have reclaimed and restored; walk through a recently beautified public housing campus or down a newly tree-lined city street as a result of MillionTreesNYC; or witness schoolchildren connecting with nature at NYRP's Swindler Cove Park.

In northern Manhattan, NYRP is also steadily expanding and consolidating our project sites — what began under a decade ago as five acres at Swindler Cove has grown to include much of Sherman Creek, northern Highbridge Park and the Harlem River Esplanade, accounting for nearly 40 acres that we've restored and now manage for the City. Additionally, our expanding environmental education and public programs are reaching more schoolchildren and adults than ever before, engaging them in the experience and stewardship of nature in their neighborhoods.

In these times of economic crisis, NYRP is able to utilize the most out of your dollars by keeping our administrative costs low, and as a result, for every \$1 raised, 77 cents goes to funding our environmental and community-based programs. NYRP has earned the Better Business Seal of Approval three times for our cost-efficient business practices, and our rating by the watchdog group Charity Navigator has steadily risen — last year, we were one of five New York City organizations in the category "Environment/Botanical Gardens, Parks and Nature Centers" to receive a 3-star rating for resourceful non-profit management, and we just received a 4-star rating for 2009.

At NYRP, we believe that being cost-conscious is a green value that should extend to all resources, not just those Mother Nature provides. That's why being conscientious with your donations is at the root of our work. You've shown through your continued, generous support that you value NYRP and the work we do. We appreciate your investment in NYRP and remain committed to providing you and all of our supporters with the most rewarding financial return of all — a greener, more beautiful New York City for everyone.

Drew Becher, NYRP Executive Director

**ON THE COVER:** (Clockwise from left) Youth volunteer at NYRP's Earthkeeper's Dig It Day in Brooklyn (Jimmy Asnes); NYRP Founder Bette Midler with youth volunteers at MillionTreesNYC's Arbor Day Celebration (Mia McDonald); Timberland volunteers planting trees in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments in Brooklyn (Jimmy Asnes).

GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE! NYRP is proud to be a member of







# NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT SITES

- PARKS
- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- MAJOR PROJECTS



- 1 FORT TRYON PARK**  
NEW LEAF RESTAURANT & BAR  
ANNE LOFTUS PLAYGROUND
- 2 SHERMAN CREEK CENTER**
- 3 SWINDLER COVE PARK**  
RILEY-LEVIN CHILDREN'S GARDEN  
PETER JAY SHARP BOATHOUSE
- 4 HIGHBRIDGE PARK**
- 5 FORT WASHINGTON PARK**

## NYRP MAJOR PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Sherman Creek Center
- Swindler Cove Park
- Riley-Levin Children's Garden
- Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse
- Fort Tryon Park / New Leaf Restaurant & Bar
- Highbridge Park
- 24 community gardens in Brooklyn
- 18 community gardens in the Bronx
- 17 community gardens in Manhattan
- 4 community gardens in Queens
- 1 community garden in Staten Island

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO MAJOR PARK SITES

- 1** Fort Tryon Park & New Leaf Restaurant & Bar: Take the M4 bus to the last stop (Fort Tryon Park–The Cloisters) or take the A train to 190th Street.
- 2 3 4** Sherman Creek Center / Swindler Cove & Highbridge Parks: Take the I train to Dyckman Street, turn right on Dyckman and walk 1/5 mile to the intersection of 10th Ave. and Harlem River Drive. Continue south on Harlem River Drive — Swindler Cove Park is on your left and lower Highbridge Park is on your right. For upper Highbridge Park, take the M101 bus from St. Nicholas Ave. and exit around 189th Street.
- 5** Fort Washington Park: Take the 1, 9 or C trains to 168th Street or the M4 bus to 165th Street; walk west on 165th to the park.

Go to [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) for subway and bus maps.





In celebration of New York City's harvest season and fall traditions, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) launched its first-ever *Keepin' It Green Month* — a month packed full of activities ranging from volunteer tree-planting days and community garden ribbon-cuttings to introducing new environmental education programs and park festivals. Throughout *Keepin' It Green Month*, NYRP and its partners engaged thousands of New Yorkers across the City in the act of greening and tree planting.

Kicking off the month, NYRP Founder Bette Midler and more than 200 residents of East Harlem celebrated the opening of the Target East Harlem Community Garden on October 1, with an all-out garden party. The following weekend, NYRP introduced the larger East Harlem community to the garden as part of the City's 6th Annual Open House New York. More than 500 neighborhood members visited the Target Garden during the Open House New York weekend, which connects New Yorkers with the City's great architecture and landscape design.

Hosted by NYRP and Trees New York and sponsored by Timberland and American Forests, more than 350 community volunteers participated in Earthkeepers Dig It Day on Saturday, October 4 — with volunteers planting 450 trees on two New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments in Brooklyn. Afterwards, Dig It volunteers were treated to a free evening concert with Pearl Jam's Stone Gossard to

celebrate environmentalism and further inspire green action in local New York City communities.

Over two weekends in mid-October, NYRP staff and a corps of community volunteers distributed 1,250 free trees to homeowners and community groups in locations throughout the City's five boroughs. Sponsored by American Express, the tree giveaways took place at CENYC greenmarkets and provided New Yorkers an opportunity to dig in and help achieve Million-TreesNYC's million tree-planting goal.



Additionally, NYRP hosted its 2nd Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 18th, an event that brought local residents to NYRP's Anderson Community Garden in the Bronx for fall crafts, scavenger hunts and fun for the whole family. Community gardeners gave tours of the Anderson Community Garden and hosted a barbeque for Harvest Festival participants.

As part of the month's festivities, It's My Park! Day on October 25 drew thousands of community volunteers into parks across the City to assist in cleanup, planting and

restoration projects. On November 8, the NYC Parks Department is inviting thousands of New Yorkers to come out again to support the greening our city's parks by planting 15,000 trees in an effort to reforest seven City park sites. For more information on the November 8 planting day or to register online, visit [www.milliontreesnyc.org](http://www.milliontreesnyc.org).

As the month came to an end, Bette Midler and 50 Cent celebrated the opening of one of NYRP's newest community treasures — the Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden in Jamaica, Queens — with a Healthy Halloween Party and ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the garden, which was redesigned by renowned landscape designer Walter Hood. The two were joined by sixty 5-year-olds from Myrtle P. Jarmon Early Childhood Education Center who serenaded Bette and 50 Cent with a song they wrote about this neighborhood green space, which they have been actively involved in gardening and watching this community space blossom.

*Keepin' It Green Month* was capped off with two, very special gala events that support the organization's parks, community gardens and environmental education program — NYRP's annual Hulaween at the Waldorf-Astoria on October 31 and an NYRP benefit performance by the smash Broadway hit *Wicked*, a one-night-only, all-star performance of never-before-seen scenes and songs from the show — a truly bewitching way to make New York City even greener! 🍁





# TARGET EAST HARLEM COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS

Although the evening began rainy and overcast, the fall showers didn't dampen the celebratory mood of the more than 200 East Harlem community residents that showed up to join in the official opening on October 1 of the Target East Harlem Community Garden, located on East 117th St., between First and Pleasant Avenues. NYRP Founder Bette Midler, NYRP Executive Director Drew Becher and Target representatives joined renowned landscape designer Sean Conway and NYC Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe in celebrating the spectacular opening of this recently renovated community space.

Donned in Target rain ponchos, neighborhood members enjoyed a fun evening with music, dancing and exciting giveaways, including a take-away starter kit to grow their own plants. Prior to the official opening of the garden and the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Bette Midler, Sean Conway and Drew Becher addressed the community and thanked Target for underwriting the creation of this neighborhood green space.

"From the very moment we began working with Target, it became clear to us that we share the same ideas and ideals," said Midler. "Target as a company prides itself on excellence in everything it does, from its service to its products and design. We also both care deeply about families and the places where they live, which is why the transformation of an urban eyesore into a welcoming green space is such a vital step toward reclaiming what rightfully belongs to the community."

Joining in the festivities were New York State Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell IV, NYC Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito and representatives from the Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer.



*Bette joins garden designer Sean Conway to officially open the Target East Harlem Community Garden.*

**"Gardens and open space are important to the quality of life in every community."**

Created to provide members of this community access to an optimal growing environment, the Target East Harlem Community Garden will serve as a green space where families and neighborhood residents

can host events and workshops. In October 2007, NYRP celebrated the opening of its first Target Community Garden in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

"Target is proud to join with New York Restoration Project on the opening of the second Target Community Garden," said Laysha Ward, vice president of community relations at Target. "We hope that the garden will become a welcoming green space for this neighborhood and the entire East Harlem community to enjoy."

Designed by nationally acclaimed designer and television host Sean Conway, the garden uses cutting-edge sustainable technology to both eliminate dependence on outside energy and to provide this East Harlem Community with a truly green space in which to relax, garden and enjoy time outdoors. As his second Target Garden design for NYRP, Conway once again took an artist's approach in creating the space's aesthetic by incorporating a two-level layout that is both visually interesting and distinct.

"Gardens and open space are important to the quality of life in every community," said Conway. "The creation of this garden will give residents of this East Harlem community a place to garden, enjoy community activities and appreciate the beauty of their own neighborhood."

Community members entering this garden will pass through iron gates leading into a stone pathway, which then transi-

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## IN THE GARDENS: NYRP AND 50 CENT JOIN FORCES TO RE-IMAGINE JAMAICA, QUEENS COMMUNITY GARDEN



*NYRP's newest village green — the Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden.*

As the City's leaves turned to their final shades of autumn, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) put the finishing touches on its newest community treasure — the Curtis "50 Cent" Jack-

son Community Garden, located at the corner of Foch Boulevard and 165th Street in Jamaica, Queens. To continue the organization's mission to give New York City residents access to extraordinary green space,

**"Every child should have access to open green space, where they can learn, play and be active in their community."**

NYRP commissioned acclaimed landscape architect and designer, Walter Hood, to redesign this community garden, which has been generously underwritten by Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson's G-Unity Foundation. Since this NYRP garden is located in the community where 50 Cent grew up, it seemed like a natural choice for NYRP and the hip hop artist to join forces in renovating this neighborhood space.

Officially opened on November 3, the Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden will provide members of this Queens neighborhood with access to much needed green space. According to Queens Community Board 12, the area currently has only

## TARGET EAST HARLEM GARDEN (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)



tions into a lush, green lawn that is bordered by a stone seating wall. Raised perennial and vegetable garden beds will spotlight the hard work of the community, making it a focal point of this new neighborhood gathering place. Large, red disks mounted on poles give shade to the plaza and patio, while also providing energy for the garden from solar panels that have been strategically placed on the top of each disk.

Additional energy-saving features include a rainwater harvesting system, which will provide community gardeners with the opportunity to replenish and nourish their healthy vegetable and flower beds throughout the growing season — reducing the garden's dependence on



local water supply and decreasing energy expenses. The garden will also supply community gardeners and area residents access to compost bins to recycle their organic household and yard waste. 🍌



5 percent of the recommended amount of open space to serve the neighborhood's 52,000 children. As a result of the combined efforts of 50 Cent's G-Unity Foundation and NYRP staff members, community gardeners and neighborhood residents will now have the opportunity to use this green space to host movie nights, garden workshops, family days and much more!

"It is an honor and a privilege for me to partner with Bette Midler and New York Restoration Project to bring this garden to Jamaica, Queens, my childhood neighborhood," said Jackson. "Every child should have access to open green space, where they can learn, play and be active in their community."

As Walter Hood's first project to be constructed in New York City, the Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden, with its innovative and wildly creative design, draws the community into the garden and the garden out into the community. Incorporating a children's learning garden, community vegetable plots and a patio area, Hood's design offers something for everyone in the neighborhood to enjoy.

"Public spaces should be the places where culture literally articulates its view about how it wants to live," said Hood. "That means artists who are involved in making these places are responsible for elevating communities and their environments to a level of artistic beauty that really connects people to the world around them."

Additional features of the garden include a rainwater harvesting system — made up of six, 10-foot tall funnels to collect and store rainwater — that will provide regular irrigation to the garden and shade for rest and relaxation. Together, this and other innovative design elements contribute to making this garden a lively, multi-functional gathering space for the entire community.

"I am thrilled that 50 Cent and the G-Unity Foundation have become such a vital part of the NYRP family," said NYRP Founder Bette Midler. "We are a perfect match! They are dedicated to helping



The Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden will feature six, 10-foot tall funnels to collect and store rainwater that will help irrigate the garden.

underserved communities just as we are. There is nothing more important to me than providing open green space for families to use for gardening, education, relaxing and

having fun. I salute 50 Cent for using his celebrity to bring a healthier lifestyle to his childhood community, and I thank him from the bottom of my heart." 🍌

## COMMUNITY GARDENER: GERTRUDE DUNCAN

A Queens resident since 1966, Gertrude Duncan came to New York City from Virginia, married and raised four sons, and worked for the New York Public Library for 20 years. Somehow in between the demands of her busy life, Duncan still found the time to lead the effort to restore a large patch of open space at the end of her block — an area that had long been forgotten and suffered from years of neglect like the fate of so many empty lots throughout our city.

Baisley Park Community League Garden — now known as the Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden — started out as undeveloped city property abutting the Long Island Railroad and was widely used by locals as a dumping site. Every day, Duncan would walk her kids to school past this overgrown plot, until in 1992, when she secured a contract with the City's GreenThumb program to transform this neglected space into a community garden. "I was so inspired by Mayor

Dinkins 'Field of Dreams' initiative to turn empty lots into ball fields — I didn't see why we couldn't have a 'Field of Dreams' vegetable garden!" said Duncan.

To accomplish this monumental task, Duncan organized neighbors and local schools to create vegetable and flowerbeds that have been in use ever since. "It's been so rewarding. There have been times when I've said 'I've got to get a life,' but the garden has been my life," said Duncan. In 1999, NYRP purchased the property and worked with community members, like Duncan, to plan its restoration.

"Walter Hood's design is bringing us into a whole new era — there's nothing in the area to compare to it," said Duncan. "I've enjoyed supervising the garden, but now I am confident that I can pass the baton and join the entire community in sharing our very own garden of dreams!" 🍌





## IN THE PARKS: SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH INNOVATION — NYRP GARDENS LEAD THE WAY!

In the environmental movement, NYRP is quickly becoming a leader in urban sustainability through its design and programming work in the organization's 57 community gardens citywide. Recognizing the many long-term economic benefits involved in utilizing sustainable technology, NYRP has incorporated several groundbreaking green features to its Target East Harlem Community Garden.

■ Making this community space as sustainable as it can be, the garden is completely off grid — eliminating the need to tap into gas, water or electric resources.

■ In an effort to decrease energy expenses, NYRP has applied solar fabric — a revolutionary technology that uses fibers to convert solar energy into electricity — to the



tops of flat disks mounted on poles in the garden's plaza.

■ NYRP also installed a state-of-the-art wind turbine system in the rear of the garden. In addition to producing 50 percent more electricity than traditional propeller turbines and being better equipped to stand up to winter conditions and general wear and tear, these spiral turbines are also aesthetically pleasing, adding beauty along with functionality to the garden.

■ Conservative both in practice and in the energy it produces, NYRP outfitted the Target East Harlem Garden with LED lights manufactured by Marl — a leading English innovator — which use less than 10 percent of the electricity required to power standard light bulbs, and in most cases, need no replacing.

■ Additionally, the garden's rainwater harvesting system, with water towers and a pump powered by garden-generated electricity, will irrigate the entire space with no need for additional City utilities. In preparation for its green installations, NYRP did a wind and sunlight feasibility study to assess the amount of power garden conditions can generate, with any power saved to be stored in batteries located on site.

## SHERMAN CREEK CENTER TAKES SHAPE

On June 4, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) appeared before the Public Design Committee of the City of New York — the agency that considers the aesthetics of publicly funded construction — to present the organization's plans to create its first-ever state-of-the-art green facility — the Sherman Creek Center (SCC). At midpoint during NYRP's presentation, the Commission interjected to say that it felt that NYRP not only had an award-winning design, but one that creatively utilizes the pioneering greening practices available today.

The Commission went on to highlight the many features that will make the SCC a publicly accessible facility on NYRP's Sherman Creek Campus, slated to open in 2009. Created to enhance both NYRP's educational programs and expand its operations capacity at Swindler Cove Park in Upper Manhattan, this center will utilize sustainable technology, while also increasing NYRP's pres-

ence along the Harlem River Front. Supported with funding from NYC Council Member Miguel Martinez and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, the 2,700 square-foot center will connect to Swindler Cove Park via the NYRP-constructed Sherman Creek nature trail — creating a green corridor along the Harlem River for students of P.S. 5 and the community.

Expanding upon the existing NYRP education field office — currently a repurposed gas station — the two, new modular buildings will create space for a multipurpose classroom that can accommodate 40 students, a small library and resource room, a woodshop, an area for public meetings, an office for NYRP field operations and horticulture crews and a deck overlooking the Sherman Creek waterfront.

Additionally, the SCC design dramatically increases the amount of porous surface



NYRP's Sherman Creek Center in upper Manhattan.

area for ornamental plantings on this city-owned property and will enhance the management of rainwater runoff. The structures will also feature a green roof and wall, and the extended tree pits located along 10th Avenue — constructed as a collaborative effort with the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) — already serve as a beautifully planted bioswale.



# MILLIONTREESNYC CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



planting goal — demonstrating that once again New Yorkers are going ‘above and beyond’ in their effort to green our city.”

Last fall, after assembling an advisory committee of nearly 70 organizations and government agencies to guide the initiative, MillionTreesNYC co-leaders NYRP and NYC Parks Department got busy plant-

ing trees along city streets, in parks, at New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments, in community gardens and other publicly accessible spaces. In the first year alone, NYRP completed more than 30 projects — planting a total of 4,739 trees citywide. As a result of MillionTreesNYC, and with the help of more than 2,000 volunteers, NYRP has successfully planted 20 times more trees than in any year since it was founded!

This fall, as MillionTreesNYC begins its second year, NYRP has plans to plant at 25 NYCHA developments and is expanding its planting work to a range of other publicly accessible properties, including:

- New York City public schoolyards and playgrounds
- National and state parks — including the historic Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn.
- Hospitals and health care institutions
- Faith-based and cultural institutions
- College and university campuses
- Public cemeteries

In an effort to engage more of the City in MillionTreesNYC, and to increase the initiative’s tree-planting capacity, NYRP recently launched the MillionTreesNYC Community Grant Program. Presented

through the generous support of The Home Depot Foundation, the Community Grant Program allows organizations large and small to secure funding for tree-planting projects, as well as stewardship, outreach and education programming related to MillionTreesNYC. Additionally, to promote tree stewardship and encourage everyday New Yorkers to get involved, MillionTreesNYC launched a citywide PSA campaign this fall, instructing residents on the importance of digging in to help maintain and care for the newest additions to our city’s urban forest. 🌱

## TREES FOR SCHOOLYARDS & PLAYGROUNDS



This fall, NYRP is partnering with the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to begin planting trees on public schoolyards and playgrounds throughout the City’s five boroughs as part of the organization’s commitment to MillionTreesNYC.

Through NYRP’s RespecTree — an in-depth, tree-education program — the organization’s horticulture and education staff will guide students through the site design and planting process, including developing a long-term, tree-stewardship strategy. In addition to constructing and planting new tree beds, NYRP will also create planting beds and add rainwater collection barrels to many of these sites. As a result, approximately 15 schools and playgrounds will be greened — bringing all the environmental, economic and health benefits associated with trees to the City’s Trees for Public Health (TPH) zones, which include neighborhoods where air pollution, asthma and other public health concerns are alarmingly high. Additionally, NYRP will provide New York City schoolteachers with the necessary tools and materials to teach their students about the importance of our city’s urban forest.



NYRP’s staff at the launch of the City’s first-ever MillionTreesNYC Month.



# APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM PREPARES NYC YOUTH FOR GREEN-COLLAR JOBS

Beginning in November, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation are launching the first-ever MillionTreesNYC Training Program. Designed to produce a class of highly trained, urban greening professionals, this rigorous 7-month program will provide comprehensive forestry and horticulture training to 30 young adults from New York City, including an equal mix of classroom study at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in the Bronx and on-the-job training with NYRP and Parks field crews. The goal of the program is to empower disadvantaged youths, who have not had the opportunity to go to college, to enhance their future careers by providing them with the specialized training necessary to pursue highly skilled professions.

**“With the MillionTreesNYC Training Program, we will provide a top-notch education, field training and practical work experience to give students the ability to utilize green-collar job opportunities in the most effective ways possible.”**

“There’s a shortage of trained professionals in urban forestry and horticulture, particularly in New York City,” said NYRP Vice President of Horticulture and Construction Barrett Robinson. “We’re creating this program to meet our own expanding needs as well as to train the next generation of green-collar workers in a growing field.” Candidates for the program were recruited through the New York City Hous-



## GREEN-COLLAR JOBS

With green-collar jobs on the rise in today’s growing environmental movement, opportunities to pursue professional careers in the green sector are at the highest they have ever been.

In New York City, opportunities for green-collar jobs include:

### **Tree Planter/Pruner:**

Entry-level annual salary: \$35,000  
Experienced annual salary: \$42,000

### **Urban Forester:**

Entry-level annual salary: \$38,000  
Experienced annual salary: \$48,000

### **Community Gardener:**

Entry-level annual salary: \$32,000  
Experienced annual salary: \$38,000

### **Garden Coordinator:**

Entry-level annual salary: \$32,000  
Experienced annual salary: \$38,000

ing Authority (NYCHA), the New York City Parks Department’s Parks Opportunity Program (POP) and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development’s Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP).

The MillionTreesNYC Training Program will follow three distinct tracks — urban forestry, ecological and wetland restoration and landscape design and construction. Participants will rotate through all three tracks and receive five weeks of training in each one before settling down for six months of hands-on training into the field that best suits their interests and strengths.

The 30 participants will be paid a competitive hourly wage while enrolled in the MillionTreesNYC Training Program, in addition to having their tuition waived to attend the necessary NYBG training courses. Seed funding for this program has been provided by the Altman Foundation, with additional support from The Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City, Bloomberg Philanthropies, David Rockefeller and the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity.

According to Robinson, the key to the MillionTreesNYC Training Program is that it is providing students with invaluable skills that will give them a professional advantage that they didn’t have before, which is especially significant at a time when the demand for green-collar jobs is at its highest. “There are so many job opportunities available right now in the green sector,” said Robinson. With the MillionTreesNYC Training Program, we will provide a top-notch education, field training and practical work experience to give students the ability to utilize green-collar job opportunities in the most effective ways possible.”

“I’m particularly excited to train apprentices in tree and plant procurement, how to plan and budget projects, and the know-how to plant and care for our city’s green spaces, including community gardens. A candidate with that kind of training and experience has a real leg up anywhere in the horticulture industry.”



## NATURE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

This fall, NYRP is launching Nature in My Neighborhood, a comprehensive program of educational curricula, activities and events for educators, students and community members — targeting schools and neighborhoods in close proximity to NYRP community gardens. Created to facilitate environmental education among New York City schoolchildren, Nature in My Neighborhood is a menu of educational programming that takes place at Swindler Cove Park in Upper Manhattan, in NYRP's 57 community gardens and on New York City public schoolyards citywide.

Touching on all aspects of NYRP's mission to revitalize underserved parks and community gardens, the key goals of Nature in My Neighborhood include:

- Increase community involvement in the use, creation and stewardship of neighborhood open spaces through recreational, cultural and educational programs. With a variety of exciting seasonal events and programs — including NYRP's Harlem River and Little Red Lighthouse festivals, NYRP Summer Camp and Family Day and summer sleepovers at Swindler Cove Park — Nature in My Neighborhood will reach over 10,000 local residents throughout the year.
- Promote student mastery of New York City and State environmental science standards through activity-based, interdisciplinary



learning experiences in the natural sciences. In single- and multi-session programs, students will learn foundational science concepts, such as life cycles and food chains. Another essential component to Nature in My Neighborhood is RespecTree — NYRP's in-depth, tree-education program — which provides students with hours in nature by teaching them, through the active maintenance of their schoolyard trees and landscape plantings, about the importance and function of trees in an urban setting. In addition, Nature Mania and NYRP Summer Camp at Swindler Cove Park are

programs where students have more intensive, sustained encounters with nature and environmental stewardship.

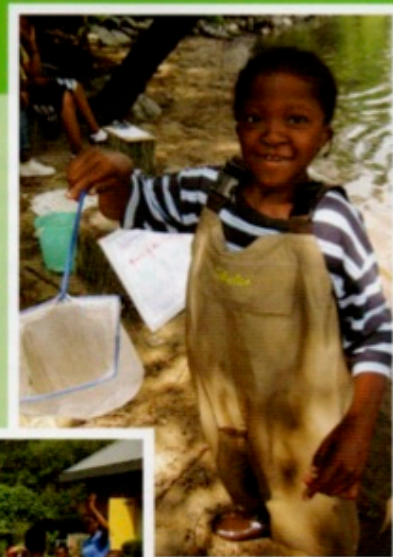
- Promote leadership skills and healthy lifestyles among community members by fostering environmentally friendly and socially responsible decision-making. This portion of Nature in My Neighborhood addresses nutrition, physical fitness and teen health. Cooking, gardening and health workshops — including bilingual sessions — will be provided in NYRP community gardens to help accomplish this particular goal of Nature in My Neighborhood.

- Provide professional development to build the capacity of New York City schoolteachers by conducting and enhancing active learning experiences that foster knowledge and skills in the environmental sciences. In an effort to engage more than 100 New York City schoolteachers, NYRP will conduct three seasonal Teach Green workshops in 2009, which will introduce educators to the suite of NYRP's green programs and will highlight the importance of teaching students about the significance of having and respecting nature in their neighborhoods by connecting them to our city's urban forest. 🌱





## IN THE CITY: NYRP SUMMER CAMP




In July and August, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) hosted its first, five-week NYRP Summer Camp — a new program targeting disadvantaged New York City youth who otherwise might not have the opportunity to attend a summer camp — in Swindler Cove Park. Due to the support of NYRP's members and donors, the organization is able to provide this program to youth free of charge.

Ranging in age from 7 to 12 years old, the 25 student campers were recruited from the neighboring New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Dyckman Houses. For four days each week, the campers participated in busy days of exercise, art and activities that connected them to nature, using all the resources available at the park. Activities included field studies and observation journaling, art projects, team games, fitness activities and rowing at the Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse.

On field trip Thursdays, these eager campers had the opportunity to embark on nature adventures that introduced them to the wild side of our urban environment, including excursions to Orchard Beach in the Bronx, a water taxi tour of New York Harbor

and The Waterfalls public artworks, the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, the Bronx Zoo, and a campout upstate at Baker Camp on Lake Sebago, with activities ranging from swimming, canoeing and campfire cooking — an exciting first for all of the students.

Led by NYRP Chief of Education and Programs, Akiima Price, and educators Robin Wadsworth, Omari Washington, Mya Jenkins and Dennis Rosario, NYRP Summer Camp '08 focused on respect, courage, effort, exploration and stewardship as essential parts of life and emphasized the value of students respectfully coexisting with each other and nature.

With the help of teenage team leaders, camp activities were geared toward stimulating the students' interest in nature, creative expression and physical abilities, with health-conscious meals and snacks provided. As Price noted, "A healthy mind and body go hand in hand with a healthy planet." At the end of the five weeks, students were sworn in as Swindler Cove Park Junior Naturalists, pledging to serve as good stewards of their neighborhood park. 





IN THE PARKS:

## SCOTT CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE CHEF NEW LEAF RESTAURANT & BAR



For more than 20 years, his inventive culinary talents have graced some of the most beloved eateries in New York City — Le Cirque, the Oak Room at the

Plaza Hotel and Union Square Café — and in 1992, Chef Scott Campbell brought his signature flare for New American cuisine to the Upper West Side with his own SQC Restaurant & Bar. Last year, Executive Chef Campbell moved even further uptown to NYRP's New Leaf Restaurant & Bar, located in Upper Manhattan's Fort Tryon Park.

"The true test of a chef is to make something special, to add your own creative energies," said Campbell. "Every day I am surrounded by the beauty of Fort Tryon Park. With the Heather Garden and the historic Cloisters museum and gardens only a short walk away, working at the New Leaf is a truly inspiring experience."

Nestled in a lush, forest setting, the New Leaf's ultra-romantic, 1930's building is the perfect location for Chef Campbell to explore his passion for modern American fare by creating an imaginative menu, featuring seasonal dishes made from only the best, locally grown ingredients.

"I got a great introduction to what was local and delicious while working at the Union Square Café, in the infancy of greenmarkets. Now, there are 30 or more greenmarkets across the City," said Campbell, whose fall menu features pumpkin risotto, scallop and oxtail ragout and dishes prepared with local wild mushrooms, micro greens and organic eggs from upstate New York.

"Freshness is flavor — you want to get food on the table as soon as it's out of the



ground. Also, buying local helps small farmers and cuts down on fuel emissions." To further support local farmers, every Tuesday from May to October the New Leaf hosts the Washington Heights CSA, a cooperative that provides upstate farmers with the opportunity to sell their produce to neighborhood families and community members, as well as supplies Chef Campbell with the ingredients needed to make his creative and constantly changing seasonal recipes.

As a result of Chef Campbell's innovative take on American cuisine and General Manager John Burbank's leadership, the New Leaf has increased business by nearly 20 percent in the last year, with all net proceeds supporting the restoration and maintenance of Fort Tryon park and the organization's 57 gardens. For more information on the New Leaf Restaurant & Bar, visit [www.nyrp.org/newleaf/](http://www.nyrp.org/newleaf/).



**TURNING  
A NEW  
LEAF**

In October, the New Leaf changed its name from the New Leaf Café to the New Leaf Restaurant & Bar in an effort to demonstrate to patrons that the restaurant is an upscale dining establishment, including a first-class bar, a cottage-like dining room and an outdoor patio perfect for weekend brunch or special occasions. The New Leaf is also introducing a new, more contemporary logo and citywide marketing campaign. Join NYRP in commemorating this exciting transformation by visiting the New Leaf for one of its world-class brunch, lunch or dinner dishes.



## OUR FAVE IN THE NABE — QUEENS



### THE DOOR

163-07 Baisley Boulevard  
Rochdale Village, Queens

A new hot spot for NYRP staff, The Door, located at 163-07 Baisley Boulevard, is a dining delight in Rochdale Village, Queens. Catering to the growing population of Caribbean immigrants settling in the neighborhood, this lovely, wood-paneled restaurant — located near NYRP's Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and Association for the Blind community gardens — features classic dishes from Jamaica, including stew chicken, grilled salmon and etched fish. After enjoying a delicious jerk chicken lunch, NYRP's Brooklyn Regional Director Jason Sheets is pictured here with staff members Arlene, Alison and Serju in front of The Door.

The Door is located near NYRP's newest community gem, the Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden, located at 117-119 165th Street in Jamaica, Queens. 🌱

### LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



This impressive green fella was spotted in Fort Tryon Park's Anne Loftis Playground in late July by NYRP Project Crew Supervisor Dustin Thomsen. The caterpillar will metamorphose into the brown-speckled Elm Sphinx moth (*Ceratomia amyntor*), which has a wingspan of up to 4.5 inches and can be found throughout much of North America.



On the other side of upper Manhattan, a lion's mane jellyfish (*Cyanea capillata*) — a species immortalized in the Sherlock Holmes' story *The Adventure of the Lion's Mane* — was spotted on July 16 floating near the Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse at Swindler Cove Park. That same week, the New York Times reported on the unseasonal appearance of these dangerous beauties in the Hudson and Harlem Rivers, with experts attributing their early arrival to southern winds and a lack of rain pushing saltwater upstream.



### GRASSROOTS LEMONADE STAND SUPPORTS MILLIONTREESNYC

This summer, Jeremy Zorek (pictured) set up a stand on the corner of 86th Street and Columbus Avenue to sell lemonade and cookies. What was his goal? To split the proceeds between MillionTreesNYC and The Doe Fund, a non-profit that promotes self-sufficiency within the homeless population. In total, Jeremy raised \$86, and the young entrepreneur sent a \$50 check to NYRP to support the citywide, tree-planting initiative. NYRP salutes Jeremy's gumption and his inspiring example of civic-mindedness, and we gratefully thank Jeremy and his parents for their generous contribution to MillionTreesNYC.





*Groovin' with Katie*



*Beautiful!*



*Toyota Children's Learning Garden officially opens!*

Bette's  
NYRP  
Memory  
Board



*Marcia, Marcia, Marcia!!*



*Gettin' down with the Harlem Youth Chorus*



*I WIN*



*Happy Arbor Day!*

*NYRP launches its first summer camp program at Swindler Cove Park.*



*NYRP Summer Camp 08 has a wild side!*

*To support NYRP's mission of greening New York City one block at a time, visit [www.nyrp.org](http://www.nyrp.org).*





## GARDEN CYCLES BIKE TOUR

In September, documentary filmmakers **Lara Sheets, Liz Tylander and Kat Shiffler** premiered *Garden Cycles Bike Tour: New Faces from the Farm* at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in Virginia. The film chronicles these intrepid community

gardeners' three-month, 2,000-mile bike journey from their homes in Washington, DC to Montreal and back again — an expedition that resulted in them visiting backyard vegetable plots, community gardens and suburban farms along the way — and often camping out in them! The film celebrates the grassroots movement to grow and eat locally produced food, raise awareness about healthy eating and the joys of bringing agriculture back to modern life. For more information on the film and their journey, visit <http://womensgardencycles.wordpress.com>.



## PRIVATE TOUR OF GRACIE MANSION

Thursday, November 6 — 11:00 a.m.

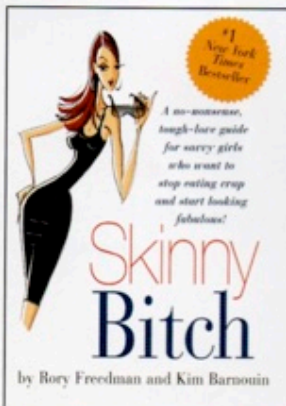
Join members of Bette's Garden Club for a special, private tour of Gracie Mansion — one of the oldest surviving wood buildings in New York City and the official residence of the Mayor. Built in 1799 by Archibald Gracie, a prosperous New York merchant, Gracie Mansion is a Federal-style structure that sits within Carl Schurz Park — located between 84th and 90th Streets along East End Avenue — and looks out over Hell Gate, where the East River meets the Harlem River.

For more information about Bette's Garden Club membership and events, please contact Kristin Dougherty at (212) 333-2552 or email [development@nyrp.org](mailto:development@nyrp.org).

## bette's BOOK CORNER

## OPEN SPACES, SACRED PLACES

*Open Spaces, Sacred Places* is a beautiful new book documenting the work of the TKF Foundation, which has funded the creation of over 100 open spaces that heal the body and mind, while softening cities and helping sustain the environment. The foundation's collection of gardens include a meditation garden at a prison, a labyrinth in an inner-city neighborhood and a hospital "Garden of Little Angels" for grieving parents (TKF Foundation, 2008).



## SKINNY BITCH

Since its wildly successful debut in 2005, the manifesto *Skinny Bitch*, by Rory Freedman and Kim Barnouin, has inspired women with sass and sense to take charge of their lives and nutrition. The irreverent, no-holds-barred series now includes *Skinny Bitch in the Kitch* and *Skinny Bitch: Bun in the Oven* (Running Press, 2005).



**The Buds** — NYRP's Junior Committee — enjoyed a live taping of *The Martha Stewart Show* on October 7. Created for New Yorkers aged 40 and under, *The Buds* gives New York's next generation the opportunity to create a greener, more beautiful future for our city.

For more information about *The Buds* membership and events, please contact Allison Beck at (212) 333-2522 or email [development@nyrp.org](mailto:development@nyrp.org).