Dear Friends, Neighbors and Supporters of GCC,

As we reflect on this past year for GCC and look ahead, we all find ourselves navigating a drastically different world - one with even more challenges than before. GCC’s roots and identity as a community based organization only amplifies our sense of connection to the entire Gowanus community. For us, community not only includes all those who live, work, learn and play here everyday, but also our wider community of supporters, partners and visitors from well beyond the environs of the Gowanus Canal - all of whom are in our thoughts as we navigate these changing times.

Thriving in uncertainty is not new to GCC and much of our success over the past 14 years has come from our ability to advance our community’s common interests while adapting to changing and often unpredictable circumstances. Among the many things the current crisis highlights is the critical importance of parks and public spaces to our lives and the essential role a caring community plays at all times. Today, in the face of even greater uncertainties, we hold firm to our mission of advocating and caring for ecologically sustainable parks and public spaces in Gowanus, while empowering a community of stewards.

The past year has seen some great successes towards GCC’s mission and as you leaf through this report, I trust you will share our sense of pride in the achievements. Our team of dedicated staff, Board members and incredible cadre of volunteers and community partners have been critical to this success. While celebrating these successes is important, we also recognize that there remains much challenging work ahead.

In looking ahead, I say with confidence that GCC will continue to ensure that its work is underpinned by our commitment to i) listening and learning from all stakeholders, ii) serving as collaborators and partners and iii) being honest and vocal about the priorities that are essential for our community’s well-being today, and well into the future.

Thank you for being part of our community. We are proud to stand with you and to continue building our future together!

Faizal Karmali
Board Chair
Gowanus Canal Conservancy
In looking back at 2019, we are reminded by the strength, engagement and passion of our community. This is especially poignant as we look forward to a very different kind of year in 2020. Everything that we at Gowanus Canal Conservancy do is based on engaging people, on gathering people together to dig in the dirt, to learn about the blue and green infrastructure that surrounds us, to discuss our neighborhoods history and future, and to understand how we can each take part in building a more resilient community. In 2020, we’ll continue this work, but much if it will need to be from afar. I feel so thankful that we have such an incredible community of neighbors, supporters, partners, volunteers - all of you are what will make it possible to learn, adapt and grow through this tragedy.

This crisis has illuminated the importances of parks and public spaces in our communities. These essential open spaces provide solace and respite, clean air, Vitamin D, and a connection with the living world. And this isn’t just about parks - it’s also about the interstitial public spaces - street trees, gardens, and our waterfronts. We need healthy, shady and habitable public spaces throughout our neighborhoods. It is more important than ever that we continue to plan for neighborhood scale resiliency that protects and supports each and everyone one of us.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us, and for keeping the optimism to build a more resilient urban neighborhood, community and world.

Andrea Parker
Executive Director
Gowanus Canal Conservancy
We are a proud member of the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice (GNCJ), a diverse coalition of stakeholders advocating for a just Gowanus rezoning. GNCJ’s top three shared priorities include upfront funding for NYCHA capital needs, Net Zero CSO (combined sewer overflow), and the implementation of an environmental justice special district to provide local oversight.

In 2019, pilot dredging and capping was completed in the Fourth St Basin, marking the first section of clean Canal. Construction of the Fulton cutoff wall began, in preparation for dredging and capping of Remedial Target Area 1 (RTA-1), which will begin in August 2020.

In 2019, we released our first draft of this working document, which guides the design of parks, privately-owned public esplanades, and greened corridors that will serve multiple functions by increasing flood resistance, reducing the urban heat island effect, creating habitat, managing stormwater, reducing pressure on the antiquated sewer system, and providing the community with accessible cultural and recreational resources.

The Gowanus Lowlands Master Plan envisions a network of parks and public spaces centered on the Gowanus Canal and connected to the surrounding watershed, building upon Bridging Gowanus, the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study, and years of community outreach. In 2019 we released our first draft of this working document, which guides the design of parks, privately-owned public esplanades, and greened corridors that will serve multiple functions by increasing flood resistance, reducing the urban heat island effect, creating habitat, managing stormwater, reducing pressure on the antiquated sewer system, and providing the community with accessible cultural and recreational resources.
VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP

Our volunteers are essential to our work throughout the neighborhood. From our neighbors who drop in for a one-day project to our dedicated Volunteer Committee that meets monthly to plan initiatives and projects, we couldn’t function without them.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🧀</td>
<td>759 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🕒</td>
<td>2,647 HOURS VOLUNTEERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>📆</td>
<td>35 PUBLIC + 3 CORPORATE EVENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🏃‍♂️</td>
<td>25 MEMBERS + 8 CHAIRS + 5 SUB-COMMITTEES</td>
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GOWANUS TREE NETWORK

The Gowanus Tree Network are neighbors working together to build a healthy urban forest. Tree Ambassadors enroll in free Citizen Pruner training, organize tree stewardship with their neighbors, and enter the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest.

In 2019, we hosted 8 blocks and 20 Tree Ambassadors, with at least 1 community event on each block to apply compost, install native plants, and educate the public about the benefits of street trees. Additionally, together with the Tree Ambassadors, we hosted a public “Meet the Trees” Walking Tour in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

We steward green spaces throughout the Gowanus lowlands, caring for street trees, rain gardens, the Salt Lot, the Lowlands Nursery, and the broader ecosystem, with the help of youth apprentices, volunteers and students.

BIOBLITZ BY THE NUMBERS

230 PARTICIPANTS
192 STUDENTS
23 TAXON LEADERS
15 GUIDES

765 PARTICIPANT HOURS

BIOBLITZ

In Fall 2019, GCC held a 24-hour bioblitz, our largest biological survey. A collaboration with Macaulay Honors College, Greenwood Cemetery, and the Gowanus Dredgers the bioblitz involved a full weekend of intensive cataloguing on foot and canoe. Students were guided by scientific experts and other knowledgeable volunteers.

To date in the survey area 2,800 observations have been made of over 600 species. These observations provide a species inventory at a key moment when the canal and its banks are rapidly changing due to the Superfund cleanup and new development.

BIODIVERSITY SNAPSHOT

2,800 OBSERVATIONS MADE
667 SPECIES DOCUMENTED

SPECIES BREAKDOWN:

384 PLANT
43 BIRD
114 TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATE
32 MARINE INVERTEBRATE
71 FUNGUS & LICHEN
7 FISH
7 MAMMAL
5 ALGAE

GREEN TEAM

GREEN TEAM BY THE NUMBERS

110.5 HOURS JOB TRAINING
70 HOURS FIELD WORK
8 GREEN TEAM APPRENTICES

Through field work and class sessions Green Team apprentices gained physical skills, including gardening, infrastructure maintenance, and plant identification; and gained social skills including team-work and communication. Green Team apprentices are an integral part of our growing open space maintenance team, providing stewardship for priority areas of young urban forests, bioswales, parks, and public spaces.
EDUCATION
Through citizen science, service-learning, walking tours, and the Gowanus Blue Schools and STEM curricula, we teach students and community members about the complex ecological, historical, and social issues of Gowanus so they can become better advocates for a sustainable future.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS
- 1,295 people learned about CSO
- 371 students engaged in citizen science
- 260 students engaged in service-learning
- 163 students engaged in walking tours

Last June, students from M.S. 88, M.S. 447, and Brooklyn Collaborative Studies presented their green infrastructure design projects at the Gowanus Blue Schools Design Challenge. Students shared their design ideas for more sustainable and resilient school campuses, integrating green infrastructure strategies such as green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavement.

A professional jury panel of engineers, landscape architects, and City leaders in sustainability provided students with feedback and presented teams with a variety of awards.
Business Supporters

- 363 Gowanus Developers
- Ariel Property Advisors
- Baxt Ingui Architecture
- Bond MM LLC
- Citi Foundation/CitiGroup
- Con Edison Foundation
- Credit Suisse
- Elizabeth Roberts Architecture & Design
- Emphasis Design
- EPhase 2, LLC
- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott-Brooklyn / Truxtun
- GoTo & de Milly, Inc.
- Gowanus Green Partners LLC
- Langan Engineering, DPC
- Lightstone Group
- Midwood
- Monadnock Construction
- Natural Systems Utilities
- New York City Runners
- NYU Future Labs
- Patagonia
- PayPal Giving Fund
- Property Markets Group
- Public Records (SpeakmansGowanus LLC)
- Tankhouse
- The Brooklyn Home Company
- The Domain Companies

Foundations

- AllinBklyn
- Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
- Leibowitz & Greenway Family Foundation
- Lily Auchincloss Foundation
- New York Community Trust
- Tiger Baron Foundation

Agencies

- NYC Civic Corps
- NYC Dept. of Education
- NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
- NYC Dept. of Sanitation
- NYC Soil & Water Conservation District
- NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Pollution Prevention Institute
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Forest Service, US Dept. of Agriculture

In-Kind

- 4&20 Blackbirds
- ARUP
- Baba’s Pierogies
- Brooklyn Brewery
- Fifth Avenue Committee
- Four Borough Brewing Co.
- Folksbier Brauerei
- Gotham Greens
- Grand Army
- Grimm Artisanal Ales
- Greenbelt Native Plant Center
- Hela Native Nursery
- Langan Engineering
- Moore Brothers Wine
- Other Half Brewing
- Pig Beach
- Runner & Stone
- SCAPE
- Six Point Brewery
- South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation
- Strong Rope Brewery
- The V Spot
- Threes Brewing
- Trader Joe’s
- Wantega
- Whole Foods

Individuals Over $5,000

- Andrew Simons
- Ben & Hillary Jones
- Lisa Kentgen
- Lisa Melmed
- Anonymous

Individuals Over $1,000

- Andrew Kimball
- Bill Dudine
- Craig Wilson
- Faizal Karmali
- Leah Milcarek
- Marcos Diaz Gonzalez
- Venetta Lannon
- Zaria Forman
- Lavinia Simons
- Winfield Clifford
- Lisa Melmed
- Virginia McEneny
- Anisa Javeri
- Heidi Dolnick

Individuals Over $500

- Amy C. Liss
- Andrew Lee
- Aswin Dayal
- Corey Block
- Joanne Witty
- John Lavelle
- Kathryn Yatrakis
- Nancy Belkov
- Neill Coleman
- Paul Basil
- Scott Sager
- Thomas Simons
- Valerie Simpson Ashford

Individuals Over $250

- Chester Lee
- Justin Schein
- Kathleen (TN) McEneny
- Matthew Jones
- Summer Pingree
- Thomas Plant
- Lisa Lightbody

Honorees

- Ben Jones
- Chairman
- Gowanus Canal Conservancy

- Venetia Lannon
- Vice President
- Matrix New World Engineering

- Elise Long
- Founder & Director
- Spoke The Hub Dancing

Co-Chairs

- William Caleo
- Founder, The Brooklyn Home Company

- Marcos Diaz Gonzalez
- Senior Vice President, Aecom

- Jay Walder
- Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Hyperloop One

Lowlands Sponsor

- American & Interstate Signcrafters

Gowanus Blue Sponsor

- AECOM
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Langan Engineering
- Two Trees

Green Infrastructure Sponsor

- The Brooklyn Home Company
- Brown and Caldwell
- Diane & Richard Greene
- Steve Hindy & Ellen Foote
- Industry City
- JLL
- Ben & Hillary Jones
- MacAndrews & Forbes

Clean & Green Sponsor

- Heidi & Sam Dolnick
- Jennifer & Steven Eisenstadt
- emphasis design, inc.
- American & Interstate Signcrafters
- Gowanuspree LLC
- Metropolitan Paper Recycling, Inc.
- Moses Basha & Jeffrey Levine
- Marcia Ely
- Elizabeth Gummerson & Kevin O’Neil
- Athena Consulting Group, Inc.
- America City
- Brooklyn Brewery
- henne Consulting
- Charlie Pigott at the Corcoran Group
- Pilot Real Estate Group
- Pitts & DiGiorno LLC
- Robin Shanus & Stephen Merkle
- Sims Municipal Recycling
- Tao & Mckown Architects
- Penny Windle & John Kline

STEM Gowanus Sponsor

- Ahn Law Group
- Nick Brust & Linda Siegel
- Delson or Sherman Architects PC
- The Domain Companies
- Bill Dudine & Rosanne Pugliesi
- Future Green Studio
- GDP-Gowanus Bay Terminal
- Handel Architects
- Industrial Carting
- Richard & Julie Lam
- M3 Energy
- Virginia McEneny
- Leah Milcarek & Rick McNerny
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Bioswale Sponsor

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- Samantha Britell & Jeffrey Levine
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- Elizabeth Gummerson & Kevin O’Neil
- Cathy & Ben Iselin
- Faizal Karmali
- Karen Meara
- Sharon Nelles & Scott Sager
- NYC DEP
- Doug Steiner
- Julie Wood
- York Analytical Laboratories, Inc.