



Hunters Point Parks

CONSERVANCY



2015 Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Christie

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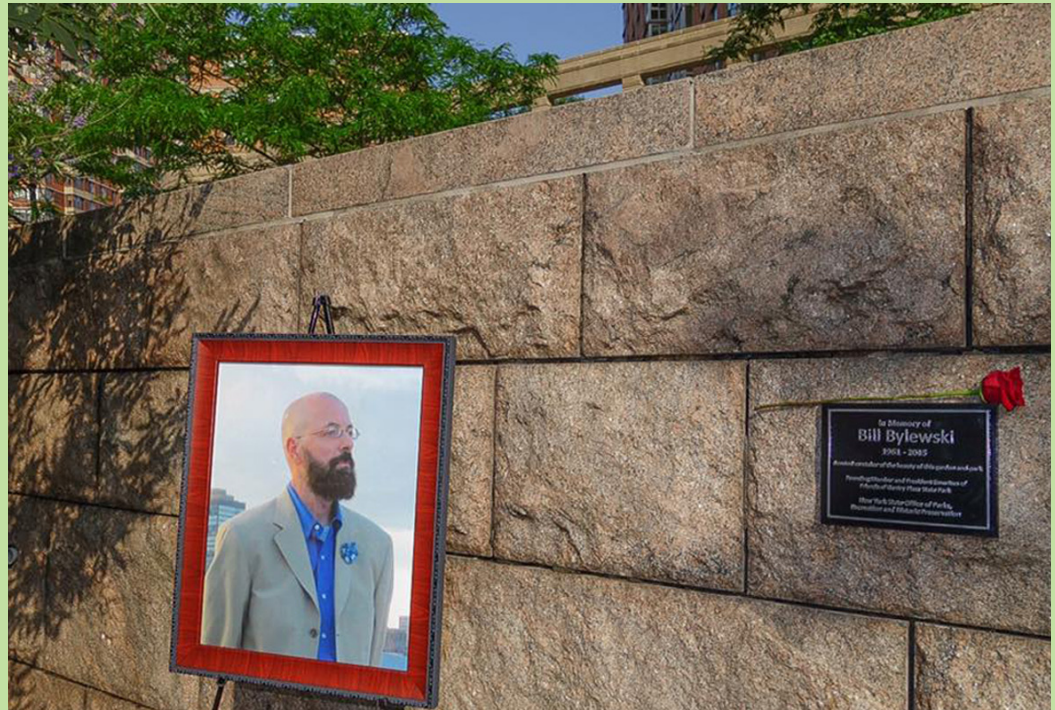
Barbara Etzel

(as of 11/17/15)

Secretary

Bill Bylewski

President Emeritus



In Memory of Bill Bylewski 1961—2015

*devoted caretaker of the beauty of this garden and park
Founding Member and President Emeritus of Friends of
Gantry Plaza State Park New York State Office
of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*

On July 18, the Hunters Point Parks Conservancy celebrated Bill Bylewski, the late President Emeritus of the Conservancy. Bill was a founding member of Friends of Gantry State Park and devoted countless hours as a volunteer gardener and community leader who helped maintain the park's beauty.

When the adjoining city park opened, Hunters Point South Park, Bill had the vision to see that one friends group dedicated to the unique needs of both parks would better serve the community's interest than two

separate groups competing for financial and human resources. Bill took the lead in bringing together the community to make that happen.

At the ceremony, Bill's plaque was unveiled, which is located in the garden of Gantry Plaza State Park on the granite wall. Local community leaders attended: Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, NY State Senator Michael Gianaris, COFFEED owner Frank Raffaele, and State Parks Regional Director Leslie Wright.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rob Basch

Looking back on 2015, I am delighted with the strides that Hunter's Point Parks Conservancy has made. We launched an ambitious program of events beginning with the New Year's Day toast and the February membership meeting. As the year closed, the membership passed new bylaws to reflect our growing organization and the merger of Friends of Gantry State Park and the recently created Hunter's Point Parks Conservancy.

I am very excited about another year for the Conservancy and the incredible waterfront opportunities that Hunters Point South Park and Gantry Plaza State Park give our community. We look forward to the community taking advantage of all the great things our parks have to offer and becoming involved in the Conservancy. Our goal is to make the parks your Staycation Destination. To achieve that goal, we are going to focus on the following activities.

Create Great Programming

Outdoor movies, live music, special events, cultural performances and yoga are just some of our many events that all residents will be able to enjoy in 2016.



Gardening and Park Maintenance

We will work to keep our parks beautiful by weeding, planting and trimming. We will focus on safety and maintenance issues by hosting bi-weekly volunteer events. We also will host special events, such as our annual LIC BulbFest and MulchFest.

Partner with Elected and Park Officials and Community Groups

We will continue to communicate with elected and park officials and like-minded community groups to ensure our waterfront parks provide a relaxing environment and recreational opportunities for the community.

The Hunters Point South parks and neighborhoods continue to evolve. We embrace the changes and will continue with our mission of enriching the quality of life in the neighborhood and by preserving and enhancing its parks, green spaces and waterfront in partnership with the community. We also are very excited about the ground breaking for Phase 2 of Hunters Point South Park. On November 23 Mayor de Blasio and other elected officials broke ground on this \$99 million phase that will extend our waterfront park to Newtown Creek.

The members of the Hunters Point Parks Conservancy and I have a passion for the parks. The core of everything we do is to keep the parks and waterfront a special place for everyone. My goal is that once you visit our parks you will find recreation and rest and become part of the Hunters Point Park community.

Thanks for your interest in Hunters Point Parks Conservancy.

Rob Basch



OUR HISTORY

The Conservancy was created in 1998 by a group of dedicated Long Island City residents who were determined to improve the quality of life along the waterfront in Hunters Point. Specifically, the Friends of Gantry State Park as it was originally named, took care of the community's parks, trees and natural areas. Members advocated to make the waterfront safer and cleaner, and focused their first activities on the landscaping and maintenance of Gantry Plaza State Park.

With the opening of Hunters Point South Park in August 2013 and the opening of LIC Landing by COFFEED, the Friends of Gantry State Park expanded its mission to include Hunters Point South Park. It began to develop new community programs and evolved into the Hunters Point Park Conservancy.

As the organization evolved, a new governance structure was needed. The members decided to change the organization's structure from a member-run organization to one that was led by a board of directors. New bylaws were required, and a Committee was formed, which was chaired by Board Secretary Kent Cozad. Committee members were: Barbara Etzel, Sheila Lewandowski, Jennie Nyulasi, Brent O'Leary, Patrick Thompson, Cynthia Van Houten and Matthew Wallace. The bylaws were approved by the membership at its November 2015 meeting.

Each February Conservancy will hold its annual member's meeting to elect new board members.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Gardening & Cinema

VOLUNTEER GARDENING

We worked with Conservancy members, community volunteers and New York Cares to weed, mulch and plant in Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunters Point South Park. We hosted bi-weekly gardening days on Saturdays from April to November.



Mark Christie



CINEMA LIC 🎬

Hunters Point Parks Conservancy, in partnership with real estate company Nestseekers, initiated its outdoor movie series in September 2014. This well attended series in 2015 grew to six popular films including Frozen, ET and When Harry Met Sally. The Cinema LIC outdoor movie series will continue in 2016 and has become a must see event for the community.



2015 CALENDAR

January

- 1 New Years Day Toast

February

- 24 Party at Shi

April

- 19 Earth Day 🌿
- 25 Frozen 🎬

May

- 9 New York State I Love My Park Day
- 28 LIC Henge Celebration

June

- 1 Presentation by New York City Economic Development Corporation about plans for Phase 2 of the Hunters Point
- 25 King Kong 🎬

July

- 12 LIC Henge Celebration
- 15 Wednesdays on the Waterfront
- 18 Dedication of Bill Bylewski's plaque
- City of Water Day (with Waterfront Alliance and Greenshores)
- 23 Breakfast At Tiffany's 🎬
- 29 Wednesday on the Waterfront



BULBFEST

In November we planted over 3,500 tulip and daffodil bulbs in Hunters Point South Park and Gantry State Park.



MULCHFEST

On Jan. 9 and 10, 2016, the Conservancy worked with NYC Parks Department to bring Mulchfest to Hunters Point South Park. We mulched over 600 trees.



Music & Dancing



Dancing

For select Wednesdays throughout the summer, we partnered with local dance center Puerto Havana Fitness and Martinez Dance Studio to offer free salsa dancing for our Wednesdays on the Waterfront series.



DJs

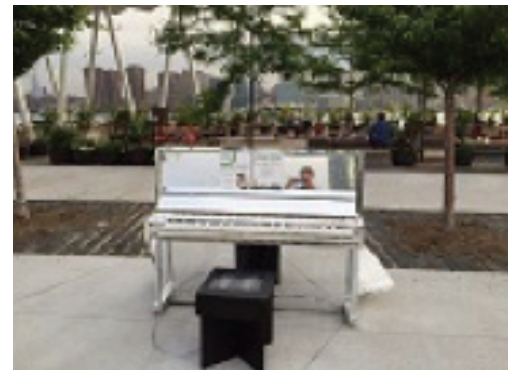
Hunters Point Parks Conservancy hosted DJ events throughout the summer at the LIC Landing event space.

SING FOR HOPE 🎵

In June, Hunters Point Parks Conservancy worked with Sing for Hope and LIC Landing by COFFEED to host a piano on the waterfront for visitors to the park to play and enjoy.

Once the two-week program ended, the Conservancy arranged for the piano to be donated to the Long Island City-based New York Irish Center to use for their senior programs. Through the volunteer service of over 1,500 artists—including opera singers, actors, jazz musicians, dancers, puppeteers and visual artists—Sing for Hope brings dynamic arts outreach programming to under-resourced communities throughout New York.

In addition, we supported dance and music events offered by other organizations at the park such as Quiet Clubbing, Lincoln Center's Silent Disco series, LIC Concerts and Live at the Gantries.





Matthew Kiss Band

LIC LANDING LIVE 🎵

In September, we launched LIC Landing Live, a music series featuring local bands that played on Friday evenings throughout the month.

Nest Seekers, Food Cellar and KitchenPlusMore supported this music series to give back to the community they helped form, with the continuing goal of enhancing the neighborhoods where they do business.

Hunters Point Parks CONSERVANCY presents LIC LANDING LIVE

LOCAL BANDS - FRIDAYS IN SEPTEMBER
6:30 - 8 PM at Hunters Point South Park

SEPTEMBER 4 **MARIACHI FLOR DE TOLOACHE**
NY's first & only all-female Mariachi band (www.mariachinyc.com)

SEPTEMBER 11 **REGINA BONELLI BLUES BAND**
Authentic, gritty blues and soul (www.reginabonelli.com)

SEPTEMBER 18 **2/3 GOAT**
Alt-country, bluesy bluesgrass & classic rock (www.twethirdsgoat.com)

SEPTEMBER 25 **MATTHEW KISS**
Americana hybrid of rock/blues and soul (www.matthewkiss.com)

sponsored by
Nest Seekers INTERNATIONAL **foodcellar & co.** **LIC LANDING** **LIC Parks**

www.hunterspointparks.org

August

- 7 E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial 🏠
- 12 Wednesdays on the Waterfront
- 20 When Harry Met Sally 🏠
- 26 Wednesdays on the Waterfront
- 29 Citibike Expansion first station in Queens (with Citibike)

September

- 4 Mariachi Flor de Toloache 🎵
- 5 GrowNYC YouthMarket
- 11 Regina Bonelli Blues Band 🎵
- 12 GrowNYC YouthMarket
- 18 2/3 Goat 🎵
- 19 Annie Hall 🏠
- 19 GrowNYC YouthMarket
- 19 HPS Rocks the Block (with Related Companies)
- 25 Matthew Kiss 🎵
- 26 GrowNYC YouthMarket
- 27 Harvest Moon Celebration 🌕

November

- 1 11th Street Median Tree Care and Pruning on NYC Marathon Sunday
- 6 Global Vibrations DJ Showcase
- 21 LIC Bulb Festival

Sports, Community & Seasonal Events

FITNESS & SPORTS

Throughout the summer we supported programs hosted by local organizations.



Queens 2015 Fall Volleyball championship team

Volleyball

We began partnering with Zog Sports to host a volleyball team that played at the sand courts by COFFEED during the summer and at Hunter's Point Community Middle School once the weather turned. During the fall league, the HPPC volleyball won the Queens championship.



Yoga

Hunters Point Parks Conservancy began offering new active programs at Hunters Point South Park including free sunrise and sunset yoga.



Kayaking

We promoted the Long Island City Boathouse's free kayaking programs that launched from Anable Basin, and partnered with the Boathouse to schedule a trip for Conservancy members.



COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Hunters Point Parks Conservancy hosted presentations and discussions on issues affecting the parks including the development of Phase II of Hunters Point South, improvements for Gantry Plaza State Park and expanded East River Ferry Service. As part of our advocacy, we also worked closely with other community organizations including:

- 
 Lion's Club,
 Long Island City
- 
 LIC Boathouse
- 
 New York Police
 Department
 108th Precinct
- 
 Greenshores
- 
 Waterfront
 Alliance
- Hunter's Point
 Civic Association

SEASONAL EVENTS

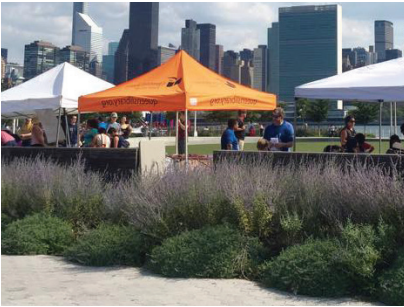
Harvest Moon Celebration 🌕

The Conservancy hosted a Harvest Moon party to observe the lunar moon eclipse that began at 9:07 pm on September 27. According to NASA, the last one appeared in 1982, and the next one won't occur until 2032. Psychics, readers, healers, artists, musicians and DJs gathered at LIC Landing to gaze at the stars and welcome the full moon in Aries, the cooler weather, and vibrant colors of Autumn with music and messages for the new season.

Not only did the Moon appear larger than normal, it also was tinted orange-red.

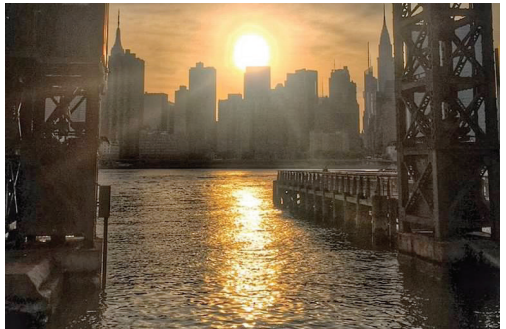
Youth Greenmarket

GrowNYC is a non-profit that improves New York City's quality of life through environmental programs. During September, the group managed a green market at Hunter's Point South Park on Saturdays that was led by young people.



LIC-HENGE Festival

The Conservancy hosted two LIC-HENGE Festivals that celebrated the unusual sunset that occurs when the setting sun aligns perfectly with the Manhattan street grid. The LIC waterfront provides the perfect setting to observe this unique sunset, which was complimented with music and refreshments provided by the Conservancy and COFFEED.



We held an LIC-HENGE photo contest to take the best picture of the exact angle of the setting sun down 42nd Street.

Get Involved in 2016!

None of these activities could have been possible without the participation and assistance of our volunteers and donors. While 2015 was a fantastic year, we need your help in 2016 to plan and execute:

- Events
- Social media
- Gardening
- Annual fundraiser
- Membership

Your Support Makes the Difference

A donation of \$20 enables you to become a voting member at Conservancy meetings.

Making a financial contribution to HPPC helps us continue our programs, ensures the maintenance of our parks and trees along our streets and allows us to host free community events

Donations are used to purchase tools, equipment, mulch, plants and other supplies our volunteers need to help in the maintenance of Gantry Plaza State Park and the NYC parks and street trees of Hunters Point. We also rely on our donors to fulfill our community outreach work of providing community events.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

CONTACT US

For more information or to find out how you can participate or donate, contact us at info@hunterspointparks.org or visit us at www.hunterspointparks.org.

During the past year, we increased our footprint in the community by creating a weekly email newsletter. We also increased our visibility on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



@HuntersPointParks



@LICWaterfront





Photo by Mark Christie

CORPORATE SPONSORS

We thank our donors for making our 2015 program possible. We are particularly grateful for the ongoing financial support of COFFEED.

Our LIC Cinema Series was underwritten by Nest Seekers International. The LIC Landing Live Series was underwritten by Nest Seekers, Food Cellar and Kitchen Plus More.

COFFEED

COFFEED at the
LIC Landing

Nest Seekers
INTERNATIONAL

Nest Seekers International
sponsor of Cinema LIC

THANK YOU

Hunters Point Parks Conservancy thanks all of its donors, members, and elected and parks officials for their generous support that makes our programs possible.

MAJOR DONORS

Raymond Banigan Malm
Foundation Fund
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Rob Basch
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Patrick Thompson

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Nancy Dickey
Doug Houston



NYC Parks

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Councilman
Jimmy Van Bramer

Dorothy Lewandowski,
Queens Borough
Parks Commissioner



STATE OFFICIALS

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Michael Gianaris

Assemblywoman
Catherine Nolan

Leslie Wright, NYC
Regional Director,
NY State Parks,
Recreation, and
Historic Preservation

