



**Hunters Point Parks**  
CONSERVANCY



*Photo by Teresa Aprigliano (@tcateresa).*

# 2019 Annual Report



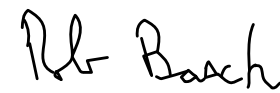
Awesome, Beautiful, Relaxing, Breathtaking, Community – these are all words park goers used to describe their experience in our Waterfront Parks. As President, I take pride in these descriptions. The Hunters Point Parks Conservancy works tirelessly to make sure Hunter’s Point South Park and Gantry Plaza State Park remain welcoming, safe and fun places for all.

The Conservancy had many aggressive goals for 2019 and we worked hard to meet them. Some highlights include:

- 1. Environmental Education** – We partnered with Newtown Creek Alliance to bring a place-based urban ecology curriculum to two LIC middle schools. We also partnered with Hunter’s Point Community Middle School to create an after-school gardening club for students in 6th to 8th grade.
- 2. Summer Kids** – We partnered with Gantry Parents Association for our fourth year of free summer programming that consisted of 46 classes for 3,100 kids in areas of art, music, fitness, dance, STEM and more.
- 3. Gardening** – We brought in over 1,000 volunteers who collected 680 bags of weeds, planted 10,000 bulbs, and helped with other necessary projects in both parks. We also had 18 corporate and community groups that came out to team build and keep the parks clean.
- 4. Fitness** – We strongly advocate for healthy living, and in addition to our 5K run in June that drew 1,300 runners, we hosted 53 free fitness classes with participation of over 3,500 people.

2020 will be another busy year with Long Island City continuing to grow and numerous residential buildings rising fast around the park perimeter. Our parks are no longer a well-kept secret but now are a well known oasis for all to enjoy. We dream of a unified Queens waterfront going from Newtown Creek to Astoria that provides enjoyment, serenity, activity, resiliency and most importantly community for all.

Please review the rest of our Annual Report to see what can be accomplished when we all work together. We greatly appreciate the support we get from our community, corporate sponsors, elected officials, parks officials and the 108 Precinct. We appreciate all your feedback and ideas and look forward to seeing everyone in the park in 2020.



**Rob Basch**  
President, HPPC



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Photo courtesy of Jeff Walters Photography.



**NEWTOWN CREEK URBAN ECOLOGY CURRICULUM**

This year the Conservancy began work in a new focus area: environmental education. We partnered with Newtown Creek Alliance to bring a place-based urban ecology curriculum to two LIC middle schools.

HPPC received funding from TF Cornerstone to help Newtown Creek Alliance write two units (Climate Change Adaptation & History and Geography of Newtown Creek) and expand the program into LIC.

**GARDENING CLUB**

The Conservancy also partnered with Hunter’s Point Community Middle School to create an after-school gardening club for students in 6th to 8th grade.

The program was piloted in the Spring 2019 semester with 10 students and continued in the fall with 15. HPPC and teachers at the middle school led the students in weeding, restoring, and replanting a school garden space on the corner of Borden Ave. & Center Blvd. that had been neglected for years. Students were also able to work on a few projects in Hunter’s Point South Park with the help of NYC Parks gardeners and learned about the importance of parks to the health of their community.

Thank you to Macy’s for helping to launch the program and TF Cornerstone for providing funding to continue it this fall. Thanks to HPCMS principal Sarah Goodman and teachers Mary Mathai and Daniel Agosto who made it possible!

HPPC & NCA worked together to train nine teachers, five from Hunter’s Point Community Middle School and four from PS/IS 78, in the curriculum and how to integrate it into their existing lesson plans. The lessons and activities have been implemented in the classroom, and we look forward to expanding the program.





In July and August the Conservancy held our fourth year of Summer Kids at the Landing in partnership with Gantry Parent Association.

2019 saw continued success of the program, with 46 free classes and activities attended by over 3,100 children. Activities included music, art, fitness, storytelling, dance, STEM, and more.

Thank you to our performers and instructors who help make this program a success, and to our sponsors: Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, Related Companies - Hunter's Point South Living, ProHEALTH Dental and LIC Landing by COFFEED



**2019 SUMMER KIDS AT THE LANDING PROGRAMS**

- Music with Andy & Suzanna
- Jiggy Tots with McManus Irish Dance
- Jam & Jiggle with City Owlets
- Amazing Athletes with City Owlets
- Bubble Show with City Owlets
- Yoga Classes with Yogi Beans
- Art with Leonie & Natasha
- Bricks 4 Kidz STEM Lego Class
- Story Time with Court Square Library
- Music with Teaching Artists Collective
- Magic Show by Joe the Magician
- Bubble Extravaganza with Bubblemaster Gabe
- Animal Show with Party Animals NY
- Puppet Show with WonderSpark Puppets



**CINEMA LIC**

Now in its sixth year, our CinemaLIC movie series continues to bring huge crowds to the waterfront to enjoy free outdoor movies with the best backdrop in all of New York City.

Movie attendance this year reached over 3,000, with the largest crowd (nearly 1,000!) coming out for Crazy Rich Asians on June 22.

This year's movies showcased a wide range of eras and genres, but all were fun for the whole family. Movies screened: Sing, Crazy Rich Asians, Dirty Dancing, and Mary Poppins Returns. Our planned screening of Jaws on August 8 was unfortunately cancelled due to a severe storm. We will show it in summer 2020!



**LIVE AT THE LANDING**

HPPC asked the community what types of programming they wanted to see in the parks, and live music topped the list the last two years.

In response, we re-launched our Live at the Landing music series in partnership with Queens Council on the Arts. Every other Thursday evening in June, July, and August, HPPC hosted Queens-based musicians of various genres at LIC Landing for intimate performances that were a hit

Performance by Tom Shaner, photo courtesy of Anthony Two-Moons

with the local community. Over 700 people came out to jam with us.

Thank you to our Queens musicians: Arun Luthra, Joe Knipes Trio, Tom Shaner, Pam Reyes, Shelly Bhushan, and Gabriel Guerrero & Quantum.





## LIC Post Waterfront 5K



The 4th Annual LIC Post Waterfront 5K on June 1 drew nearly 1,300 runners of all ages to the Long Island City Waterfront.

The event continues to be organized as a team effort by HPPC, LIC Post, Woodside Sunnyside Runners, and Run LIC. All funds raised go to further the mission of the Conservancy to enrich the quality of life in Hunters Point by preserving and enhancing its waterfront parks.

The event is truly a community effort and is made possible by the generous support of our many sponsors and volunteers, and services provided by the City and State Parks Departments, local elected officials, and the 108th Precinct. We thank our many incredible sponsors.

### SPONSORS

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#### BRONZE

Jackson's Eatery  
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Cathy Nolan  
NYS Senator Michael  
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Shi  
Woodbines  
Zog Sports

#### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BY

New York City Parks  
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All photos credit to Jeff Walters Photography

## Special Events

On September 13 the Conservancy held our 2nd Annual Spotlight of the Season fundraiser. The event celebrated another successful summer season of programming and highlighted many of the performers, instructors, and partners that helped the Conservancy put on 170 free events in the parks.

As part of the event, HPPC also honored Tom Balsley, FASLA, the visionary landscape architect who designed both Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunter's Point South Park, and Queens Brewers, represented by Dan Bronson of SingleCut Beersmiths, for their support for several years running.

A huge thank you to our event sponsors Con Edison, WeWork, and ProHEALTH Dental, as well as food and beverage sponsors Food Cellar Market, SingleCut Beersmiths, Fifth Hammer Brewing, Lady M, and Refinery Hotel.

Thank you to event participants Donna Levinstone, Zog Sports, Melinda's Children's Parties, Solful Art, Bubblemaster Gabe, NYS Parks environmental education team, Joe the Magic Man, Cosmic Fit Club, and Urvashie Kisson of the Queensboro Dance Festival.



Photos courtesy of Jeff Walters Photography.



### TFC AWARD

Hunters Point Parks Conservancy was proud to be one of the winners of TF Cornerstone's inaugural Game Changer award for neighborhood non-profits. HPPC won in the environmental sustainability category, in recognition of our volunteer efforts in the parks, as well as our new environmental education programs with LIC middle schools. It was an immense honor to be recognized and to stand with the other impressive local non-profit organizations who were awarded. Thank you TF Cornerstone!







The Conservancy continued to expand our fitness program in 2019, putting on 53 free fitness classes which reached over 3,500 people.

We held 17 free evening yoga classes, taught by Joy Chen of Cosmic Fit Club, 13 Zumba classes with Sophie Walters of Sophie Walters Fitness & Cosmic Fit Club, 7 Pilates classes with Westside Pilates and for the first year brought 3 free barre classes with barre3 LIC.

In addition, we continued our partnership with lululemon to host 12 free Saturday morning yoga classes and a yoga and wellness festival at the end of the season. Thanks to the many local artisans, fitness professionals, and other vendors who participated.

Photo courtesy of Ramon Frias.



**WATERCOLORS ON THE WATERFRONT**

Throughout the summer and fall, the Conservancy hosted eight watercolor painting nights at LIC Landing. This free art programming was hosted in partnership with local artist Donna Levinstone who was on hand to provide tips to over 400 attendees. We are always amazed by the artistic talent of our participants!

**SALSA**

Our Wednesdays on the Waterfront Salsa Nights hosted by LIC-based Martinez Dance Studios were transformed into Sunset Sunday Salsa Nights, but remained as popular as ever. In total, five free dance parties brought out over 700 revelers to dance and celebrate on the waterfront.



Photo courtesy of Martinez Dance Studios.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Walters Photography.



Josef Pinlac for Queensboro Dance Festival

**DANCE FESTIVALS**

The waterfront once again played host to some fantastic dance performances. On September 5 the Queensboro Dance Festival brought excitement to Hunter's Point South Park with 9 performances from Queens-based dance companies across diverse disciplines ranging from tap to modern to African dance. The Conservancy also partnered with the Queensboro Dance Festival to bring several free family dance classes to the park. Workshops for all ages in hip-hop, classical Indian dance, Irish dance, Capoeira, and acroyoga were attended by over 150 aspiring dancers.

The Conservancy threw a free community silent disco, co-hosted by Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer. This was our largest and most popular event of the year, bringing out 1,500 dancers to the park and lighting up the waterfront.





**Hunters Point Parks Conservancy continued to grow our role as stewards of the parks by expanding our volunteer gardening program in 2019.**

We once again held our bi-weekly Saturday morning gardening sessions in partnership with New York Cares between May and October which drew hundreds of people, some neighbors, some from across the city.

We also expanded our partnerships with businesses and community groups in the neighborhood, bringing out 18 corporate and community groups for mid-week gardening projects. In addition, we did our first leaf raking and compost education volunteer activity in November in partnership with Big Reuse.

In total, 33 gardening and cleanup events were held that drew over 1,089 volunteers who removed 680 bags of garbage, weeds, and leaves from the parks -- a record achievement. Thank you to Parks & Trails New York, Con Edison, and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz for supporting our volunteer gardening program and helping it continue to grow.



**BULBFEST**

On Sunday, October 20 we hosted our 5th Annual LIC Bulbfest. With the help of 150 volunteers we were able to plant 10,000 daffodil, tulip and allium bulbs throughout Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunter's Point South Park. Come Spring 2020, our waterfront parks will be blooming with excitement! Thank you to the Van Zyverden company for donating the bulbs. This family-friendly event is always a highlight of the year that truly brings the whole community together!



**IMPROVING OUR PARKS**

**In addition to providing volunteers to help keep the parks clean and healthy, the Conservancy also advocated with other organizations for more funding.**

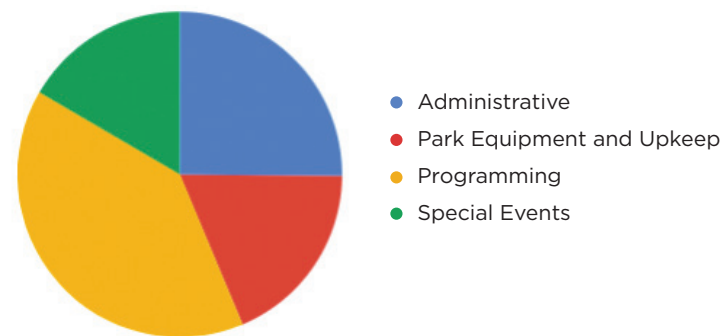
At the beginning of the year, HPPC was awarded a grant through Parks and Trails New York to purchase new hammocks for Gantry Plaza State Park as well as some additional gardening tools and plants. We also worked with volunteers from Goldman Sachs to purchase and plant thousands of flowers at Hunter's Point South Park near LIC Landing.

The Conservancy continued to be a participant in advocacy efforts, as a member of New Yorkers for Parks' Play Fair Coalition, which succeeded in securing an additional \$44M in funding for the city parks budget. The Coalition is working on a multi-year campaign to baseline \$100M more park funding and the Conservancy continues to be an active member.

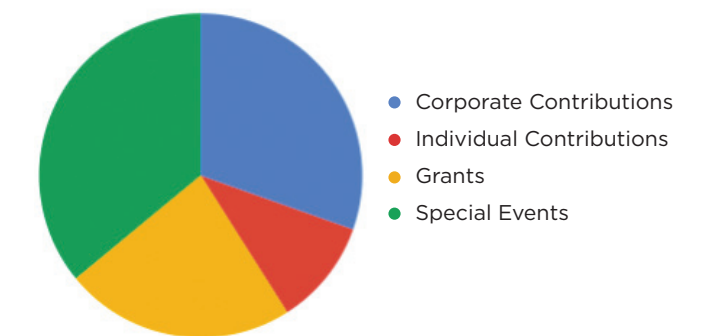


**FINANCIAL RESULTS**

**Expenses**



**Revenue**







# Hunters Point Parks

CONSERVANCY



## THANK YOU

Hunters Point Parks Conservancy thanks all of our donors, members, volunteers, and elected and park officials for their generous support in making all of our programs possible.

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