



Hunters Point Parks
CONSERVANCY



Photo courtesy of @markandxin

2020 Annual Report

Letter from the President

Welcome 2021!

I could say 2020 was challenging, but that would be an understatement. However, all good challenges bring greater opportunities. I am proud to say that the **Hunters Point Parks Conservancy**, with our hard-working volunteers, generous donors, supportive corporate sponsors, and wonderful community, met those challenges.

2020 put our parks under more stress than anyone thought possible. As our community found their options for fun, socialization and relaxation limited, they turned to parks to fill those needs. Fortunately, our beautiful waterfront parks more than met those needs. It is essential for any community to have clean, accessible and active parks and green spaces. Our goal is to make sure these are maintained and the parks remain welcoming for all.

We had many ambitious goals for 2020, and while the circumstances changed, our dedication to improving our parks never wavered. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Purchasing 7 Bigbelly trash cans for Hunter's Point South Park, nearly doubling trash capacity in the park.
- Leading 50 volunteer days attended by 500 volunteers who removed 900 bags of weeds and planted 13,000 bulbs and another 1,300 plants in Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunter's Point South Park
- Holding over 100 free virtual events attended by 3,500 participants.
- Purchasing 8 tree guards, hundreds of plants, and additional equipment for Gantry Plaza State Park.

- Assisting NYC Park & NYC DOT to identify and fix 15 burnt-out lights and remove dozens of graffiti tags.
- Working with Newtown Creek Alliance to create a 3,300 square foot pollinator garden on previously barren medians on 48th Avenue.
- Facilitating two new public art installations, Gaston Lachaise's Floating Woman in Hunter's Point South Park, and Ileana Cruz' Newtown Creek Mural, painted on Hunter's Point Community Middle School.

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 2021.



Rob Basch

President, Hunters Point Parks Conservancy

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3,269



4,294



1,229



8,831

www.hunterspointparks.org



After initially suspending our volunteer program in the Spring, and as park usership increased exponentially as the weather warmed, it was clear that Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunter's Point South Park needed help. In June, we relaunched volunteer projects, having adapted to new health and safety protocols, enabling the Conservancy to accomplish even more than in past years.

In total, between June and December, we held 56 volunteer days attended by 514 volunteers, removed 856 bags of weeds from the parks, pruned 750 plants, planted 1,300 plants and 13,000 bulbs.

Thank you to our partners at New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and New York City Department of Parks and Recreation for working with us to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all volunteers.

We were lucky to have so many wonderful volunteers this year, including some who came out more than 20 times! This year, to thank our volunteers, we held our first-ever volunteer appreciation event (socially distanced!) in early October. Thank you to our host, Culture Lab LIC at the Plaxall Gallery.

Finally, an enormous thank you to our gardening program sponsors, Con Edison & Macy's.



Volunteers in Hunter's Point South Park after removing 43 bags of weeds in one session



Volunteers in Hunter's Point South Park after removing 43 bags of weeds in one session - a new record!



BULBFEST

The Hunters Point Parks Conservancy held our 6th annual LIC Bulbfest on October 31st. This year using a new system of timed small group check-in to maintain a safe environment. 70 volunteers helped HPPC, NYC Parks, and NYS Parks plant 13,000 tulip, daffodil, allium, and crocus bulbs in Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunter's Point South Park.

The Conservancy is thankful for our Parks Department partners and the many dedicated volunteers who made this an extremely successful event by following our health and safety protocols and working hard to plant so many bulbs.

We can't wait to see the waterfront blooming with new life in Spring 2021!



The completed pollinator garden



Volunteers working on the medians on 48th Ave.

POLLINATOR GARDEN

During Climate Week 2020 (September 19 - 26), Hunters Point Parks Conservancy partnered with [Newtown Creek Alliance](#) (NCA) and many dedicated volunteers to create a [pollinator garden on the medians on 48th Ave.](#) in Long Island City. Additional partners on the project included Hunter's Point Community Middle School, PS/IS 78, and the New York City Department of Transportation.

75 total volunteers removed weeds and trash from the long-neglected medians and planted over 1,100 plants over the course of four days.

In future school years, the garden will be used by students at both Hunter's Point Community Middle School and PS/IS 78 when they navigate the Newtown Creek Urban Ecology Curriculum that NCA & HPPC co-produced and introduced into their classrooms.

This garden will serve as a habitat for ecological valuable pollinators, like butterflies, moths, and bees and small birds. It will also provide important ecosystem services including infiltration and filtration of stormwater, carbon storage, and nutrient recycling.

Throughout 2020, Hunters Point Parks Conservancy continued our excellent working relationship with both the New York City and New York State Parks Departments and expanded the scope of our work in aiding with the maintenance and operations of both parks.

GANTRY PLAZA STATE PARK

HPPC continued to support horticulture projects in Gantry Plaza State Park, working closely with park management and a newly hired park horticulturist. We also purchased several hundred plants for the park that were planted with the help of our volunteers over the summer. In addition, the Conservancy was awarded a \$21,600 grant from Parks & Trails New York to replace several worn and damaged tree guards - essential pieces of park infrastructure that protect trees from the harsh urban environment. The Conservancy will provide a 15% match for this grant, for a total project budget of \$24,750.



HPPC is presented with a check from Parks & Trails New York



NYC Parks employee removing graffiti

HUNTER'S POINT SOUTH PARK

Hunter's Point South Park was the site of HPPC's biggest capital improvement project to date, the purchase and [installation of 7 Bigbelly trash cans](#). In the summer, when trash was piling up in parks across the city, the Conservancy was able to mitigate the issue in LIC by adding these solar-compacting, high-capacity receptacles, effectively doubling the trash capacity of the park.

In addition, HPPC worked hand-in-hand with NYC DOT on the replacement of 15 burnt out lights, helping to improve park safety and with NYC Parks on the removal of dozens of graffiti tags in the park and upgrades to the Hunter's Point South Park dog park.



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



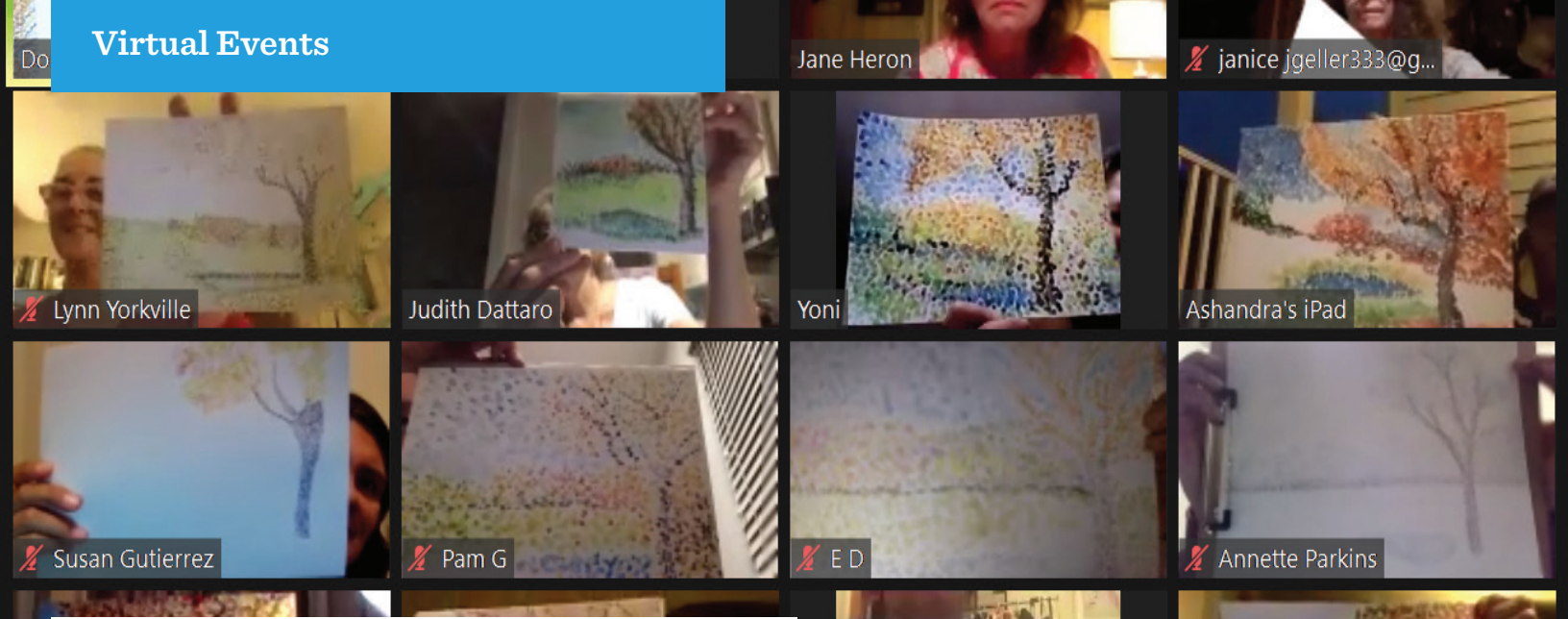
NYC Parks



PARKS & TRAILS
NEW YORK

Below: NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver cuts the ribbon to celebrate new Bigbelly trash cans





The Hunters Point Parks Conservancy is known for our fun and free events held throughout the summer months in Hunter's Point South Park. We weren't going to let the pandemic stop us from bringing entertainment to our neighborhood, so we created a full slate of virtual free programs for all to enjoy - from fitness, to kid's programs to art classes. Between June and November, we hosted 100 free Zoom events attended by 3,500 people.

Thank you to our fitness sponsor, Weill Cornell Medicine Primary Care, and our Summer Kids sponsors, NYC Ferry, Hunter's Point South Living, ProHEALTH Dental, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, and NYC Department of Youth & Community Development.

And a huge thank you to our program partners - Sophie Walters Fitness, Westside Pilates, barre3 LIC, Cosmic Fit Club, H2Sho Fitness, Andy & Suzanna, Yogi Beans, McManus Irish Dance, WonderSpark Puppets, Teaching Artist Collective, and Donna Levinstone.

VIRTUAL 5K

HPPC's biggest event every year is the LIC Post Waterfront 5K, which usually draws over 1,300 runners to our parks. Thanks to our partners at LIC Post, Woodside-Sunnyside Runners, Run LIC, and Elite Feats, as well as the support of our sponsors (listed below), we were able to still hold the event this year in a virtual format. We were thrilled that hundreds of runners participated, running the 5K course wherever they could and submitting their times. Thank you to all who were part of this first-of-its-kind event.



SPONSORS

DIAMOND

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PUBLIC ART

This year, the Conservancy was thrilled to help bring two new, exciting pieces of public art to Hunter's Point. In September, after several months of working with NYC Parks and the Lachaise Foundation, HPPC was delighted to unveil Gaston Lachaise's remarkable [Floating Woman sculpture](#). The sculpture, cast in the late 1920s at the Modern Art Foundry in Astoria, Queens is a tribute to the power of all women, and to 'Woman,' as the artist referred to his wife, with a capital W. It will reside in Hunter's Point South Park for one year.

HPPC also partnered in the creation of an equally remarkable piece - [Iena Cruz's High Tide](#), a mural depicting the past, present and future of Newtown Creek. The mural was unveiled on October 21st when HPPC hosted local elected officials, educators, and environmental leaders at a press conference recognizing its completion. The mural is on the South wall of the Q404 Hunters Point campus building, which hosts the Hunters Point Community Middle School, The Academy for TV and Film and The Riverview School, and is directly across from the park. This project was led by Greenpoint Innovations and Newtown Creek Alliance.



Gaston Lachaise's Floating Woman



Iena Cruz's High Tide

SUPPORTING LIC ORGANIZATIONS

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit Queens, Conservancy members sought other opportunities to get help the Long Island City community. One of the primary efforts was through supporting [LIC Relief](#), an organization co-founded by one of our board members in response to the pandemic. HPPC board members comprise half of the advisory board and helped establish the organization's scope and strategy, becoming dedicated volunteers, putting in dozens of hours throughout the height of the pandemic, and our HPPC staff member, Casey Chamberlain, served as the volunteer coordinator, helping to organize the logistics of delivering nearly 500 meals a day.

In addition, HPPC helped to give back to the LIC community by supporting arts organizations, including Culture Lab LIC, a newly formed non-profit operating out of the Plaxall Gallery. The Conservancy currently serves as the organization's fiscal sponsor as they pursue their official 501(c)3 status. We have also served as the fiscal sponsor for the Queensboro Dance Festival for the last several years, helping them share the talents of remarkable Queens-based dance troupes with audiences both in-person and virtually. With your sustained support, we will continue to identify additional opportunities to contribute to Long Island City's resilience and recovery.



HPPC President Rob Basch distributing free meals with LIC Relief





Hunters Point Parks

CONSERVANCY

Photo courtesy of Ayden Byrnes



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.

\$10,000+

Con Edison
Macy's
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund
Parks & Trails New York
TF Cornerstone
Weill Cornell Medicine Primary Care

\$1,000+

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\$100+

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Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

