



**MARINE PARK  
ALLIANCE**



## Annual Report 2019



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## Dear Friends and Supporters,

This has been a year of wonderful change for our organization. Our work has gained spirit, confidence and productivity. How did this happen?

We took on advisors who helped us focus intensely on volunteers making a difference in the park and boldly broadened our mission. We assist NYC Parks in its largest Brooklyn property with a mission to provide cultural, environmental and volunteer programming for the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

We can't do this work alone -- so many partners have joined us in the stewardship of this park. Clean-ups, special events and public outreach have made the difference in 2019. Our vision is to have all the organizations that use the park work together on giving back to the park and eventually develop a culture of giving, of helping, of making this community resource better for all.

Read this annual report to learn more details about the initiatives we took on in 2019 and please continue to enjoy Marine Park.

It's your love of the park that motivates us. If no one cared about Marine Park, we wouldn't be here defending and making it better.

Sincerely,



Maria Carro-D'Alessandro  
Chair



Stephanie Samaroo-Martinez  
Vice Chair



# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

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## CLEAN UPS

Did you notice corners of the park that haven't been tended in years are finally cleaned up with the help of hundreds of volunteers? Not just cleaned up, but spiffed up as well. Our partners in these clean up events included Senator Andrew Gounardes, New York Road Runners, Center for Employment Opportunities, Millennium Development, Salt Marsh Alliance, Marine Park Community Association, Madison-Marine Homecrest Civic Association, Gerritsen Beach Property Owners Association, Pratt Institute, the Leos, and more. Leaves were collected, garden beds weeded, roses dead-headed, sucker growth pruned, trails opened, dump sites cleared, wood chips spread, and lamp posts and pipe rail painted. In twelve clean up events approximately 1,000 volunteers assisted. We tripled our efforts from the previous year.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

In 2019 we continued our annual events the Chinese New Year, Women's Month, Arts & Crafts Show, and the beloved Santa in the Park. This past summer we also partnered with Senator Gounardes in presenting five outdoor summer concerts. These are opportunities for families and the general public to gather and enjoy cultural experiences.



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## PUBLIC OUTREACH

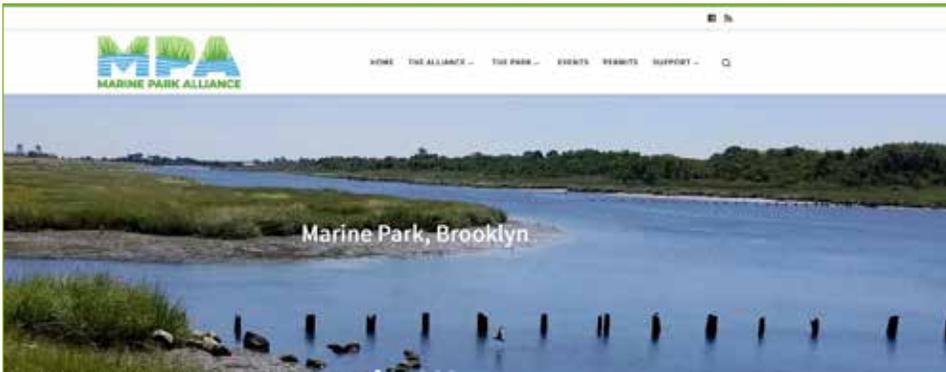
2019 brought us three new ways to reach Park visitors. We created a Fall calendar, a new website and a “Little Library” for the playgrounds.

### Fall Calendar

We designed a seasonal calendar posted in see-through mailboxes throughout the park and offices in the surrounding neighborhood. One side of the publication lists all the free programs offered by our partners operating in the park and on the back is a map of the entire park. 10,000 copies were printed and there is unlimited outreach via social media. Some people who have lived nearby their whole lives learned from the map just how large and far-reaching Marine Park is. Many thought each section was a separate park!

### New Website

We redesigned our website with the help of Partnerships for Parks/City Parks Foundation. The new format is user-friendly and the site better explains the park both in text and visually. Check it out at [marineparkalliance.org](http://marineparkalliance.org)!



### Little Library

In partnership with the Gerritsen Beach branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, we launched a Little Library program. Volunteer woodworking specialist, Bob Kaplan, built a small wooden cabinet on wheels to house recycled books. It is brightly decorated to tempt young readers to reach in and practice their reading skills. During the summer it was brought to Seba Playground and Playground 278 to the delight of young families. Now the Gerritsen Beach Library wheels it outside regularly across the street from the park. Thanks to woodworking specialist Bob Kaplan — our own Bob the Builder!

# FOREVER WILD COMMITTEE

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Marine Park is blessed with 520 acres of natural area including a fragrant Salt Marsh and healthy upland woods. This acreage is protected by local law as part of New York City's Forever Wild Preserves. Many individuals and groups are focused on its use and care. They include the following organizations, half of which have been operating in Marine Park for decades:

- Gerritsen Beach Cares
- Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department
- Gerritsen Beach Property Owners Association
- Jamaica Bay Rockaway Parks Conservancy
- Marine Park Alliance
- Natural Areas Conservancy
- Natural Resources Group / NYC Parks
- NYC Audubon
- Partnerships for Parks / City Parks Foundation
- Salt Marsh Alliance
- Urban Park Rangers

The first meeting of this committee was historic in that it was the first time these groups had ever convened. Creation of the Forever Wild Committee was inspired by Marine Park Alliance's Chair Person, Maria D'Alessandro, whose vision is to bring stakeholder groups together to find solutions as needed.



Topics the Committee will discuss in the future include issues regarding ecological health of the park, accessibility, and programs welcoming the public into the natural landscape. Despite a general belief that Nature takes care of itself, that is not the case in an urban area, so management of the 520 acres is also a special concern. The Committee will grapple with these issues and recommend solutions.

# DONORS

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Many thanks to our donors who believe in us and are committed to making the park a better place.

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Marine Park Community Association

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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## Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended December 31, 2019

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Changes in Net Assets:			
<b>Public Support &amp; Revenue:</b>			
Contributions:			
Corporations	12,750	5,000	17,750
Foundations			0
Government			0
Individuals	1,400		1,400
<b>Total Public Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>14,150</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>19,150</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Program	11,844		11,844
Management & General	1,463		1,463
Fundraising			0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>13,307</b>		<b>13,307</b>
Excess (Deficit) of Public Support & Revenue Over Expenses			
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets			5,843
<b>Net Assets Beginning of Year</b>			<b>2,362</b>
<b>Net Assest End of Year</b>			<b>8,305</b>



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