VOLUNTEERS BUILDING RESILIENCY
IN NEW YORK CITY’S PUBLIC LANDS

LAUNCHED OCTOBER 2013
Student Conservation Association

THESCA.ORG
12 MONTHS IN...

12 PROJECTS
1,104 VOLUNTEERS
4,620 HOURS OF CONSERVATION SERVICE

ConSERVE NYC VOLUNTEERS HAVE...

- Protected NYC dunes, beaches, and surrounding neighborhoods from future storms
- Fortified trails and recreational spaces against erosion
- Preserved biodiversity in NYC’s urban forests
- Improved the health of NYC’s shoreline for people and wildlife alike
- Created safer and more beautiful public parks for over 36 million annual park visitors
**SCA launched the ConSERVE NYC initiative** on the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, with the goal of mobilizing 1000 volunteers in 12 months to build resiliency in New York City’s parks and green spaces.

Twelve months later, ConSERVE NYC has overwhelmingly succeeded in these goals. ConSERVE NYC has held events across all five boroughs and engaged over 1,100 volunteers. Those volunteers are young and they are diverse. Collectively they make up a next-generation volunteer force that is committed to restoring NYC’s public lands. ConSERVE NYC has built a community of stewards and provided NYC youth with a platform to give back and connect with others who care about conservation and urban resiliency. By mobilizing young people to address the issues facing NYC’s parks, ConSERVE NYC has inspired communities to come together as part of the solution.

**Removing Barriers to Youth Service Participation**

- all events are accessible by public transit or free volunteer shuttle
- events take place on weekends when students and families can participate
- breakfast and lunch are provided
- all tools and equipment are provided
- project and safety training is provided on site by experienced SCA project leaders
- project work is accessible to all; no experience is required

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**OUTCOMES SO FAR**

- 5 TONS OF DEBRIS REMOVED
- 76,670 SQ FT OF INVASIVES REMOVED
- 2,000 NATIVE SEEDLINGS PLANTED
- 850 NATIVE FLOWER BULBS PLANTED
- 800 FEET OF EROSION CONTROL FENCING ERECTED
- 28 WATER BARS BUILT
- 3 MILES OF TRAIL IMPROVED
- 280 CUBIC YARDS OF MULCH DISTRIBUTED
- 154 CUBIC YARDS OF COMPOST DISTRIBUTED
- 100 PARK VISITORS SURVEYED
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Dozens of ConSERVE NYC participants have gone on to serve in full-time positions across SCA’s local, regional, and national programs. Young people who volunteer their time at ConSERVE events build an ongoing connection with SCA and continue to demonstrate that commitment as dedicated crew members, interns, and leaders.

WHO:
Students, friends, families, community members, AmeriCorps partners, nonprofit organizations, corporate employees, government agencies, SCA members and alumni

FROM:
Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island, the Bronx, New Jersey, Connecticut, Westchester, Long Island, and beyond

- 1,104 volunteers engaged from all five boroughs
- 75% are under age 25
- 25% return for future events
“I HEARD ABOUT AN EVENT SCA WAS ORGANIZING, AND I REALIZED THAT IT WAS A CALL FOR ME TO MARCH INTO THE WILD!”

– Amosh Neupane, William C. Bryant High School (Queens)

“EVEN THOUGH WE WERE IN NEW YORK CITY, I FELT AS IF WE WERE FAR AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION AND IN THE WILDERNESS.”

– Samuel Rodriguez, DeWitt Clinton High School (Bronx)

“THESE EVENTS, THEY MAKE ME FEEL GOOD. THEY MAKE ME FEEL LIKE WE ARE DOING SOMETHING AWESOME!”

– Imran Khan, Brooklyn College (Brooklyn)

“BECAUSE OF SCA, I REALIZED THAT I WANTED TO RETURN TO COLLEGE. I REALIZED THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR, AND GOALS TO ACCOMPLISH.”

– Aurelia Casey, College of Staten Island (Staten Island)

“AT SCA EVENTS, I WITNESSED AND EXPERIENCED A UTOPIAN COMMUNITY: PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ETHNICITIES, Backgrounds, AND BELIEFS WORKING TOGETHER, GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY TO HELP THE PLANET.”

– Jane Chan, St. John’s University (Queens)

“SCA EVENTS ARE LIKE HOME AWAY FROM HOME.”

– Sam March, Park East High School (Harlem)
In the first year of ConSERVE NYC, SCA has developed a successful model for recruiting and retaining a young volunteer force committed to conserving NYC’s public lands. With a growing network of partners including dozens of high schools and universities, SCA is connecting with students from underserved communities across NYC and getting them hooked on conservation service.

In the coming year, SCA aims to achieve these additional goals:

- **Expand total annual volunteer participation to 1,500 volunteers** with large signature events on MLK Day, Earth Day, 9/11, and Veterans Day.

- **Expand mentorship opportunities** by offering apprentice leader positions for student volunteers interested in working side-by-side with SCA leaders to gain leadership experience.

- **Expand educational opportunities** by working with partners to develop educational and recreation programming following service projects.

- **Build a strong evaluation structure** to gauge long-term volunteer impacts and outcomes.
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:
Barnard College, Manhattan
Baruch College, Manhattan
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Brooklyn College, Brooklyn
City College, Manhattan
College of Staten Island
Columbia University, Manhattan
Fordham University, Bronx
Guttman Community College, Manhattan
Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn
Lehman College, Bronx
Parsons The New School for Design, Manhattan
Queensborough Community College, Queens
Queens College, Queens
St. Johns University, Queens
St. Joseph’s College, Brooklyn
SUNY Buffalo, NY
SUNY Old Westbury, Long Island
Vassar College, NY

HIGH SCHOOLS:
Bard High School Early College, Manhattan
Bergen County Academies, New Jersey
Bronx High School of Science, Bronx
Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn
Bryant High School, Queens
The Churchill School, Manhattan
Collegiate Institute for Math and Science, Manhattan
DeWitt Clinton High School, Bronx
East Bronx Academy, Bronx
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Manhattan
Fashion Industries High School, Manhattan
Horace Greeley High School, Westchester
Hunter College High School, Manhattan
Jericho High School, Long Island
Lycée Français de New York, Manhattan
Marble Hill School for International Studies, Bronx
Moore Catholic High School, Staten Island
Nest+m High School, Manhattan
New Hyde Park Memorial High School, Long Island
New York Harbor School, Governors Island
NYC Lab High School for Collaborative Studies, Manhattan
Park East High School, Harlem
Pelham Memorial High School, Westchester
Queens High School for Science at York College, Queens
Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation, Manhattan
Riverdale Country School, Bronx
Stuyvesant High School, Manhattan
Validus Preparatory Academy, Bronx
Westhill High School, Connecticut

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS:
Central Middle School, Connecticut
IS 125 Thom J. McCann, Queens
IS 51 Edwin Markham, Staten Island
MS 114 Belle Harbor School, Queens
PS 8 The Robert Fulton School, Manhattan
PS 89 Cypress Hills Community School, Brooklyn
YOUTH GROUPS:
AMC Youth Opportunities Program
buildOn
Christodora
Global Kids
Green Schools Alliance
NYPD Explorers 20th Precinct
Teens 4 Oceans
The Opportunity Network
Van Cortlandt Green Internship Program
Your Park Your Health Internship Program

NONPROFIT PARTNERS
(not youth-focused):
Appalachian Mountain Club, NY-NJ Chapter
(co-hosted June event)
B’hai Jeshurun Synagogue
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative (hosted March event)
Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
(co-hosted December event)
Hudson River Park Trust (hosted April event)
Queens Botanical Garden (hosted July event)
Riverside Park Conservancy
(co-hosted November event)
Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS:
National Park Service
(hosted October, February, May, & September events)
New York City Parks
(hosted January & August events,
co-hosted November, December, & June events)
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
New York State Parks

AMERICORPS PARTNERS:
Green City Force
Mercy Volunteer AmeriCorps
NCCC FEMA Corps

CORPORATE PARTNERS:
Accenture
American Eagle Outfitters
GRK Fresh
JetBlue Airways
Nestle Waters North America
Southwest Airlines

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDERS:
Alice Lawrence Foundation
Countess Moira Charitable Foundation
Edward S. Moore Family Foundation
Elias A. Cohen Foundation, Inc.
John Ben Snow Foundation
William Randolph Hearst Foundation

SCA PROGRAMS:
SCA Alumni
SCA Conservation Interns
SCA Hudson Valley Corps
SCA NPS Youth Conservation Corps
SCA Sandy Recovery Program
CONSERVE NYC PROJECT SITES

October: Great Kills Park, Staten Island
November: Riverside Park, Manhattan
December: Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx
January: Morningside Park, Manhattan
February: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens
March: Brooklyn Greenway, Brooklyn
April: Hudson River Park, Manhattan
May: Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn
June: Pelham Bay Park, Bronx
July: Queens Botanical Garden, Queens
August: Conference House Park, Staten Island
September: Governors Island, Manhattan
Number of Volunteers: 82

Hours of Work Completed: 328

Site Partner: Gateway National Recreation Area

OUTCOMES:
- 800 feet of dune fencing erected
- 1700 pounds of debris cleared from the beach

“I think it was eye-opening for all of us to discover just how much debris from the storm is still getting washed up. Attention is still needed for our communities post-Sandy. We are looking forward to future opportunities to help out with SCA!”

– Justine Ouono, Global Kids Youth Leader
RIVERSIDE PARK, MANHATTAN
NOVEMBER 9TH, 2013

Number of Volunteers: 54
Hours of Work Completed: 216

Site Partner: Riverside Park Conservancy

OUTCOMES:
- 850 flower bulbs planted
- 3000 sq ft weeded and mulched

“What SCA volunteers have been able to accomplish is just fantastic! The erosion along this section of the park had been so bad, and after every storm it got worse. We never had time to get to it—but with fifty pairs of hands, it was no problem!”

– Diana LaMar, Riverside Park Conservancy Volunteer Gardener
VAN CORTLANDT PARK, BRONX
DECEMBER 7TH, 2013

Number of Volunteers: 95
Hours of Work Completed: 380
Site Partner: Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

OUTCOMES:
- 3 miles of trail improved
- 28 water bars built
- 2000 sq ft of invasives removed

“SCA holds a special place in my heart because that’s how I got my start in this field. Now that I manage my own high school internship program, I wanted my interns to learn about SCA, and hosting this project was the perfect opportunity.”
– Tina Walsh, SCA Alum & Program Assistant at Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
MORNINGSIDE PARK, MANHATTAN
JANUARY 18TH, 2014

Number of Volunteers: 83
Hours of Work Completed: 332
Site Partner: NYC Parks

OUTCOMES:
- 3000 sq ft mulched
- 100 park visitors surveyed

“I am so grateful that SCA chose our park and helped us to realize today’s project. My staff were surprised that the volunteers achieved as much as they did, and honored that SCA attracted so many people who enthusiastically contributed their time.”
– Terese Flores, NYC Parks
JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE, QUEENS
FEBRUARY 15TH, 2014 (Rescheduled to March 1st, 2014 due to snow)

Number of Volunteers: 102
Hours of Work Completed: 408
Site Partner: Gateway National Recreation Area

OUTCOMES:
- 4500 pounds of debris removed from the beach
- 2000 sq ft of invasives cleared

“We want these students to see the challenges here, and hopefully they will want to come back and keep helping in the restoration process. After today’s project, the beach and the trails are looking even better than they did before Sandy!”
– Keith White, Volunteer Coordinator, Gateway National Recreation Area
BROOKLYN GREENWAY, BROOKLYN
MARCH 23RD, 2014

Number of Volunteers: 104
Hours of Work Completed: 416
Site Partner: Brooklyn Greenway Initiative

OUTCOMES:
- 10,000 sq ft of invasives removed
- 120 cubic yards of compost spread

“Turning this site into waterfront green space just makes sense, and I love seeing young people involved. It’s a great thing for the community.”
– Brad Lander, NYC Councilman, District 39 in Brooklyn
HUDSON RIVER PARK, MANHATTAN
APRIL 19TH, 2014

Number of Volunteers: 226
Hours of Work Completed: 904
Site Partner: Hudson River Park Trust

OUTCOMES:

- 2000 native seedlings planted along the Hudson River Greenway

“This is my passion. I love helping the environment... and I want to inspire others to do the same with SCA, on Earth Day and all through the year.”
– Jane Chan, St. John’s University Student & Volunteer, in an interview with NET TV
Number of Volunteers: 54
Hours of Work Completed: 216

Site Partner: Gateway National Recreation Area

OUTCOMES:
- 1500 pounds of debris cleared from the beach

“This work is all going to be passed along to your generation. Our generation, we go as far as we can go... And then we hand it over to you folks. Who knows what inconceivable things you’ll be able to do?”
– WWII Veteran & NPS Volunteer to SCA student volunteers
PELHAM BAY PARK, BRONX
JUNE 28TH, 2014

Number of Volunteers: 72

Hours of Work Completed: 288

Site Partner: NYC Parks & Appalachian Mountain Club

OUTCOMES:

- 32,670 sq feet of invasives removed from the Siwanoy Trail

“These SCA volunteers will do whatever it takes to get to the toughest invasives. Nothing stands in their way.”
– Katy Boula, NYC Parks Natural Areas Volunteer Leader
Number of Volunteers: 84

Hours of Work Completed: 336

Site Partner: Queens Botanical Garden

OUTCOMES:
- 30,000 sq ft of invasives removed
- 34 cubic yards of compost spread

“We hope every single one of you who volunteered today will come back to visit. You’ve helped to maintain this place, and now it’s your garden too. You’ve made it yours.”
– Regina Forlenza, Queens Botanical Garden Public Programs Manager
CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK, STATEN ISLAND
AUGUST 16TH, 2014

Number of Volunteers: 46
Hours of Work Completed: 184
Site Partner: NYC Parks

OUTCOMES:
- 43,560 sq ft of invasives removed

“SCA is helping to spread the word about the resources we offer here, and get people excited about coming out. These events are great for the park.”
– John Kilcullen, Director of Conference House Park
GOVERNORS ISLAND, MANHATTAN
SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2014

Number of Volunteers: 102
Hours of Work Completed: 612
Site Partner: Governors Island National Monument

OUTCOMES:
- 22 acres of park surveyed for hazards
- 200 windows cleaned
- 26 cell casemates cleaned
- 450 pounds of litter removed

“We have been excited to join SCA this year for ConSERVE NYC events, and we look forward to continuing this successful partnership into the future.”
– Joshua Laird, New York Harbor Parks Commissioner