



Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
80 Van Cortlandt Park South
Ste. E1
Bronx, NY 10463



Spring Kickoff Volunteer Event
Saturday April 23rd, 2016

See How Your Hands Will Make A Difference...
www.vancortlandt.org

BOUNTIES OF PRODUCE & COMPOST

For years FVCP's Garden/Compost Site has educated young people about gardening and its vital role in their community. Spring 2016 brings with it more opportunities to get out and enjoy our garden, learn to compost and gather with neighbors (see inside for details of volunteer days). This spring we welcome 5 high school interns who will spend the spring months working in our garden learning about composting, planting vegetables, and cooking while improving their leadership skills leading volunteer days and community organics collection days. Thank you to Councilman Andrew Cohen and Riverdale Neighborhood House for support these spring garden interns.



Pictured above: One of our bountiful harvests from our raised vegetable beds last year. All of the produce we grow is either used in our cooking demonstrations at our Youth Run Farm Stand or donated to those in need.

We are also excited to be re-opening our Community Organics Collection Days in partnership with the NYC Compost Project hosted by the New York Botanical Garden this spring (see inside for details). We collected almost half a ton of food scraps last year! That's a lot of waste transformed from trash to treasure as the compost made from those food scraps helped us grow an amazing 325 pounds of produce in our garden.

We are excited to see if we can top those numbers this year so come out, bring us your food scraps (please no meat, dairy or grains as they attract pests), and chat with our interns about what is growing.



SPRING 2016

DAYLIGHTING TIBBETTS BROOK

Once upon a time, Tibbetts Brook flowed freely into the Sputyen Duyvil Creek (which today is the Harlem River). Like a fairy tale, we can imagine what this section of the Bronx used to be like hundreds of years ago. Change to Tibbetts Brook first came around 1690 when the Van Cortlandt Family dammed the brook to power their grist mill which cause the area upland to flood creating what we now know as Van Cortlandt Lake. Then in 1912, New York City decided that the land south of Van Cortlandt Park was too wet for development and therefore forced what remained of Tibbetts Brook into the sewer system.

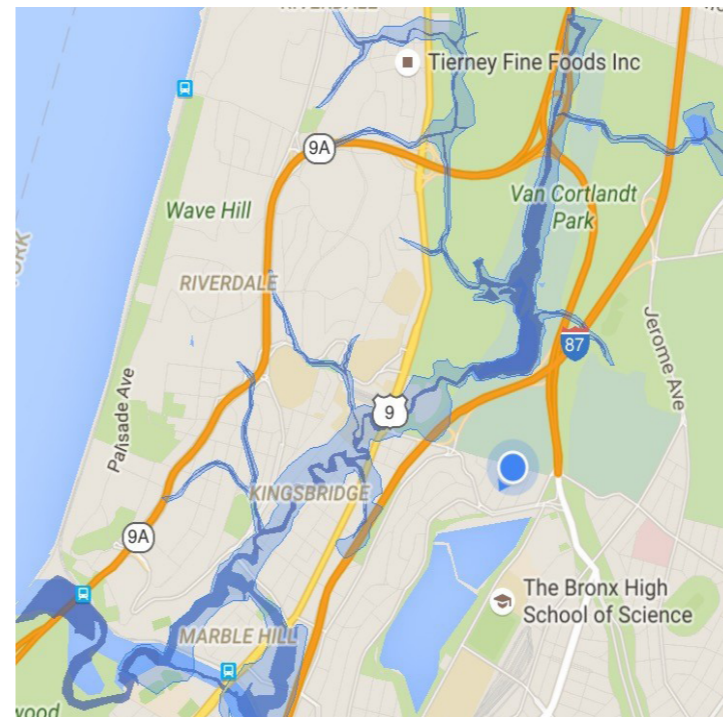
Currently, the water from Van Cortlandt Lake enters the Broadway sewer at a rate of 4 to 5 million gallons of water per day -- and that's on a dry day. This water is then treated - for no reason- at the Wards Island Stormwater Treatment Plant. Then when it does rain, the combination of sewage, street runoff and the brook enters the combined sewer,

bypassing the treatment plant and flowing directly into the Harlem River. This one Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), WI-056, connected to the Broadway sewer makes up more than half of the CSO water entering the Harlem River. This clean water needs to be removed from the sewer to reduce CSO occurrences on the Harlem River and help with flooding issues along Broadway and other areas of the Tibbetts Brook Watershed.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park support NYC Parks efforts to study and plan for daylighting within Van Cortlandt Park by enhancing and enlarging the wetlands southwest of Van Cortlandt Lake to hold more water and therefore reduce the amount of water entering the sewer. However, this is a minor step in the right direction. NYC Parks needs obtain the CSX land between Van Cortlandt South and West 230th Street in order to properly daylight Tibbetts Brook. We support NYC Parks efforts to continue this along the trail southward past 225th Street to a place along the Harlem River waterfront.

Daylighting Tibbetts Brook is a key project in the Van Cortlandt Park 2034 Master Plan. We are dedicated to helping make this dream become a reality and are actively planning for it. The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park are working with the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality and NYC H2O to organize a Coalition for Daylighting Tibbetts Brook. We are asking organizations and individuals to sign on this Coalition. Please visit www.vancortlandt.org for more information on daylighting and how you can get involved in the efforts.

Pictured to the left: Historic route of Tibbetts Brook over a current map of the Bronx with historic waterway in dark blue; associated wetlands and swamps in light blue). Data primarily from 1891 Bien atlas of NYC; compiled by Steve Duncan / undercity.org.



Friends SPRING EVENTS

ONGOING EVENTS

TIBBETTS BROOK WATERSHED CREW

Watershed Crew assist with water quality monitoring of Tibbetts Brook and enhancement of the freshwater wetlands within the Park. Water quality monitoring takes place weekly on Wednesdays and enhancement projects happen on planned Thursdays and Fridays. If you are interested in joining please email john@vancortlandt.org for more details.

VOLUNTEER TRAILS RESTORATION CREW

First Saturdays from April to June from 10am to 6pm
Crew Members will work alongside trails professionals, developing skills in various areas of trail construction while improving the various trails in Van Cortlandt Park. Must be 18 years of age to join. Contact john@vancortlandt.org for more information.

FOOD SCRAP DROP OFFS

Tuesdays starting April 5th from 4pm-6pm
We want to use your food scraps to make compost and grow veggies. This location is operated by the NYC Compost Project hosted by The New York Botanical Garden. For more information about NYC food scrap drop-off site guidelines, e-mail compost@nybg.org. **Held at Friends' Compost & Garden Site. Enter the Park at Broadway & Mosholu Ave.**

GET ACTIVE HIKING SERIES

Join us on the Second Saturday of Each Month at 10am for a hike in Van Cortlandt Park. Please wear appropriate shoes and bring plenty of water and a snack for the hike.
April 9th, meet at Woodlawn Playground: Family friendly leisurely hike in the Northeast Wood with a focus on wetlands. Hike will last 60-90 minutes.
May 4th, meet at Friends' Compost Site: A tour of the Wetlands in the Northern Half of the Park.
June 11th, meet at the last stop of the 1 train: Our longest hike, a 3 hour tour to see all Seven Wonders of Van Cortlandt Park.

ONE TIME EVENTS

WETLAND PREP FOR PLANTING

Saturday March 19th meeting at 10am
Volunteers are needed to help us prepare the wetland for plantings this spring by doing a final removal of the roots and general clean up of the site. **Meet at Nature Center- enter the Park at Broadway and W. 246th.**

SPRING KICKOFF VOLUNTEER EVENT

Saturday April 23rd meeting at 10am
Join us as we kickoff a season of volunteering with projects throughout Van Cortlandt Park.
Garden & Compost Site Prep for Planting Season: Meet at FVCP's Compost Site- enter the Park at Broadway and Mosholu Ave.
Wetland Restoration Project: Meet at Nature Center- enter the Park at Broadway and W. 246th
Woodlawn Hillside Beautification: Meet at Van Cortlandt Park East and Kepler Avenue.

IT'S MY PARK DAY/ GARDEN PLANTING

Saturday May 14th meeting at 10am
Join us as we prepare and plant our 800 plus square feet of vegetable garden beds for the 2016 growing season. Volunteers are needed to prepare the beds, sift our compost bins and help plant seedlings. **Meet at FVCP's Compost Site- enter the Park at Broadway and Mosholu Ave.**

JOHN MUIR TRAIL VOLUNTEER DAY

Saturday May 21st meeting at 10am
Join us as we continue our forest restoration efforts along the John Muir Trail. Volunteers are needed to remove invasive plants and plant native trees and shrubs. **Meet at FVCP's Compost Site- enter the Park at Broadway and Mosholu Ave.**

PICNIC SUPPER & CONCERT

Tuesday June 21st starting at 6pm
The Van Cortlandt Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York with the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park presents A Picnic Supper & Concert in Van Cortlandt Park with the new York Philharmonic. Tickets start at \$125. Visit vancortlandt.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

YOUTH INTERNSHIP

SUMMER TEEN TRAILS CREW

Ever wonder how the hiking trails of Van Cortlandt Park stay cleared and maintained? The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park are proud to announce the 4th upcoming Summer of hosting the Summer Teen Trails Crew Internship. Aimed towards students ages 14-18, the internship is a seven week Summer program that guides the students in learning the skills it takes to maintain the dirt trails. Interns will gain valuable field experience in habitat improvement, trail maintenance and even trail building. Check out our website for the application or send an email to john@vancortlandt.org for more information.



Pictured above: Tibbetts Brook Watershed Crew conducting weekly monitoring. Photo by Stanley McCleave.

Friends WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

The following businesses have renewed their membership~

- A.H. Consumers Society**
www.amalgamated-bronx.coop/jcac.html
- Bronx Arts Ensemble**
www.bronxartsensemble.org
- LGS Specialty Sales**
www.lgssales.com
- Park Reservoir Housing Corp.**
www.parkreservoir.coop/
- Ridgewood Savings Bank**
www.ridgewoodbank.com
- Riverdale Stables**
www.riverdalestables.com

Please Note:

Our events are open to the general public. Please visit www.vancortlandt.org/events for more information. Individuals are not required to pre-register except where noted. RSVP's are required at least two weeks in advance for groups of 6 or more. For more information or to schedule a group please contact John Butler at john@vancortlandt.org or call 718-601-1553.

**Friends of
VAN CORTLANDT PARK**

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Bringing Youth, Nature and Community Together for over 20 Years!