



# Restoring the Bronx River

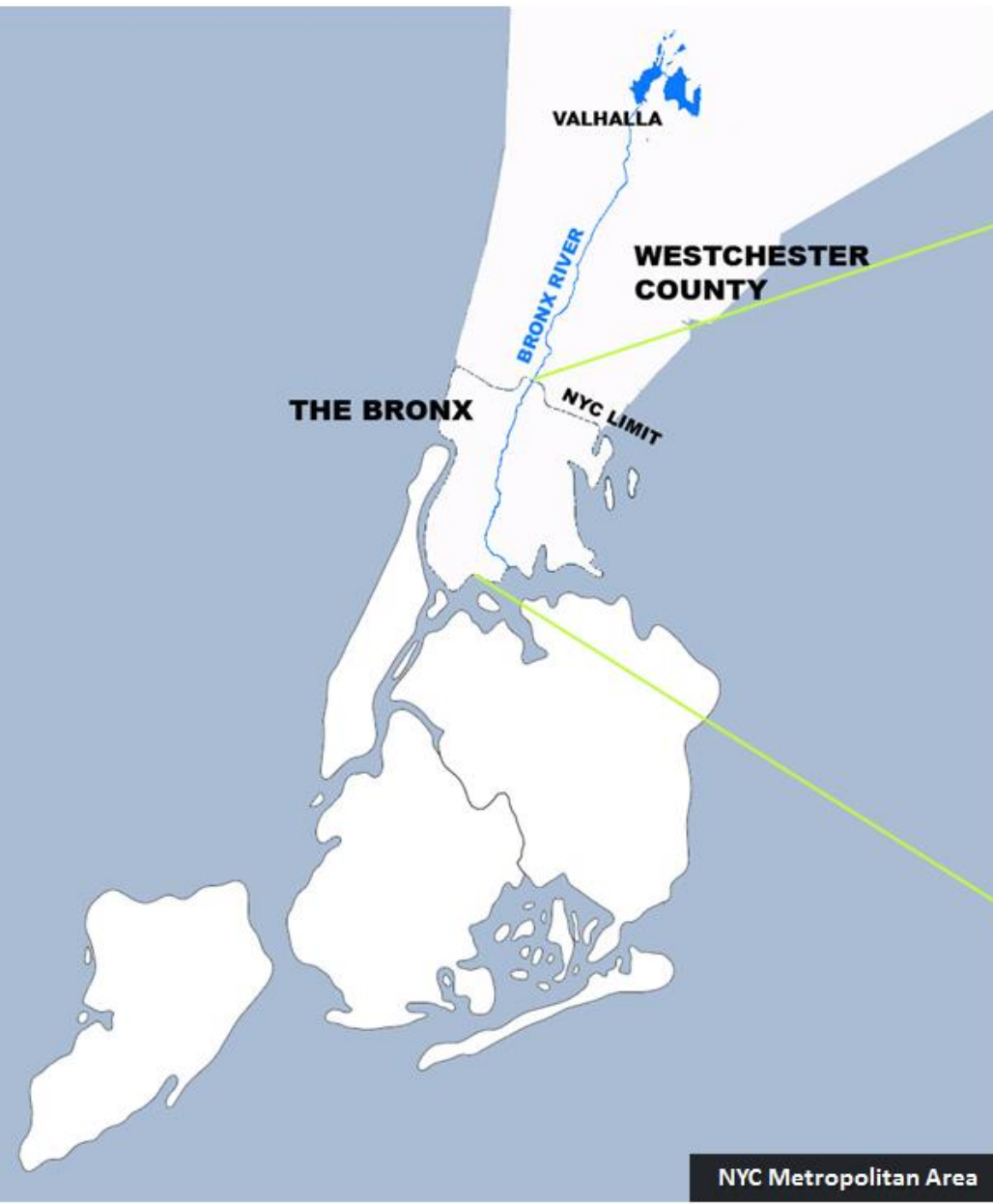
World Toilet Summit

November 18, 2019

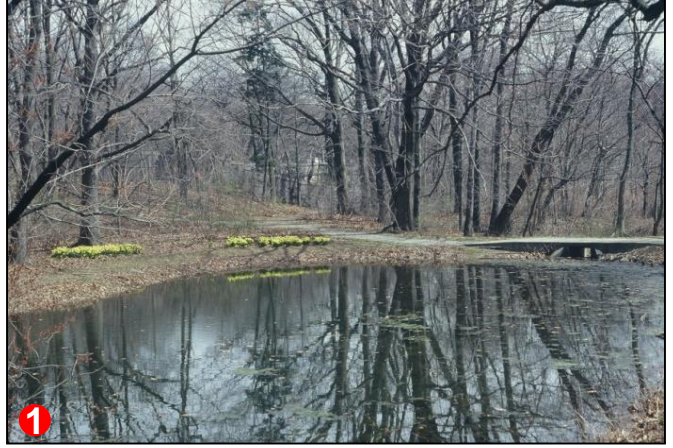
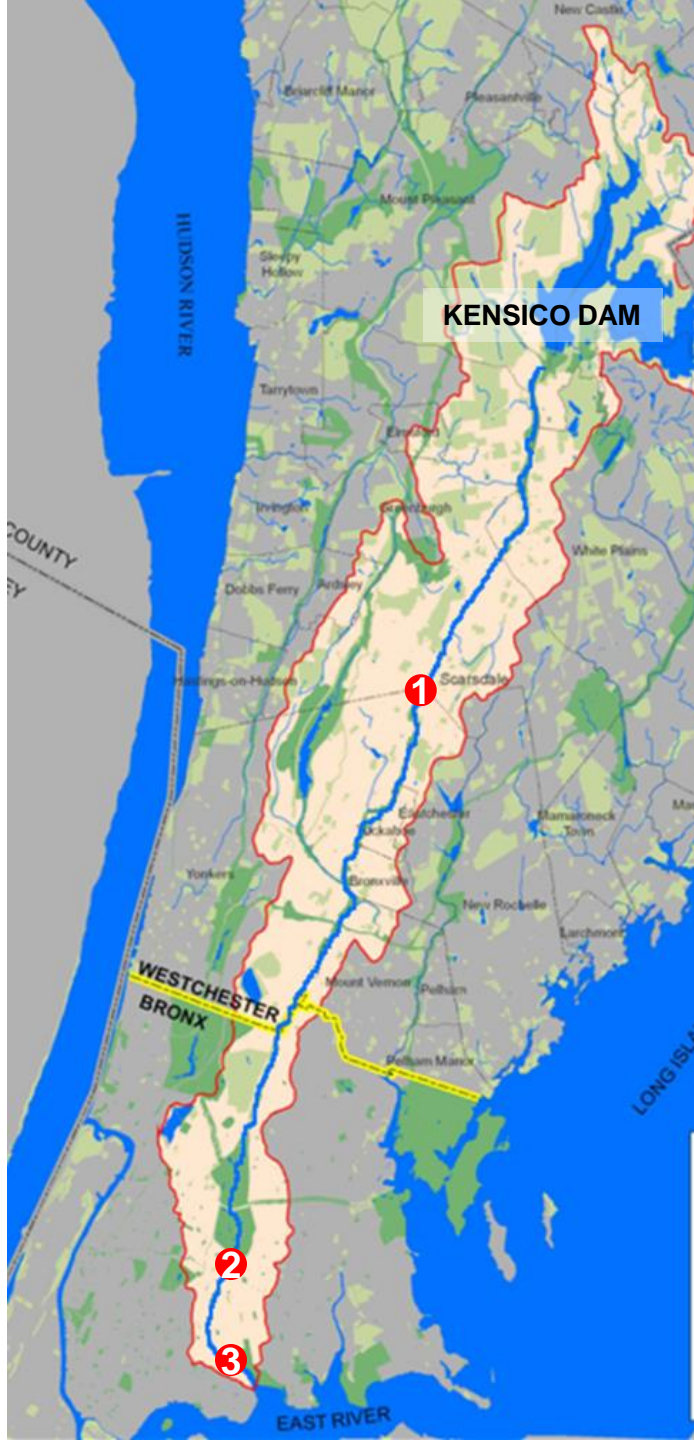


# Topics to cover today:

- Geography of the river
- Modern history of the river
- Formation of the Bronx River Alliance
- River restoration projects
- Development of Bronx River Greenway
- Education & Recreation along the river



# Bronx River 23 mile long





Lenape People – Aquehung (“River of High Bluffs”)



Bronx River - West Farms 1890





CLEANING THE RIVER PREPARATORY TO DEVELOPMENT SHOWN BELOW







SAME VIEW AFTER IMPROVEMENT



KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

FORDHAM UNIV.

BRONX PARK

BAYCHESTER

MORRIS PARK

BELMONT

1

MORRIS HEIGHTS

TREMONT

WESTCHESTER

BRONX

PARKCHESTER

SOUNDVIEW

YANKEE STADIUM

MORRISANA

CLARSON POINT

UNION PORT

THROGS NECK

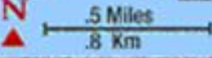
MOTT

HAVEN

EAST RIVER

PORT MORRIS

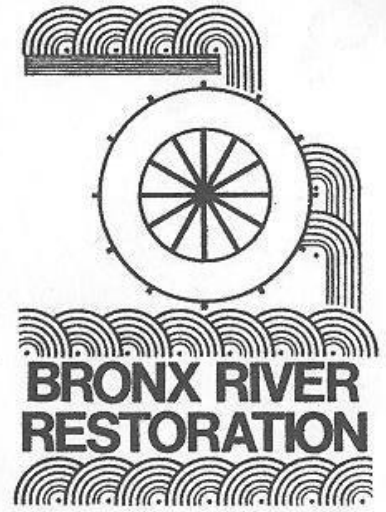
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**1970s: A River in Distress**





Bronx River Restoration, 1974, West Farms



In the 1990's, 60 community organizations, public agencies and businesses committed to reclaiming the river and improving access to it throughout the Bronx.

# Bronx River Alliance, 2001



The Bronx River Alliance serves as a coordinated voice for the river and works in harmonious partnership to protect, improve and restore the Bronx River corridor so that it can be a healthy ecological, recreational, educational and economic resource for the communities through which the river flows.



# Uniting for Action





# WCS-NOAA Jose E. Serrano Lower Bronx River Partnership

- \$15 million +
- ~14 years (2000 – 2014)
- Resulted in over 70 habitat restoration & environmental education projects
- **Partners:** Banana Kelly High School, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Bronx River Alliance, Bronx River Art Center, City Parks Foundation, Friends of Brook Park, Gaia Institute, GrowNYC, Highbridge Community Life Center, Hudson River Foundation, Lehman College, Natural Resources Group, NYC Parks, The New York Botanical Garden, New York City Audubon, New York Restoration Project, Phipps CDC, The Point Community Development Corporation, Rocking the Boat, Sustainable South Bronx, Wildlife Conservation Society, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice



Jose the Beaver

# We've Got Big Plans!

BRONX RIVER  
ALLIANCE



BRONX  
RIVER  
GREENWAY  
PLAN

JUNE 2006

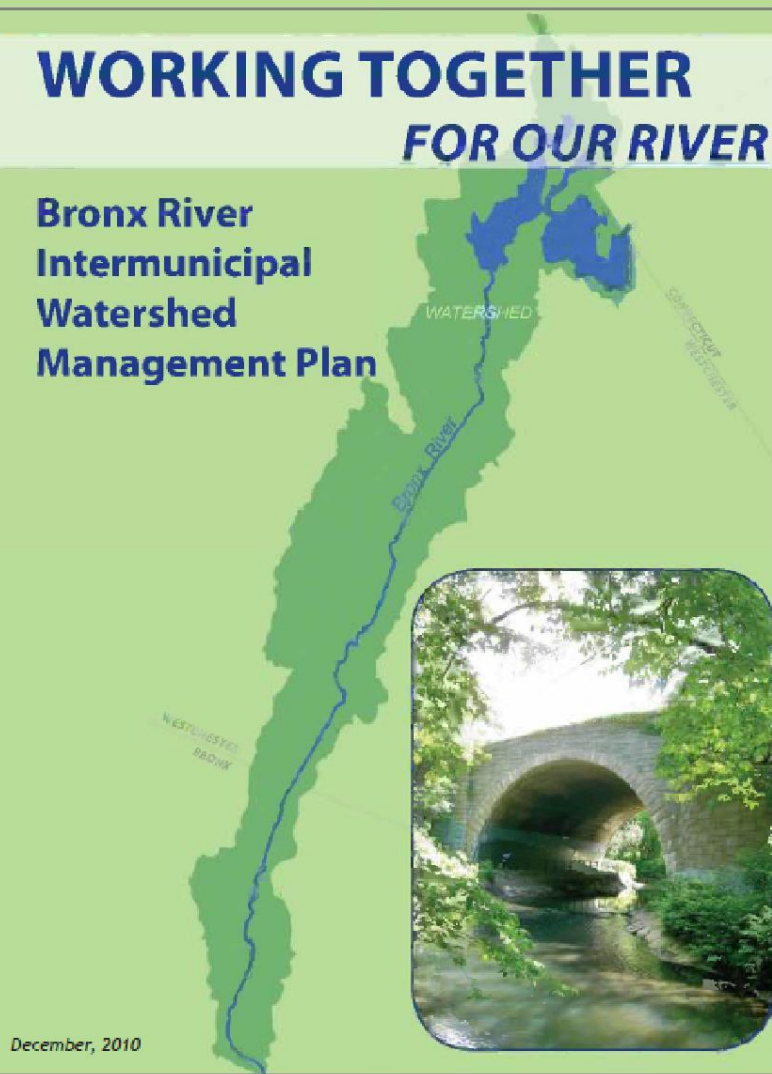
BRONX RIVER ALLIANCE

One Bronx River Parkway  
Bronx, New York 10462

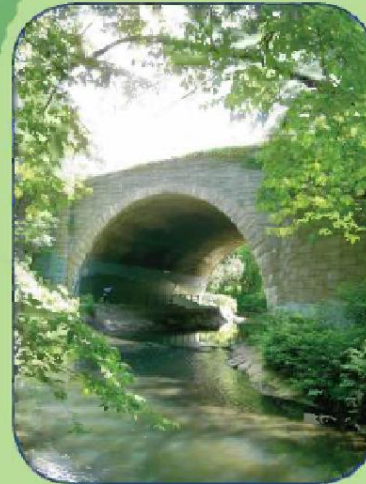
[www.bronxriver.org/plans](http://www.bronxriver.org/plans)

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR RIVER

### Bronx River Intermunicipal Watershed Management Plan



December, 2010



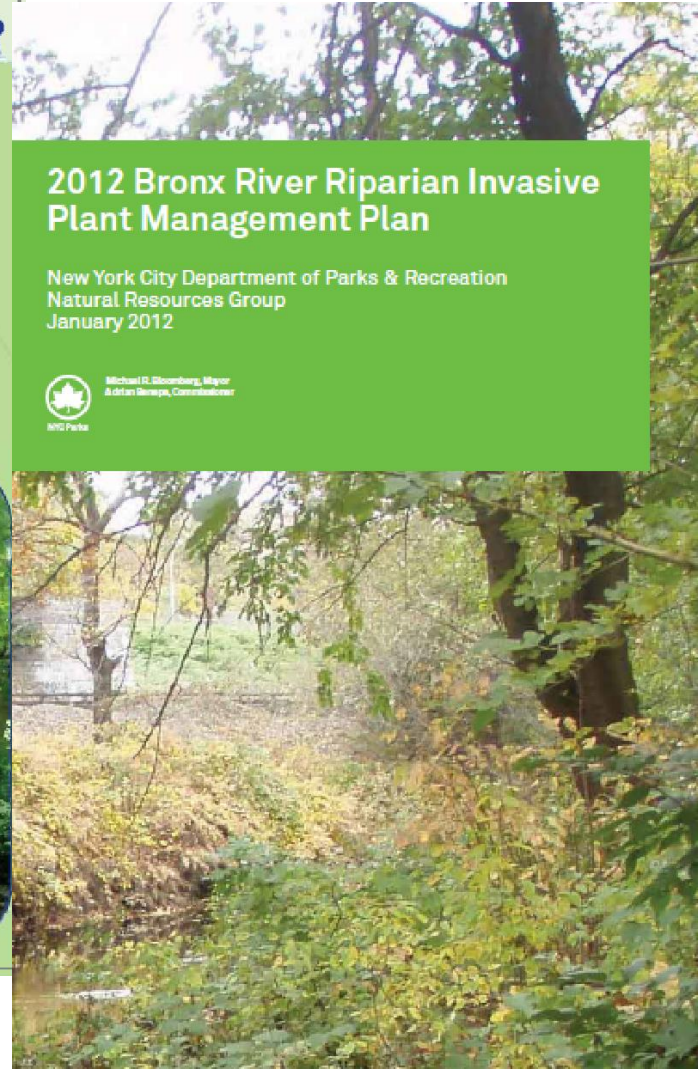
### 2012 Bronx River Riparian Invasive Plant Management Plan

New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
Natural Resources Group  
January 2012



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
& Daniel Saragov, Commissioner

NYC Parks



# Bronx River Clean-ups



# Ongoing: Riparian Restoration





**2005: Bronx River Forest Floodplain**

# 2015: Fish Ladder



# 2017 - 2019: Fish Stocking



Daniel Avila/NYC Parks





# 2004 - Present: Oyster Reintroduction



# Ongoing: Community Stewardship



# A Continuous Series of Parks & Trails

Starlight Park (Opened 2013)



Bronx Park Connector (Opened 2013)



Hunts Point Riverside Park (Opened 2007)

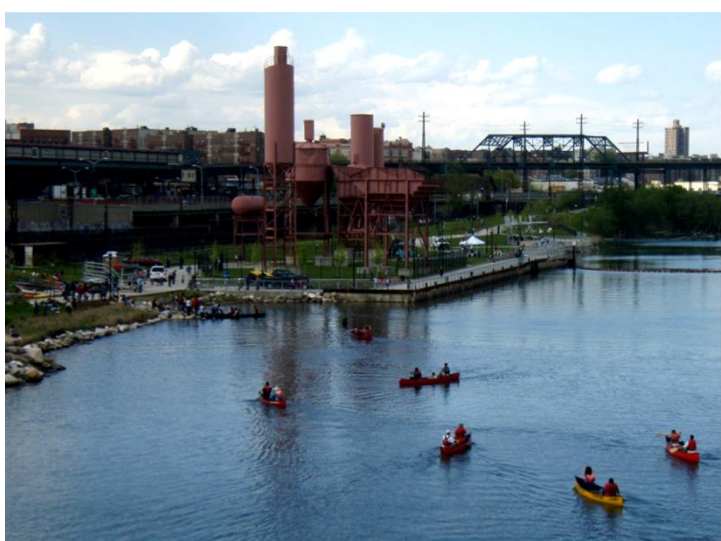


Concrete Plant Park (Opened 2009)

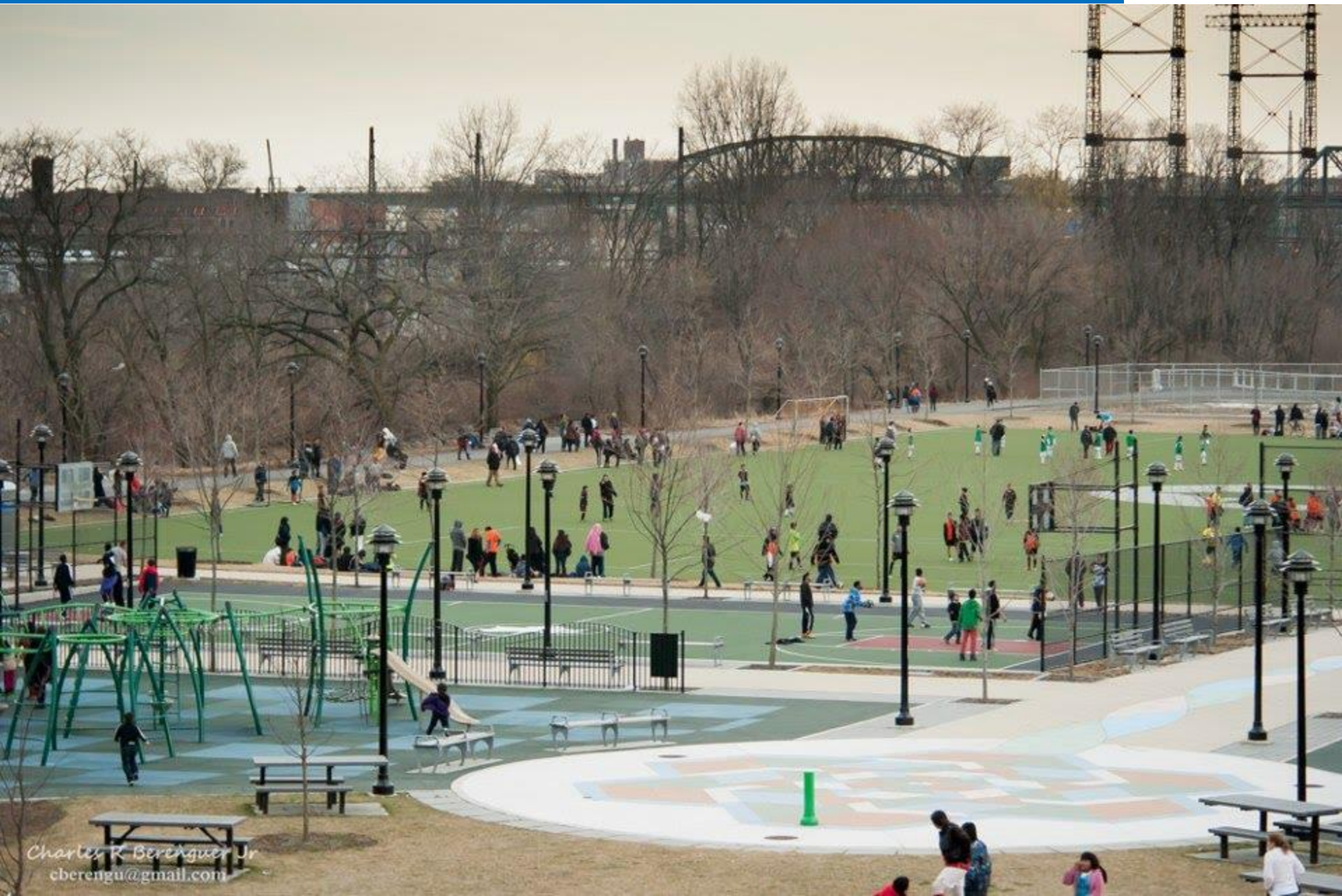
# 2007: Hunts Point Riverside Park



# 2009: Concrete Plant Park



# 2013: Starlight Park



# 2019: Bronx River House



# Outdoor Recreation





# Outdoor Recreation





# NATIONAL WATER TRAILS SYSTEM

# WE'VE MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS!

<p><b>Education</b></p> <p><b>18,000+</b></p> <p>students engaged and 3,500+ teachers supported in hands-on learning on the river</p>	<p><b>Paddling</b></p> <p><b>22,000+</b></p> <p>adventures on our National Water Trail</p>	<p><b>New Parks</b></p> <p><b>22</b></p> <p>acres of waterfront parkland created in the South Bronx</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><b>\$230 million</b></p> <p>for river restoration and greenway development</p>
<p><b>Clean-ups</b></p> <p><b>320+</b></p> <p>Tons of garbage removed, along with 90 cars &amp; motorcycles, and 7,000+ tires</p>	<p><b>Native Fish</b></p> <p><b>12,000</b></p> <p>Native fish stocked</p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>fish passage opened</p>	<p><b>Restoration</b></p> <p><b>110,000+</b></p> <p>Native trees, shrubs, and other plants replaced invasive plants</p>	<p><b>Stewardship</b></p> <p><b>18,500+</b></p> <p>Volunteers have dedicated 110,000+ hours to the Bronx River</p>



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