



Annual Report FY 2017

July 1st 2016- June 30th, 2017

Bringing Youth, Community & Nature Together

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Van Cortlandt Park, located in the northwest section of the Bronx, is New York City's third largest park encompassing 1,146 square acres of land. The Park contains 800 acres of natural forest and woodlands, a 17 acre freshwater lake, and is the site of the historic Van Cortlandt House Museum, the oldest house in the Bronx. Annual usership is approximated at 2.5 million visitors, who are drawn to the natural areas along with the recreational facilities, i.e., two golf courses, an equestrian riding facility, an internationally famous cross-country running course, and additional facilities which host sports such as cricket, gaelic football, soccer, lacrosse, baseball and softball.

Mission Statement: The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP), an independent community based organization, actively promotes the conservation and improvement of Van Cortlandt Park through environmental education and restoration and enhancement of the Park, its forests and trails.

Established: Founded in 1992-Obtained 501(c)3 in 1996

FY 17 Income: \$394,885

Leadership: Christopher Rizzo, Board Chair
Teresa Grant Stoeth, Board Vice Chair
Christina Taylor, Executive Director

Programs/Activities: Teens Outdoors for a Green Summer Internships (Trails Crew & Garden 2 Market)
School Year Environmental Internship
Van Cortlandt Adventures School Programs
Volunteer Programs: Forest, Trail, Wetland and Garden Restoration Projects
Tibbetts Brook Water Quality Monitoring
Environmental Explorations! Teacher Workshop Series
Community Programs
Publications, Newsletter and Website

Participants Served: 6,439 participants in FY17

FY17 Funders: American Eagle Outfitters Foundation, American Hiking Society, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Bay and Paul Foundations, Bon Secours Health System, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Clif Bar Family Foundation , CME Group Community Foundation , ConEdison, Councilman Andrew Cohen, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Jockey Hollow Foundation, David L. Klein, Jr. Foundation, Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program, New Yankee Stadium Development Fund, Laura J. Niles Foundation, NYC CUSP, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, Patagonia, Porzelt Foundation, Ira M. Resnick Foundation, Morris & Alma Schapiro Fund, Dr. Robert C. and Tina Sohn Foundation, and Urban Forestry Organization.

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www.facebook.com/friendsofvcp
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Who Are the Friends?



FVCP Today. FVCP serves three roles in the park. They include (1) advocacy for park funding and protection; (2) organization of educational programs for students; and (3) supplemental maintenance of trails and natural areas. Over the next several years, in addition to our usual programming, FVCP will be dedicated to complete implementation of projects in the 2034 Van Cortlandt Park Master Plan, which will guide the City's restoration of Van Cortlandt Park's natural beauty and provide solutions for the needs of all neighboring communities. In the Master Plan are two signature initiatives for FVCP, (1) The completion of our 2009 Trails Plan, which was drafted by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference; and (2) The continued implementation of our newest initiative: "Wetland Stewardship for a Healthier Bronx," which will improve the health of the existing wetlands and highlight the need to daylight Tibbetts Brook both inside and south of the Park.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park was founded in 1992 by a committed Bronx resident in response to a New York Times article describing the impacts of declining NYC Department of Parks & Recreation budgets on parks like Van Cortlandt that lacked wealthy benefactors or an organized network of local support. She brought together neighbors and friends, and from a small beginning, FVCP has grown to play an increasing role in maintenance of natural areas and community programming for Van Cortlandt Park. Each year FVCP generates thousands of hours of volunteer support for forest and trail maintenance, trains thousands of young people in environmental stewardship, and offers community programs to promote fitness and environmental action. From an initial project involving a small group of students who helped pick up litter and clear brush, FVCP now provides a wide variety of educational, stewardship and community benefit programs.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park play an active role in advocating for funding for capital projects in the Park. Recently, we helped to secure funding for the following projects which we are eagerly awaiting completion of: Pedestrian Bridge over the Major Deegan, new entrance at W. 261st Street, Parks without Borders project at W.242nd Street, new playground at Mosholu Avenue/Broadway and a skate park near the Van Cortlandt Stadium.

25th Anniversary in 2017. The Friends celebrated our 25th Anniversary in various ways including a new 25th Anniversary logo, banners displayed around the Park, a celebration honoring our founders and hikes showcasing our accomplishments. We will be planting native trees in honor of each of our founders- Felicity Nitz, Frances Beinecke, Susan Morgenthau, Elizabeth Scheuer, Jane Sokolow and Sybil Wailand- behind the Van Cortlandt House Museum in the spring of 2018.

Programs & Accomplishments



The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park offer the following programs:

- School Year Environmental Internship Program
- Teens Outdoors for a Green Summer
 - Trails Crew
 - Garden 2 Market Internship
- Van Cortlandt Adventures School Programs
- Volunteer Programs: Forest, Trail, Wetland and Garden Restoration Projects
- Environmental Explorations! Teacher Workshop Series
- Tibbetts Brook Water Quality Monitoring
- Community Programs
- Publications, Newsletter and Website

In FY17, the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park accomplished the following:

- Served 6,439 children and adults directly through our various programs;
- Worked with 1,553 volunteers on garden, forest, wetland, and trail restoration projects;
- Reached 2,216 students through our Van Cortlandt Adventures educational programs;
- Employed 10 Bronx high school interns for a Summer Teen Trails & Water Crew;
- Employed 4 Bronx high school interns for Youth Run Farm Stands which provided fresh local grown produce to the local communities at two locations near the Park;



- Completed our first year of weekly water quality monitoring of Tibbetts Brook and Van Cortlandt Lake (report available upon request) and continued with biweekly monitoring; and,
- Grew our Coalition for Daylighting Tibbetts Brook to 22 organizations and elected officials signing on.

FY 17 Financials

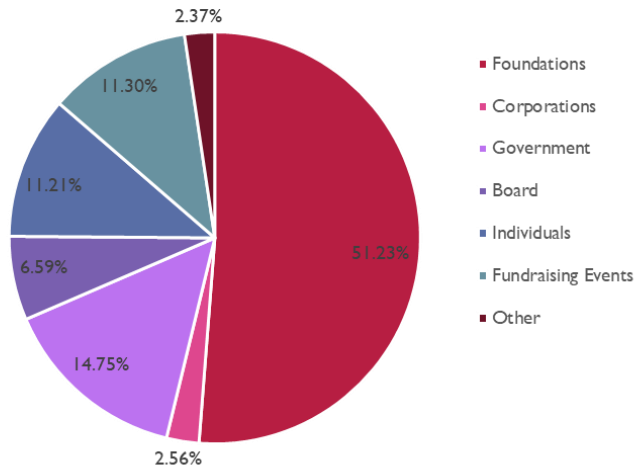
Net Assets

As of June 30, 2016: \$72,874

Income

Total Income for FY16: \$394,885

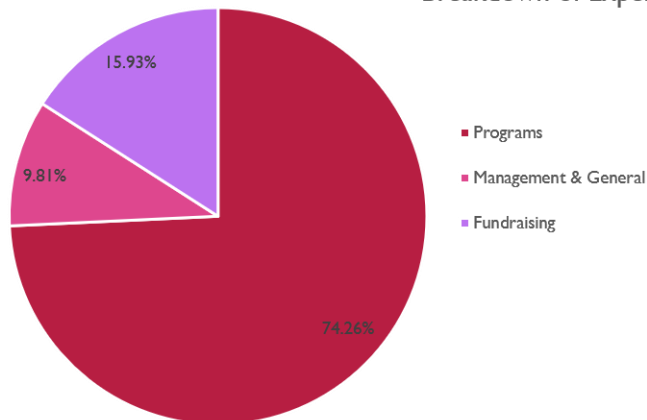
Breakdown of Income



Functional Expenses

Total Expenses for FY17: \$376,925

Breakdown of Expenses



FY17 Audited Financial Statement available upon request.

FY 17 Supporters

A.H. Consumers Society
Marcia & Franz Allina
Almstead Tree & Shrub Company
Amalgamated Housing Cooperative
Amazon
American Eagle Outfitters Foundation
American Hiking Society
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of our Marriage
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PS 41, 78, 85, 94 and 310
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Riverdale Stables
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Van Cortlandt Track Club
Laura B. Vogler Foundation
Visitation School
Robin Weinstein
Holly Leicht & Adam Weinstein
Elizabeth Wilson
Christine Word- In Memory of "My Dad,
Tommy"
Ed Yaker
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets
for our Philharmonic Concert and Hike-
toberfest.

Inkind Supporters:

Bronx Beer Hall
Lloyd's Carrot Cake
Loreley Restaurant & Biergarten
Manhattan College
NYC Parks

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