

van cortlandt park alliance

FY25 Annual Report

About Van Cortlandt Park Alliance

Van Cortlandt Park Alliance (VCPA) is the non-profit partner that helps NYC Parks sustain Van Cortlandt Park to benefit the vibrant communities that consider the park their backyard.

Formed in 2019 by merging two preexisting nonprofits, VCPA's 35 years of combined history, form the foundation for excellence in educational programming, cultural events, advocacy, and restoration projects.

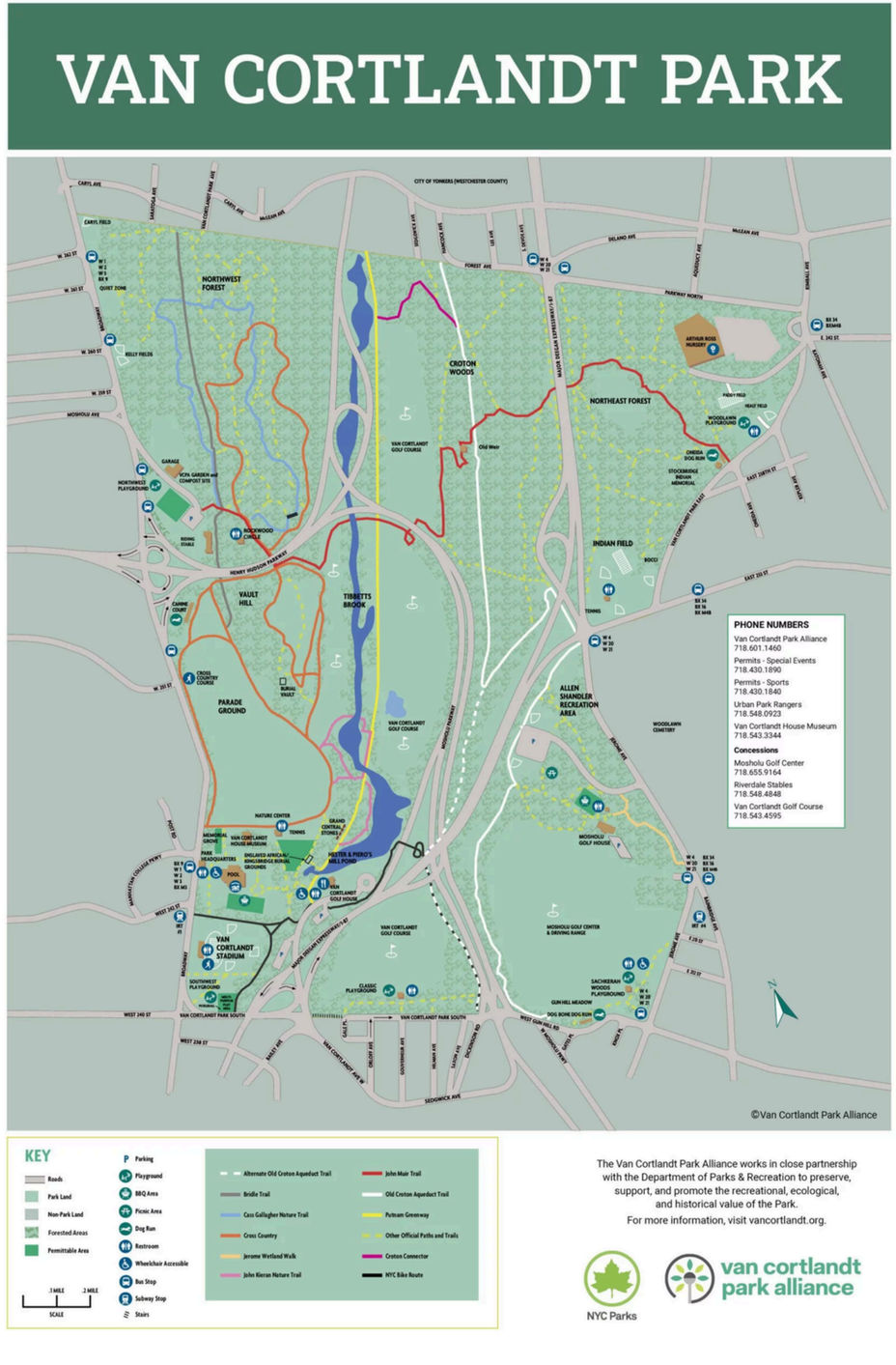
Today, **Van Cortlandt Park Alliance** plays a critical role in preserving, supporting, and promoting the ecological, recreational, cultural arts, and history of Van Cortlandt Park in partnership with NYC Parks.

From its inception in 2019, VCPA's fiscal year ran July 1 to June 30. Starting January 1, 2024, VCPA's fiscal year was adjusted to match the calendar year.

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (1992-2019) **+ Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy** (2009-2019) **→ Van Cortlandt Park Alliance** est. 2019

Van Cortlandt Park

- Third largest park in NYC
- Located in Northwest corner of the Bronx
- 1,146 acres of recreational, historical, and ecologically important resources
- Used by over 3 million visitors each year
- 600+ acres of natural areas
- 20+ miles of hiking, walking, and running trails



VAN CORTLANDT PARK ALLIANCE PROGRAMS

Maintenance & Restoration Work*

- Natural Areas: Woods and Water
- Cross Country Course
- Hiking Trails

* VCPA works to assist NYC Parks on these projects

Community Stewardship

- Community Volunteer Days
- Wetland/Woodlawn Wednesdays
- Trail Work Thursdays
- Forest Fridays
- Vital Volunteers
- Educational Garden & Compost Site

Research Partnerships

- Manhattan University
- Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

Arts & Culture

- Enslaved People Project
- Barefoot Dancing
- Family Fun Days
- Movies in the Park
- Music in the Park

Environmental Education

- Garden 2 Market Internship
- Urban Ecology Teens Internship
- Green Scholars
- Van Cortlandt Adventures
- Nature Hikes and Tours

Environmental Advocacy

- Daylighting Tibbetts Brook
- Funding for NYC Parks

FY25 Program Numbers:

- 2,061 volunteers completed over 5,620 hours of community service
- 1,736 students participated in our education programs
- 7,539 people enjoyed our free community and cultural events
- 51,745 Cross-Country runners and spectators came to Van Cortlandt Park for a race this year
- 84 high school and college students were employed through our paid internship programs
- A total of 11,420 participants!



Learning Garden: Ongoing Improvements

VCPA continued to improve the newly expanded Learning Garden that is nearly 5 times the size of our old space at 12,060 square feet!

Shout out to our friends at New York Restoration Project (NYRP) for all their help.



Community groups and student volunteers work together in the early spring to help maintain the garden for during the growing season. Thank you to Fordham University!



VCPA's free summer Family Friday programs give space for kids of all ages to investigate gardens. This year we explored which plants groundhogs liked best to eat, and integrated pest management.



Lots of learning and tasting happens throughout the year for our neighborhood families in the Bronx. Here our friend is trying the Lemon Sorrel grown in our garden.

Reimagining the Enslaved Burial Ground

In 2025, VCPA partnered with **Design Trust for Public Space** and **Liminal Sp** to host community programs that uplift and honor the park's enslaved African legacy. Guided by a **Legacy Council** of descendants, local educators, historians, and artists, this work is rooted in the Bronx community and extends beyond design to foster healing, acknowledgment, and a more inclusive approach to how history is remembered and who gets to tell it. Community input has been robust and will directly inform the future reimagining of the Enslaved African Burial Ground. This initiative is supported by a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation.



Pictured Above: Chief Baba Neil Clarke (in red) and the **Pinkster Players** in front of the Enslaved African Burial Ground at VCPA's annual **Pinkster Festival**. Pinkster is an historic festival that is acknowledged as New York State's first African American holiday!

For more information, visit vancortlandt.org/epp.



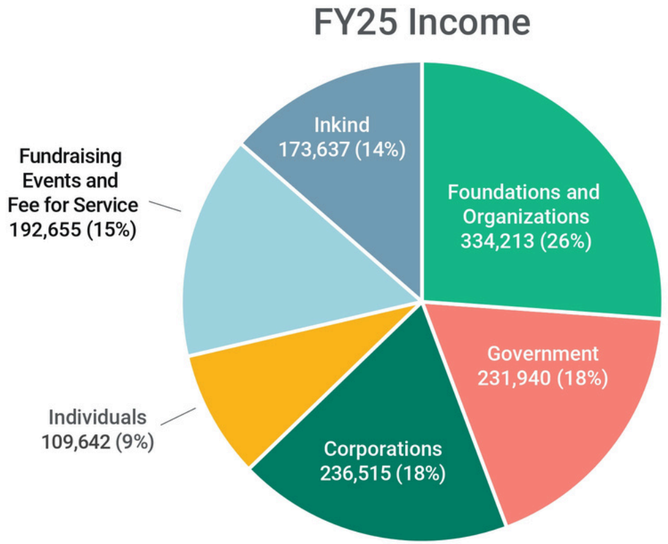
Dreaming of posslibilites with the Legacy Council. Left: VCPA partner Immanuel Oni Right: Legacy Council MemberJuan Usera

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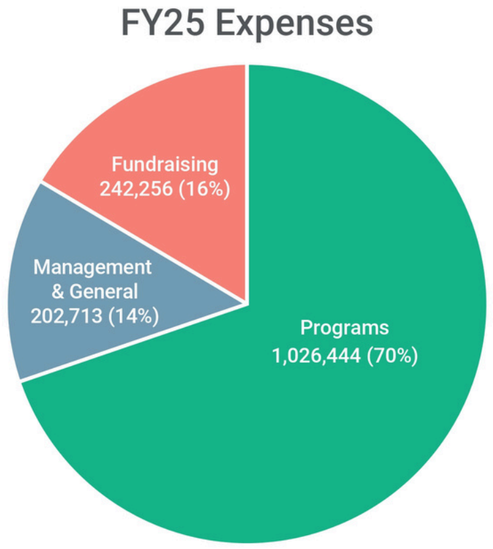
FY25 FINANCIALS

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

REVENUE	Amount	Percentage
Foundations & Organizations	$334,213	26.14%
Government	$231,940	18.14%
Corporations	$236,515	18.50%
Individuals	$109,642	8.58%
Fundraising Events and Fee for Service	$192,655	15.07%
Inkind	$173,637	13.58%
TOTAL	**$1,278,602**	**100.00%**



EXPENSES	Amount	Percentage
Programs	$1,026,444	69.76%
Management & General	$202,713	13.78%
Fundraising	$242,256	16.46%
TOTAL	**$1,471,413**	**100.00%**



PROGRAM EXPENSES	Amount	Percentage
Cultural	$269,301	26.24%
Environmental Education	$354,010	34.49%
Fields & Trails	$116,036	11.30%
Natural Areas	$242,230	23.60%
Outreach	$44,867	4.37%
TOTAL	**$1,026,444**	**100.00%**



Pictured above: VCPA staff, partners, and volunteers out along the Old Croton Aqueduct where they built a retaining wall to reduce erosion from runoff along the trail.

Van Cortlandt Park Alliance's FY25 Audited Financial Statements can be found at https://vancortlandt.org/mission/.

INDIVIDUALS ($1,000+)

Listed alphabetically

Anonymous
Lilka Adams
Robert Baron
Colin Balcarek
Loretta Nash and Bob Bender
Victoria Berger-Gross and Family
Lisa Cintron and Ezra Borut
Dr. Heather Erhard and
The Honorable Andrew J. Cohen
Stephanie Ehrlich and Matt Unger
Linda R. Cox and John G. Robinson
Margaret Della
Hillary Ellison
Miriam and Mark Filer
Alan Friedman
Neal Garelik
Anne and Paul Grand
Bonnie Grant
Teresa Grant Stoeth
Colin Greene
Kathryn and Vincent G. Heintz
Drs. Rachel Kelly and Thomas M. Kelly
Rabbi Binyamin Krauss
Holly Leicht and Adam Weinstein
Judy Mills-Johnson and Ian Johnson
Jeanne Jang and John Park
Christopher Rizzo

GOVERNMENT

Listed alphabetically

NYC Council:
A Greener NYC
Cultural Immigrant Initiative
NYC Clean Up
Parks Equity Initiative
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs:
Community Development Fund
NYS Council on the Arts
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Individuals Cont.

Carol J. Samol
Barry Seager
The Shandler Family
Silverstein and Raduns Family Fund
Lee Sossen and Sherri Williams
Nina Habib Spencer and G. Parke Spencer
Hila and Amit Stern
Cathy Stoeth
Mandi Susman
Jeffrey Torkin
Stacey Wieder

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATE

Listed from greatest to smallest

Mellon Foundation
The New York Community Trust
Altman Foundation
City Parks Foundation
Con Edison
Horace Mann School
The Pinkerton Foundation
New York Road Runners
Sarah K. de Coizart Article TENTH
Perpetual Charitable Trust
Ethical Culture Fieldston School
The Harris & Frances Block Foundation
HOKA
Riverdale Soccer Club
Bronx Community Foundation
Musa and Tom Mayer Charitable
The Ivy Preparatory School League
Patagonia
SAR Academy/SAR High School
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
SMPS Family Fund
Ernst & Young LLP
Collegiate School
Excel Security
Groundwork Hudson Valley
Jockey Hollow Foundation
Montefiore Einstein
University of Mount Saint Vincent
Westhab
Bronx Arts Ensemble
BronxCare Health System
The Fullgraf Foundation
Tishman Speyer
Atmosphere Academy
NYCAL
Lemle & Wolff Companies
Laura J. Niles Foundation
Lloyd's Carrot Cake
Columbia University
Arbor Fest
Herbert and Lillian Heilpern Family Foundation
Evermist
Silverstein and Raduns Family Fund
Riverdale Country School
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality
Manhattan University
NewYork-Presbyterian
Riverdale Soccer Club
Urban Forestry Organization
USA Track and Field
Van Cortlandt Track Club
Bartlett Tree Experts
Mario Bulfamante & Son
Fordham University
Bright Funds

For more information:
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park alliance

