



Help make New York City a cleaner,  
greener place to live.

April 16th, 2016  
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



**FROM:** NEW YORK CARES [www.newyorkcares.org](http://www.newyorkcares.org)  
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## **4,000 VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN 74 NYC PARKS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS DURING THE 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NEW YORK CARES DAY SPRING**

### **HSBC is the Presenting Sponsor for the 10th Consecutive Year**

**(April 16, 2016, New York, NY)** – Today, approximately 4,000 New York Cares volunteers cleaned and greened 74 New York City public parks and community gardens during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual New York Cares Day Spring, sponsored by HSBC. New York Cares, the city’s largest volunteer network, mobilized the volunteers who gave a day of their time throughout the five boroughs, installing flower beds, repairing damaged shoreline, removing invasive species, planting bulbs, and removing litter and chemicals that can enter soil and surrounding waterways.

In their 10 years as presenting sponsor, HSBC has contributed an enormous amount of financial and volunteer support for New York Cares Day. HSBC’s 10 years of support has enabled New York Cares to mobilize 40,000 New Yorkers who’ve given nearly 200,000 hours in volunteer service to 300 parks and gardens. In 2016 alone, 250 HSBC employees, along with friends and family, came out to install erosion control measures along the Hudson River in Riverside Park.

NYC Parks is the largest landowner in the city but receives less than 1% of the city’s annual budget, making New York Cares Day essential in ensuring many parks and gardens get the care they need to remain healthy and safe. Participants in the day raise money to support the cost of the event and New York Cares’ year-round volunteer programs.

To support New York Cares Day Spring and New York Cares year-round programs, visit <https://www.newyorkcares.org/spring>.

### **Projects highlights included:**

- **18 public spaces in MANHATTAN, including Riverside Park**, where 250 volunteers from HSBC descended upon Riverside Park to repair and restore the damaged Hudson River coastline. The volunteers picked up trash and debris to keep it out of the waterway, planted native grasses to mitigate erosion, and removed invasive species. NYC Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mitchell Silver, New York Cares Executive Director Gary Bagley, and Senior Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, HSBC USA, Rhydian Cox, were among the volunteers lending a hand.
- **25 public spaces in BROOKLYN, including East New York Farms**, where approximately 40 New York Cares volunteers built garden beds, painted, and removed invasive species in a community garden in a New York Cares focus zone that runs farmers’ markets and provides educational opportunities for children.
- **17 public spaces in the BRONX, including Van Cortlandt Park**, the third largest park in New York City, covering 1,146–acres. It is also home to the largest freshwater lake in the five boroughs,

making it an important habitat for birds, amphibians, muskrats and many other plant and animal species. Approximately 60 New York Cares volunteers planted native species of swamp grass along the lake to help combat erosion.

- **10 public spaces in QUEENS, including** Broad Channel American Park, where approximately 150 New York Cares volunteers removed asphalt along the shoreline to increase areas where horseshoe crabs can lay eggs to keep this rare and biologically diverse ecosystem healthy.
- **4 public spaces in STATEN ISLAND, including** St. Francis Woodlands, a park that sits atop a 401-foot-tall hill formed of serpentine rock and is the highest natural point in the five boroughs. Approximately 60 New York Cares volunteers restored walking trails, painted park benches, and planted trees.

“New York City is a busy place, humming with a tremendous amount of economic energy and growth, but it is our public parks and community gardens that make our bustling city truly livable,” said Gary Bagley, Executive Director of New York Cares. “I want to thank today’s 4,000 volunteers for recognizing the incredible value of these green spaces and for stepping up to ensure they remain wonderful places to spend time. I also want to extend our sincere gratitude to HSBC for making New York Cares Day Spring happen and for its unparalleled dedication to volunteerism and the environment over the past 10 years.”

“One of the most critical ways we care for our parks is at the hands of thousands of generous and passionate volunteers,” said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. “Each year, New York Cares leads a corps of stewards giving an abundance of their time to show how much they care for our city’s green spaces. Their love for New York City’s parks is an amazing testament, and NYC Parks greatly appreciates their hard work.”

“HSBC is a global bank, but we know that the greatest opportunity for our employees and customers to give back is in our local communities,” said Kelly W. Fisher, Head of Corporate Sustainability for HSBC U.S. “That’s why we support a vast array of programs that strive to have a real impact locally, like New York Cares Day Spring, as well as our five year \$100 million HSBC Water Programme that is helping bring clean water to people across the world.”

#### ***About New York Cares***

New York Cares is the largest volunteer network in the city. Last year, 63,000 New Yorkers made the city a better place by volunteering in New York Cares programs at 1,350 nonprofits and schools – improving education, meeting immediate needs, and revitalizing public spaces. For more information, visit [newyorkcares.org](http://newyorkcares.org).

#### ***About HSBC Bank USA***

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