

STUYVESANT COVE PARK

A permaculture oasis on Manhattan's East Side



Stuyvesant Cove Park is a 1.9 acre all native species organically maintained public park. Located along the East River between 18th and 23rd streets, it provides our community with a unique and beautiful green space for relaxing, picnicking, exercising, and more. Sustainability is a founding principle at Stuy Cove, and we are dedicated to providing a model of park maintenance that has minimal environmental impact both locally and globally. We do not use chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers, we compost plant debris, use natural products to remove graffiti, and plant only perennials (plants that return year after year). Additionally, post Hurricane Sandy, we have placed new emphasis on plantings that are salt tolerant and resilient in the event of future flooding.



Native plants define our park, and we have over one hundred different species with origins in our local bioregion. We purchase locally sourced native species to promote genetic diversity and preserve plant varieties that have become rare and extinct in the urban environs where they used to grow wild. These plants provide habitat and food for wildlife, are essential in supporting a healthy ecosystem and also serve as a platform to promote knowledge of and pride in our unique local flora. We have created a diverse array of trees, shrubs, and herbs that have fascinating histories as edible and medicinal plants, fodder, and as sources of fiber and dye.

Viburnum, mulberry and wild cherry trees produce berries eaten by songbirds from spring to fall as well as habitat for nesting and foraging. Liatris and switchgrass provide seeds and shelter through the winter. Humans also enjoy edibles in the park, including violets, wild onions, mulberries, blackberries and beach plums. We are a monarch butterfly waystation and maintain four different varieties of milkweed, a staple food source in the monarch caterpillar life cycle. These are only a few examples of what the park provides in terms of plant species and wildlife. Please visit to learn more!



Stuyvesant Cove Park is owned by NYCEDC and managed by Solar One. In addition to taking care of the park, Solar One operates K-12 education programs, a green workforce training lab, and community shared solar initiatives. The park also hosts events on site, ranging from family wildflower days to outdoor movies to a craft-beer Oktoberfest.

To learn more about Solar One's programs or upcoming events, visit www.solar1.org.

VOLUNTEER

At Stuyvesant Cove Park

Volunteers are essential to Stuyvesant Cove Park. We work with many dedicated local residents, schools, summer programs, and corporate groups comprised of people of all ages and abilities. From those who have never set foot in a garden before to experienced horticulturists—all are welcome. Our volunteers gain experience in all aspects of perennial plant propagation and care, as well as maintenance of our public urban permaculture gardens. Connect with fellow volunteers as you learn about ethnobotany, restoration agriculture, and cultivation of native plants, or quietly benefit from the grounding experience of working the earth.



Schedule a volunteer event for your group

Our experienced staff facilitate all volunteer days and are readily available during the event to provide instruction, answer questions, and impart a positive team building experience. We work with several local caterers familiar with our park site, including chefs that use in season native wild foods foraged in New York and New Jersey! Our staff photographer is available to capture candid moments of volunteers working and the essential group shots. We can

accommodate groups of up to 40 people on week or weekend days between the hours of 9 am and 8 pm, from May to October. We will work around your availability to schedule one-time or ongoing events that best suit your goals.



Join one of our scheduled volunteer events

Stuyvesant Cove Park came into being as a result of civic advocacy. What once was a concrete plant is now our present day native plant park, due to grassroots organizing in our local community. Many of those founding advocates were the first park volunteers; community involvement continues to be essential as the park evolves. Regular volunteer events take place monthly from April

through October and include a free pizza lunch. These events are open to the public and we welcome everyone! For more information and dates, please contact the Park Manager, Emily Curtis-Murphy, at murphy@solar1.org.

Become a Park Steward

This option is for experienced park volunteers and those eager to work on a regular basis in the park. Those who are considering this opportunity should begin with attending a public volunteer event to familiarize themselves with the park. Park stewards will be provided with the information and instruction necessary to work independently, and are accepted on a more selective basis due to the delicate nature of our plantings.

Contact us

To find out more, schedule an event, or become a park steward, please contact our Park Manager, Emily Curtis-Murphy, at murphy@solar1.org or 646-576-5664. You can also visit our website at www.solar1.org to learn more about the park and its history.

