



Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

### From Our Executive Director

I am incredibly proud to call New York home. As a New Yorker, I am excited to see all that The Nature Conservancy in New York is doing alongside our partners to promote renewable solar and wind energy; make our cities like New York City and Rochester healthier and more livable for all; and prepare for rising seas, storm surge and increased flooding. How? By incorporating nature into the solution. Think trees, oyster reefs and wetlands. The country and world often look to New York for leadership, and we're committed to setting a strong example by reducing carbon pollution, making New York more resilient in a climate changing world and promoting urban conservation—some of our highest priorities. Thank you for your support to help The Nature Conservancy in New York continue to lead!

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

### DONATIONS

Go to [nature.org/nydonate](http://nature.org/nydonate) to donate, or email [natureny@tnc.org](mailto:natureny@tnc.org) for more information.



Street tree stewards © Devan King/The Nature Conservancy

## A Street Tree Grows in Brooklyn

The Nature Conservancy is on a mission to grow a healthier, more resilient NYC.

We have joined forces with Gowanus Canal Conservancy to create the Gowanus Tree Network, an initiative that empowers the community to care for their street trees.

Why trees? According to Philip Silva, New York Program managing scientist, “New Yorkers rely on nearly 700,000 street trees for cleaner water in their harbor communities and cooler buildings and streets in the summer. Those same street trees rely on New Yorkers like the members of the Gowanus Tree Network to keep them alive and healthy.”

These benefits are critical in the flood-prone Gowanus neighborhood. A 2017 study found that the community’s 3,000 street trees generate an estimated \$360,000 in environmental services each year, including energy savings due to storm water capture, air quality improvements, carbon

sequestration and decreased use of air conditioning.

Through the Gowanus Tree Network, tree ambassadors have been trained and licensed as “Citizen Pruners” by Trees New York. They will engage and energize their neighbors through stewardship events, improving the soil, planting flowers, and expanding tree beds to allow for growth.

**New Yorkers rely on nearly 700,000 street trees for cleaner water in their harbor communities and cooler buildings and streets in the summer.**

*Philip Silva, managing scientist, New York*

A forest doesn’t grow overnight, and the initiative will continue to expand to provide increased benefits to more New Yorkers to ensure a healthier city and healthier future.



Clockwise: Susannah Kagan © Jonathan Grassi, Fazena Bacchus © Devan King/The Nature Conservancy, Building a community garden in East Harlem © Jonathan Grassi

## NATURE NEW YORK

### Can Nature Contribute to a Healthier Rochester?

As with many neighborhoods around the United States, Rochester's Joseph Avenue corridor began to change in the late 1940s, in part due to discriminatory housing policies that drove new development into the suburbs and made it difficult for minorities to own homes. Today, the trees are not well and there are many vacant lots and



Professors Jocelyn Gavitt & Emanuel Carter on Joseph Avenue

# Why We Invest in Cities

## Susannah Kagan, Nature Conservancy in New York Board of Trustees

Faced with the pressures of growing urban populations and climate change, investing now and taking action to achieve sustainable and healthy cities is imperative. The Nature Conservancy, with its strong base in science and its ability to bring together public and private entities, is well positioned to work with cities to make them healthier and more sustainable in the future.

## Emily Maxwell, New York City Program Director

I joined The Nature Conservancy to help lead our work in cities. While I am proud of our work in New York City, we also help build healthy cities across New York and around the world. The density and intensity of cities make them so dynamic and important to the success of our mission. Working in cities provides us opportunities to engage with communities and people with whom the Conservancy has not historically worked. I am excited for the difference we can make for so many.

## Fazena Bacchus, Nature Conservancy in New York Board of Trustees

There is so much conservation work that needs to be applied to cities to improve public health, protect urban ecosystems, improve air quality and better manage waste. Thus, it is absolutely imperative that we shift our outlook to protecting nature *from* cities to protecting nature *for* our urban ecosystems. Our cities depend on it.

boarded-up homes and buildings. Intrigued by the question of what role nature might play in a healthy future for Joseph Avenue, the Conservancy looked to trustee Emanuel Carter, a landscape architecture professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry. Before long, his undergraduate class was meeting with neighbors and municipal officials. Many of the students' initial designs for Joseph Avenue incorporate nature-based solutions and ideas for transforming vacant lots, but they also need to ensure that all projects reflect the desires and needs of the neighborhood. By taking the time to understand the needs of both people and nature, we hope to improve the well-being of residents and the natural urban environment in which they live.

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