



**US Army Corps
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New York District

NEWS RELEASE

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GCCDC and Army Corps Clean Streets, Plant Trees and Flowers Along Canal

Brooklyn Community Shows Support for Local Event

NEW YORK—April 28, 2003 — Despite the rain date and in celebration of the community, more than 30 local citizens joined the Gowanus Brooklyn Earth Day Activities on Sunday, sponsored by The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation (GCCDC) and the US Army Corps of Engineers New York District. The activities of the day included a traditional Native-American ceremony marrying waters from the Hudson River into the Gowanus Canal with the local Pack 14 Cub Scout group, and other area children blessing the waters of the canal with fresh flower petals. Volunteers were hard at work weeding, soiling and planting 18 trees and bushes and more than 60 flowering plants on Douglass and Degraw Streets on the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn. Streets abutting the canal were swept, and local participants filled over 60 garbage bags with trash and debris.

“I am so pleased with outpouring of support from the Brooklyn community, the Army Corps of Engineers, our board members and local business owners including Vigilante plumbing and Home Depot that helped to make this event such a success,” said Jeanne DiLascio, executive director of the GCCDC. “It is very exciting to see so many people volunteer and work hard to make this neighborhood a better place. These streets and small parks at the end of the streets look so clean and nice with new plants and fresh flowers.”

Volunteers gathered early Sunday morning and worked on the three streets until late into the afternoon. They grabbed brooms, shovels, gloves and other tools that were borrowed from the New York City Parks Department and the New York City Department of Sanitation, and got to work with plants and soil donated by the Hamilton Avenue Home Depot and Friends of Gateway, a nonprofit group committed to enhancing urban open spaces.

“It was an excellent day for an event like this and anytime the Army Corps can give back to a community where we live and work makes participating so much more satisfying,” said Col. John O’Dowd, New York District Engineer. “Watching all these people, a two year-old child for instance, picking up brooms, sweeping and making the streets that much better for the people that live here, was a great way to spend a Sunday morning.”

The GCCDC and the Army Corps would like to extend a special thank you to John Muir, Added Value, Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment, The Home Depot, Friends of Gateway, Vigilante Plumbing, Scaramouche, Bagels by the Park, D’Amico Foods, Bagel World, Pathmark, Chris

Conroy, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, New York City Parks Department and the Gowanus Community.

Photos of the event will be available online at www.nan.usace.army.mil or contact Carolyn Vadino at Carolyn.j.Vadino@usace.army.mil.

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