



US Army Corps
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New York District



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 22, 2003

Gowanus Canal waterfront clean-up planned for weekend Earth Day celebration

NEW YORK (April 17, 2003)- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District and the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation have partnered to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 26th along the Gowanus Canal on Douglass and DeGraw Streets in Brooklyn. Volunteers are encouraged to attend the celebration and join the GCCDC and the Corps with a street clean-up along the Gowanus Canal waterfront, which will include planting trees, re-soiling the small parks, and picking up trash and debris along the street.

“The Gowanus Canal is such an important part of the community and the GCCDC is excited to be able to work with fellow community members to help clean up its streets,” said Jeanne DiLascio, executive director of the GCCDC. “We are committed to neighborhood revitalization and believe in celebrating ongoing efforts to restore the canal. With this year marking the 25th anniversary of the GCCDC, we want to roll up our sleeves, grab our gloves and participate in an Earth Day event that can directly impact the community.”

Highlights of the event include:

- Clean-up from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., including opening remarks from Col. John O’Dowd, Army Corps of Engineers. Volunteers will meet on the corner of Douglass and Bond Streets.
- Ceremony celebrating the Gowanus Canal, Earth Day, and the 25th Anniversary of the GCCDC
- Walking tour of Gowanus Canal by Dr. Roberta Weisbrod from 1:00 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- Ongoing educational lessons regarding Gowanus Canal, Flushing Tunnel and the environmental affects
- An opportunity to meet and mingle with local community members, grassroots organizations, local government officials, Army Corps of Engineers, NYC Department of Environmental Protection and the Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment

“This Earth Day clean-up event is in keeping with the Corps’ environmental operating principles,” said Col. John O’Dowd, New York District Engineer. “I am pleased to be a part of this event along with other team members of the New York District to further Brooklyn’s efforts for a clean, revitalized canal; after all, we live here too.” In addition to the Earth Day Celebration, the Corps and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection are cost-sharing an estimated \$5 million feasibility study that will assess the Gowanus Canal’s environmental problems and explore potential solutions to restore its ecological health, as well as aid and compliment other local revitalization efforts. This study is also receiving funds from grassroots organizations like the GCCDC.

The goal of the Earth Day event is to bring community residents, government agencies, businesses, and other organizations together to clean up the canal waterfront area, including the small parks on the streets near

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the Flushing Tunnel. For more information about the event or to volunteer contact Alicia Moore at (718) 858-0557, or email the GCCDC at gowanuscdc@aol.com or visit www.gowanus.org.

Earth Day was launched internationally in 1990, when 200 million people in 141 countries participated in activities around the world. Just over a decade later, Earth Day has become the largest organized environmental event in human history. Hundreds of millions of people are expected to participate in global Earth Day activities in 2003.

About the GCCDC

The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation is a neighborhood preservation non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of the Gowanus Canal area in South Brooklyn, New York, for twenty-five years. The community-based group has an extensive record of initiatives and involvement in the physical improvement of the Gowanus Canal, Red Hook and Carroll Gardens communities. GCCDC's efforts are focused on the environmental remediation of the Gowanus Canal, housing, economic development, and commercial revitalization