

# NYBG/125

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## **The New York Botanical Garden Receives \$100,000 Grant from RBC Blue Water Project to Protect the Bronx River**

RBC Commitment will fund Work to Mitigate Stormwater Runoff, Improve Species Habitat, and Increase Public Awareness

**Bronx, NY**— The New York Botanical Garden announced today that it will receive a \$100,000 Blue Water Project grant from Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) to support a Botanical Garden project that will reduce damage from stormwater runoff, improve habitat for native plant and animal species, and increase public awareness of urban clean water management.

With support from the RBC grant, about 40,000 square feet of land along the Bronx River—New York City's only freshwater river, which flows through the heart of the Garden—will be planted with trees, shrubs, and other plants to reduce erosion and filter stormwater. A stormwater management system will reduce peak storm flows to the Bronx River and cut the amount of sediment that enters the river at that point by up to 80 percent. Educational signage will explain the importance of controlling urban stormwater, protecting waterways, and improving water quality.

The work is part of the Garden's Green Zone project, which will improve pedestrian access at the Garden's East Gate and enhance environmental sustainability. Targeted for completion in March 2017, the project will also include a pathway accessible for visitors with physical disabilities and public restrooms that use composting technology.

"We are deeply grateful to RBC for its support for this important project," said Gregory Long, Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden. "Since the Garden's founding in 1891, we have been dedicated to preserving and protecting the Bronx River, so as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary, it is especially meaningful to receive an RBC Blue Water grant to help us safeguard this precious resource."

RBC, the largest bank in Canada and one of the largest banks in the world by market capitalization, chose the Garden for a Blue Water Project grant from among hundreds of applicants from around the world, based on its commitment to addressing water issues and protecting water in urbanized areas. One of the world's most vital natural resources, water is fundamental to life on our planet, but local water sources are under continual and growing stress from population growth, climate change, and pollution. Protecting this precious

resource is a growing concern around the world. (For more about the RBC Blue Water Project, please see below.)

Today's announcement is part of RBC's annual Blue Water Day, a time for RBC employees around the globe to come together to protect their local water sources through "Makeovers"—clean-ups, plantings, and awareness-raising. In 2015, over 25,000 employees completed 850 Makeovers worldwide.

To do their part for RBC Blue Water Day on June 2, more than 40 RBC Capital Markets employees in New York will be volunteering at The New York Botanical Garden to remove invasive plant species, monitor water quality and maintain the ecosystems of the Bronx River and the 50-acre old-growth Thain Family Forest, through which the river flows.

"RBC has a longstanding commitment to environmental sustainability," said John Puig, RBC Investment Banker. "We understand first and foremost that every little bit we do today can help a lot tomorrow. We're proud that our employees in New York City and around the world are willing year after year to help their communities prosper through RBC Blue Water Day Makeovers."

### **About RBC Blue Water Project**

The RBC Blue Water Project is a historic, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. Since 2007, RBC has pledged more than C\$47 million to more than 760 charitable organizations worldwide that protect watersheds and promote access to clean drinking water, with an additional C\$8.8 million pledged to universities for water programs. For further information, visit [www.rbc.com/bluewater](http://www.rbc.com/bluewater).

### **About The New York Botanical Garden**

In 2016 The New York Botanical Garden celebrates its 125th Anniversary and its role as an oasis in this busy metropolis since its founding in 1891, and it looks forward to its continued leadership as a dynamic New York City cultural institution.

A National Historic Landmark, this 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. Each year more than one million visitors enjoy the Garden not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora, but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Haupt Conservatory to festivals on Daffodil Hill.

The Garden is also a major educational institution. More than 300,000 people annually—

among them Bronx families, schoolchildren, and teachers—learn about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through NYBG’s hands-on, curriculum-based programming.

NYBG operates one of the world’s largest plant research and conservation programs, with nearly 200 staff members—including 80 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden’s state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries.

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**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)**

**The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458**

**The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden’s general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.**

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