



ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY

2020 Impact Report

THROUGH PEOPLE-POWERED RESTORATION, THE CONSERVANCY:

Empowered a growing community to steward the unique, urban wilderness of the Rock Creek watershed and its parklands.

Educated the Rock Creek community on best practices to #RecreateResponsibly and take care of each other and our natural environment.

Supported legislative and regulatory action to protect the watershed in Washington, DC and Montgomery County, Maryland.

Restored and protected natural habitats by reducing stormwater runoff, removing litter and invasive plants from Rock Creek and its parklands through socially-distant stewardship.

Connected diverse communities to Rock Creek Park through over one hundred events, community outreach, and Rock Creek Conservation Corps summer programming.

"The value of nearby nature was more apparent than ever this year. Rock Creek was truly the gift that kept on giving. I'm proud of the work the Conservancy—and all of our supporters—have done to restore Rock Creek as the need for clean air and water became ever more pressing."

– Executive Director Jeanne Braha

PARK PARTNERSHIP

Restored the picnic shelter at Fort Slocum.

Installed two benches and three new picnic tables to expand outdoor recreation opportunities.

Installed the first pet waste station in the park to encourage dog walkers to protect Rock Creek's water quality.

Provided cloth face masks to all Rock Creek Park staff in the early months of the pandemic.



By the NUMBERS

Through a global pandemic and national unrest, the work of stewarding Rock Creek doesn't stop. Thank you to the Rock Creek community for helping to make a difference this year!



520

trees freed from English ivy



17,585.5

pounds of litter removed



284

native plants planted



52

downspouts disconnected



120

volunteer events



6,624.25

volunteer hours



78

Stream Team Leaders trained



20 WEEKS

creek bacteria monitoring



18

new Rock Creek Conservation Corps members



100,000

tons of carbon stored in Rock Creek's forests

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION

Provided 18 DC high school students with environmental education and employment through the first virtual Rock Creek Conservation Corps, growing a culture of stewardship.

Gathered nearly 200 people for a socially-distant Gala-turned-Picnic in the Park at the Carter Barron Amphitheater, raising \$185,000 to advance the Conservancy's mission.

Made an organizational commitment to anti-racism and hired a year-long team member to support equity efforts.

Published a 'blue' paper to share research-based best practices for community engagement around green infrastructure .

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Shifted quickly to 'socially-distant stewardship' to ensure park restoration could continue through the pandemic.

Hosted weekly volunteer activities and trained volunteer leaders to help neighbors remove litter and invasive plants and build stewardship inside and outside the park.

Increased green infrastructure to manage stormwater through the Downspout Disconnection program, removing about a 1/2-acre of rooftop from draining to the combined sewer system.

Monitored water quality and litter as part of watershed collaborations with volunteers and regional environmental organizations.

Supported biodiversity conservation on America's public lands with support of a \$47,500 Biodiversity Conservation grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation, with major support from Toyota Motor North America.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2021, THE CONSERVANCY WILL:

Launch a new three-year strategic plan with a strong focus on climate and equity.

Develop and install signage to improve equity of access and navigation in Rock Creek Park.

Reduce stormwater runoff through green infrastructure initiatives.

Celebrate Rock Creek Park as a natural, cultural, and recreational oasis at the October Rock Creek Gala.

Continue to steward mini-oases as active demonstration of the model of people-powered restoration of Rock Creek's habitats.

JOIN US TO PROTECT AND RESTORE ROCK CREEK!



@LoveRockCreek



Rock Creek Conservancy



bit.ly/RockCreekCalendar



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Paul, Chair
Nonprofit & Community Fundraising

Brad McKee, Vice Chair
Freelance Journalist

Stephanie Flack, Secretary
Bernuth & Williamson

Greg Weingast, Treasurer
Rock Creek Capital Partners

Karen James Cody
The Allyson Group

Kenneth Connolly
Goldman Sachs

David DeSantis
TTR Sotheby's

Gary Guzy
Covington & Burling LLP

Pavan Khoobchandani
KhoobchandaniLaw

Ethan Landis
Landis Architects/Builders

Tanya Mayorkas
Former Govt. and Nonprofit Lawyer

Rohan Patel
Tesla

Molly Hill Patten
ONE

Danielle M. Reyes
*The Crimsonbridge Foundation
Yoga Hikes DC*

Sambhav Sankar
Earth Justice

Sam Shelton
Kinetik

Scott Siff, Emeritus
Quadrant Strategies

Jeanne Braha
*Executive Director
Rock Creek Conservancy*

**Board as of Jan. 2021*



Tax ID Number: 20-3874333
CFC # 47398

Rock Creek Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by private foundations, corporate sponsors, government grants, and generous individual donors providing an annual revenue of approximately \$1 million. An audited financial statement is available at www.rockcreekconservancy.org.

Contact:
info@rockcreekconservancy.org
rockcreekconservancy.org
(301) 579 - 3105