



# ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY

## 2022 IMPACT REPORT

### FOREST RESILIENCE

- Hosted **23** invasive removal events as part of the second annual Rock Creek Weed Wrangle; **326** volunteers removed **257** bags of invasive plants and freed **49** trees from invasive vines.
- Began recruiting subject matter experts to help create an equitable landscape-scale framework for the resilience of Rock Creek’s forests – protecting the natural resources while increasing equity of access to their ecosystem services.
- Led weekly invasive removals in four mini-oases – demonstration sites to showcase the impact of people-powered restoration in action.
- Moved the Piney Branch mini-oasis to the “maintenance” phase, meaning that the work done to date has reduced invasive plants to less than **5%** of the ground cover.

### WHY ROCK CREEK MATTERS TO YOU

At the Beach (Beech) Party – a celebration of Beach Drive closing permanently for recreation – attendees filled out leaves reflecting what they are most grateful for about Rock Creek. Here are excerpts from a few of those:



*the rangers  
bird watching  
safe bike space  
bluebells and tulip poplars  
wonderful hiking and a place for solitude  
bats, deer, foxes, and the lungs of the city  
beauty in nature right at the heart of the city  
the stream bubbling over the rocks surrounded by trees*



### PARK PARTNERSHIPS

- Celebrated the National Park Service's momentous decision to permanently close Beach Drive for recreation, while thanking Superintendent Julia Washburn, Councilmember Mary Cheh, WABA, PARC, and all those who advocated to help make it possible.
- Supported the fabrication and installation of a new sign for Reservation 630 at the corner of Reno and Tilden, replacing the name of a city official whose work displaced many Black communities from areas west of the park during the early 20th century.
- With the support of generous donors paying tribute to their loved ones, installed two new benches in Rock Creek Park.
- Honored Chair Brenda Mallory of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) at a spectacular Rock Creek Gala with nearly **400** attendees.

## YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Whether you volunteered or made a gift (or both!), you made an impact on Rock Creek and its parklands in 2022, including:



**865**

trees freed from English Ivy



**44,840**

pounds of litter removed



**127,146**

square feet of park restored



**8**

Race, History, and Rock Creek programs hosted



**4,008**

volunteers engaged in people-powered restoration



**9,432**

hours volunteered



**\$231,423**

contributed to the National Park Service



**188**

volunteer leaders trained



**1,686**

individual supporters of Rock Creek Conservancy



**\$1,647,813**

in revenue in support of Rock Creek and its parklands



*Rock Creek Conservancy is an award-winning 501(c)3 nonprofit, an official philanthropic partner to Rock Creek Park (National Park Service), and the only organization dedicated to the entirety of Rock Creek and its parklands.*

## JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)





- Launched the Carter Barron Alliance – a network of arts, parks, historic preservation, philanthropic, and community groups that are working together to support the timely, complete revitalization of the Carter Barron Amphitheater.
- Hosted **8** free, virtual Race, History, and Rock Creek programs in partnership with the National Park Service on a variety of topics, such as *Lynchings and Biophobia*, *Black Cemeteries*, *The History and Future of the Carter Barron Amphitheater*, and more.
- Provided summer work experience in the environmental sector to **15** students from schools in both DC and Montgomery County as part of the Rock Creek Conservation Corps (RC3) - MoCo crew pictured below.
- Brought the community together to enjoy nature and summer fun at rotating locations throughout the east side of Rock Creek Park, including Carter Barron, Fort Circle Parks, and Fort Slocum.



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- As part of the annual Rock Creek Extreme Cleanup, convened **54** cleanup events where nearly **900** volunteers removed **9,569** pounds of litter.
- Coordinated **54** citizen science volunteers who served **250** volunteer hours throughout the Rock Creek watershed, collecting **306** samples for bacteria monitoring.
- Continued canvassing for the Downspout Disconnection program, which, under a contract with DC Water, offers free disconnection and rain barrel installation to eligible homeowners in the designated project area.
- Began a new program in partnership with DOEE to inspect and maintain green infrastructure on DC properties in the Rock Creek watershed. This work improves the performance of the green infrastructure facilities, reducing runoff to Rock Creek.

## JOIN US TO PROTECT AND RESTORE ROCK CREEK!

-   @LoveRockCreek
-  @RockCreekConservancy
-  [rockcreekconservancy.org/calendar](http://rockcreekconservancy.org/calendar)



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20-3874333  
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*Last year, your efforts and philanthropic support combined to make a huge impact on the park. Please consider donating securely online at [rockcreekconservancy.org/impact](http://rockcreekconservancy.org/impact), mailing a check to our address (right), or designating a gift from your DAF.*

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