

## THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

Since the early 1960's, Far Rockaway has faced many challenges, from illegal dumping, underserved public spaces, to over-industrialization. More recently, a trend of out-of-scale residential development, without adequate consideration of the need for open public space, infrastructure, or commercial development, has had a drastic effect on the Rockaways.

It is our mission to counterbalance out-of-scale development by enhancing public park space and establishing better use of existing natural resources along the Rockaway shoreline for the local community through programming and public events.

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance works with elected officials, government agencies, local organizations and the community to be an advocate for a safer, more environmentally-friendly, public waterfront in Far Rockaway.

## OUR PROGRAMS

Whether working with students in the classroom or with the local community, RWA works to address conservation and the need for public space through our programs. By utilizing the waterfront for classes, beach clean-ups and activities, our programs address environmental justice and better use of the public waterfront in Far Rockaway.



### Stewardship Saturdays

RWA works with the community to teach skills in horticulture, environmental stewardship and understanding the native shoreline habitat. Through community efforts, we have transformed neglected areas to beautiful natural landscapes.



### Living Classroom Public School Programs

Collaborating with some of the most respected scientists and environmentalists, our hands-on approach engages young learners with the living systems that support our waterfront. For students K-12th grade, expert "mentors" help students to explore challenging social and environmental issues.

## PUBLIC EVENTS

Each year, we host a number of events in partnership with other local organizations and city agencies to encourage the community to utilize the waterfront, bringing hundreds of people to the shoreline to appreciate and enjoy their public open space.



### Earth Day: Rockaway

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance co-sponsored the 1st Annual Earth Day Rockaway with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation in 2007, reaching out to over 20 local organizations to host free environmental education programs and activities for people of all ages outdoors along the beach.



### Outdoor Performances

Our public events have included puppet shows by City Parks Foundation and concerts that have brought hundreds of local residents out to experience performances along the beach, giving them a sense of renewed ownership and excitement for their waterfront spaces.



### Community Canoeing

Our canoe paddling program brings local students and the public out to experience the coastal routes along Jamaica Bay and the broader Atlantic. We also contributed to the planning and development of the New York City Water Trail.



## CONNECTING LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH CIVIC PLANNING

### Waterfront Planning Workshops

We have reached out to some of the most respected leaders in urban planning, landscape architecture and design to lead open dialogues with local elementary students, community leaders, city agencies and elected officials to visualize the future of the Rockaway Waterfront. RWA has advocated strongly for funding to develop the waterfront and supported Mayor Bloomberg's PLANYC 2030 initiative which has designated funding for public park space along the eastern section of the Rockaway Peninsula.

