

Building Capacity for Sustainable Green Infrastructure Management:

The RAIN Coalition

'Rain Garden Action in Neighborhoods'



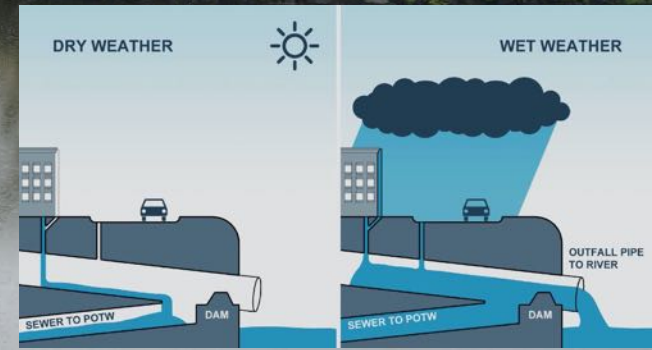


Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

Pathogens, petroleum products, plastics and more are discharged to local waterways during most rainstorms.

NYC: 450 outfalls
27 Billion Gallons per Year

Newtown Creek: 22 outfalls
1.2 Billion Gallons per Year



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI)

- NYC aging sewer system dumps 27 billion gallons of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) into local waterways, regularly violating the Clean Water Act
- In 2010, the City committed to converting 7,956 impervious acres into rain gardens by 2030 in order to reduce CSOs (*NYC Green Infrastructure Plan, 2010*)

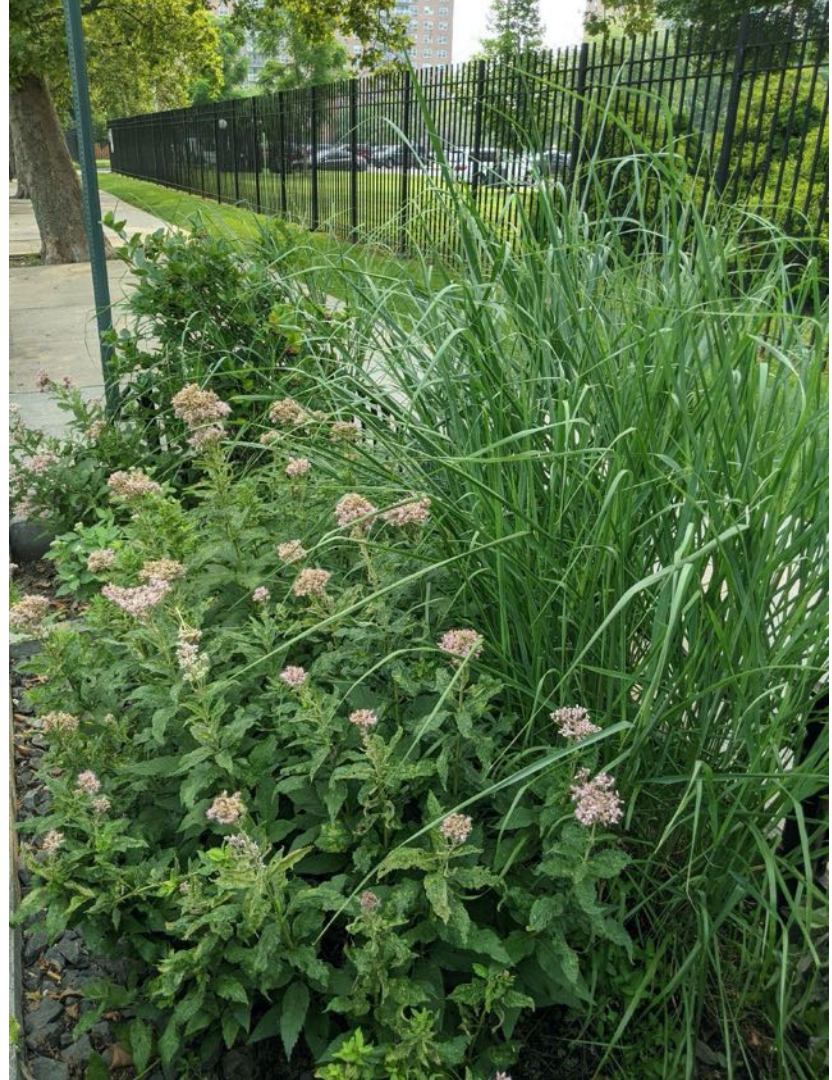


Photo Water World, Sept 2019

GI Co-Benefits

Properly-maintained rain gardens manage stormwater & street flooding while also providing:

- Beauty
- Habitat
- Shade + cooling
- Improved air quality



THE PROBLEM:

Lack of proper maintenance!

- NYC struggles to maintain its thousands of new green infrastructure assets (1,230 newly-greened acres)
- Many underperform in terms of water retention and blight communities with overgrown weeds and litter
- Missed opportunity to link rain garden maintenance with workforce development
- Imperfect communication to local communities



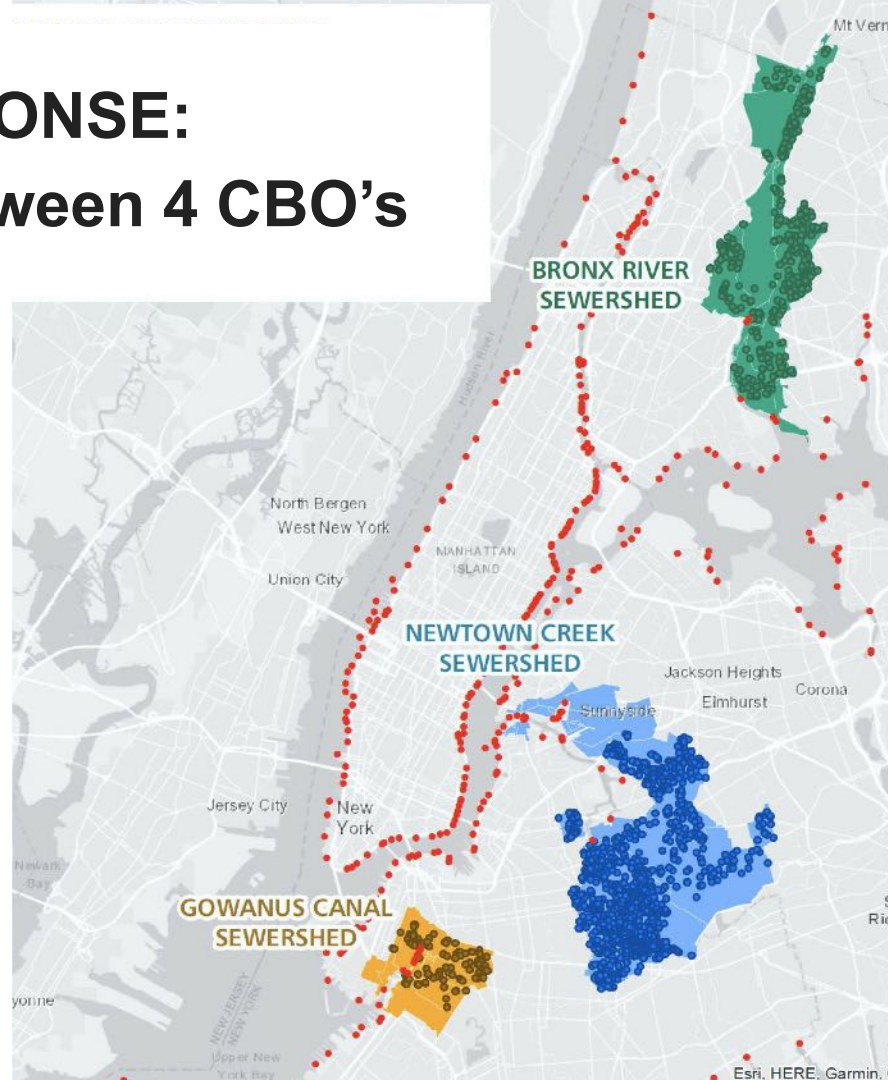
THE RESPONSE:

A Collaboration between 4 CBO's

4 community based organizations developed a pilot collaborative approach for rain garden stewardship of City-owned GI in 3 priority watersheds:

- **Bronx River**
- **Newtown Creek**
- **Gowanus Canal**

Known as the **RAIN** Coalition
(Rain garden Action in Neighborhoods)



RAIN Coalition Launch







Goal:

Pilot Green Infrastructure (GI) maintenance in 3 watersheds that can be scaled up to a citywide solution for sustainable long term GI contracts and workforce development

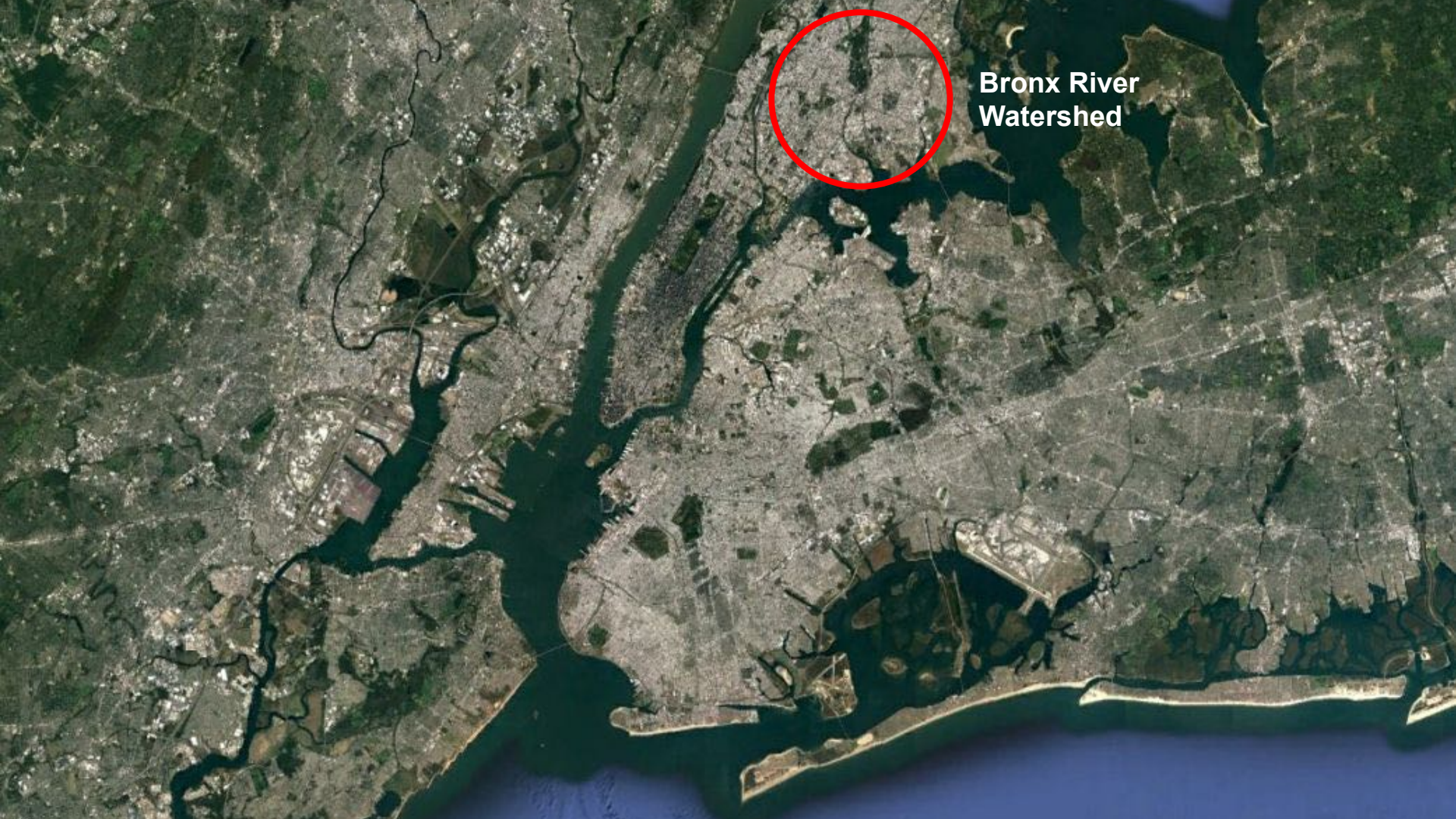
Scope of Work

- Test and share best practices for green infrastructure maintenance and sustainable staffing.
 - Each organization will maintain up to 20 DEP Rain Gardens, primarily Right-of-Way (ROW) gardens and DPR (Parks & Recreation) Rain Gardens
- Lay the groundwork for similar agreements for green infrastructure maintenance and job training across the city.

How are we each doing this work differently?



BRONX
river alliance



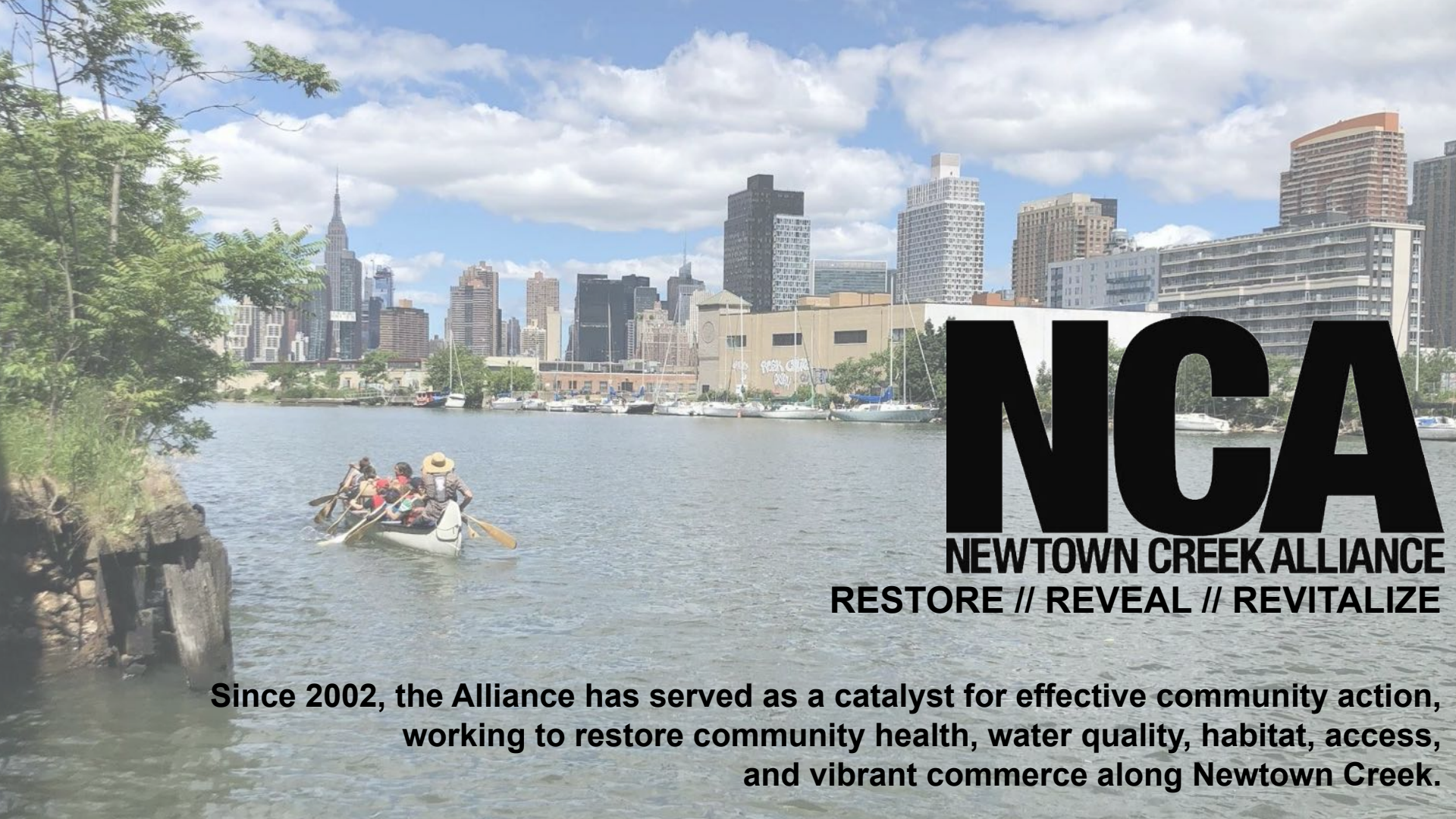
**Bronx River
Watershed**

Parkland rain gardens: Starlight Park



Parkland rain gardens: Shoelace Park



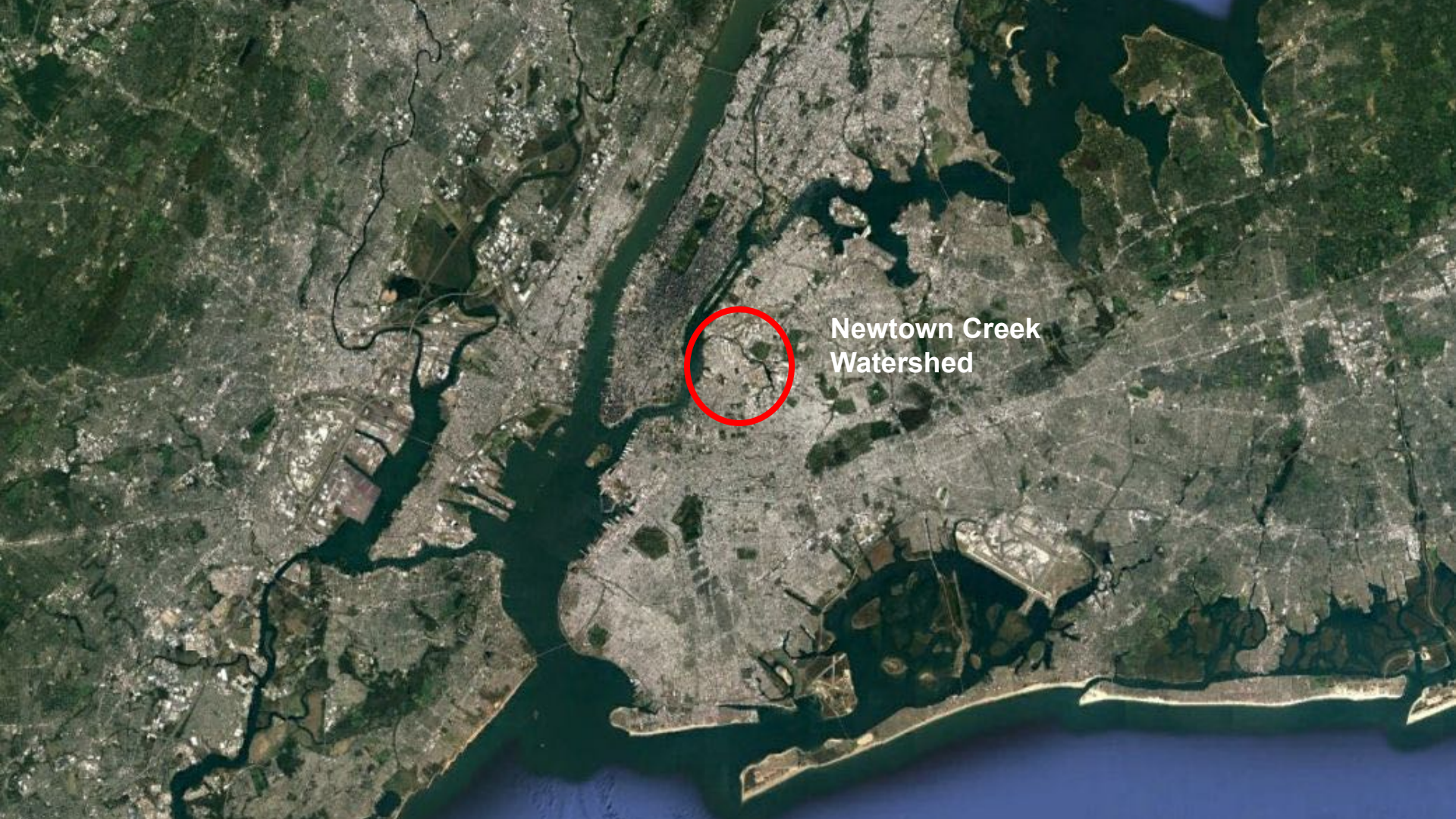


NCA

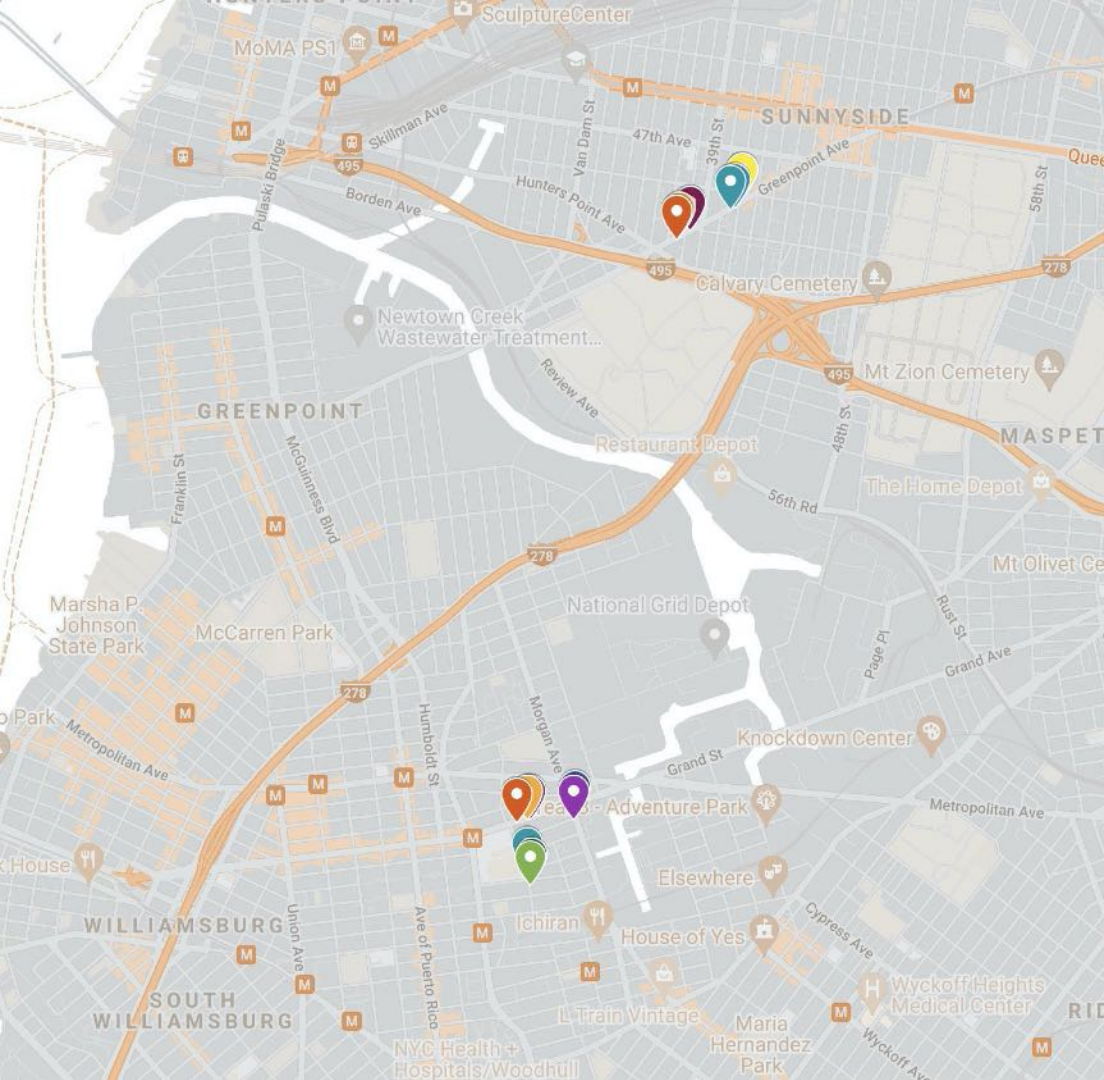
NEWTOWN CREEK ALLIANCE

RESTORE // REVEAL // REVITALIZE

Since 2002, the Alliance has served as a catalyst for effective community action, working to restore community health, water quality, habitat, access, and vibrant commerce along Newtown Creek.



Newtown Creek
Watershed





**Empowering New Yorkers to
Build Sustainable Futures
through Comprehensive
Training, Jobs, Advancement
and Lifelong Career Support**

**THE HOPE
PROGRAM** 
Work. Grow. Sustain.

Toolkit for Success



Workforce
Readiness



Digital Literacy
Training



On-the-Job
Training



Industry
Certifications



Work
Wellness



Environmental
Sustainability



Job Search &
Placement



Financial
Empowerment



Employer
and Alumni
Networks



Career
Advancement



HOPE
For Life



INTERVINE

- Sector focus in green infrastructure and horticulture
- Cohort-model 10 week paid training program with community partners
- Social Enterprise temporary work opportunities





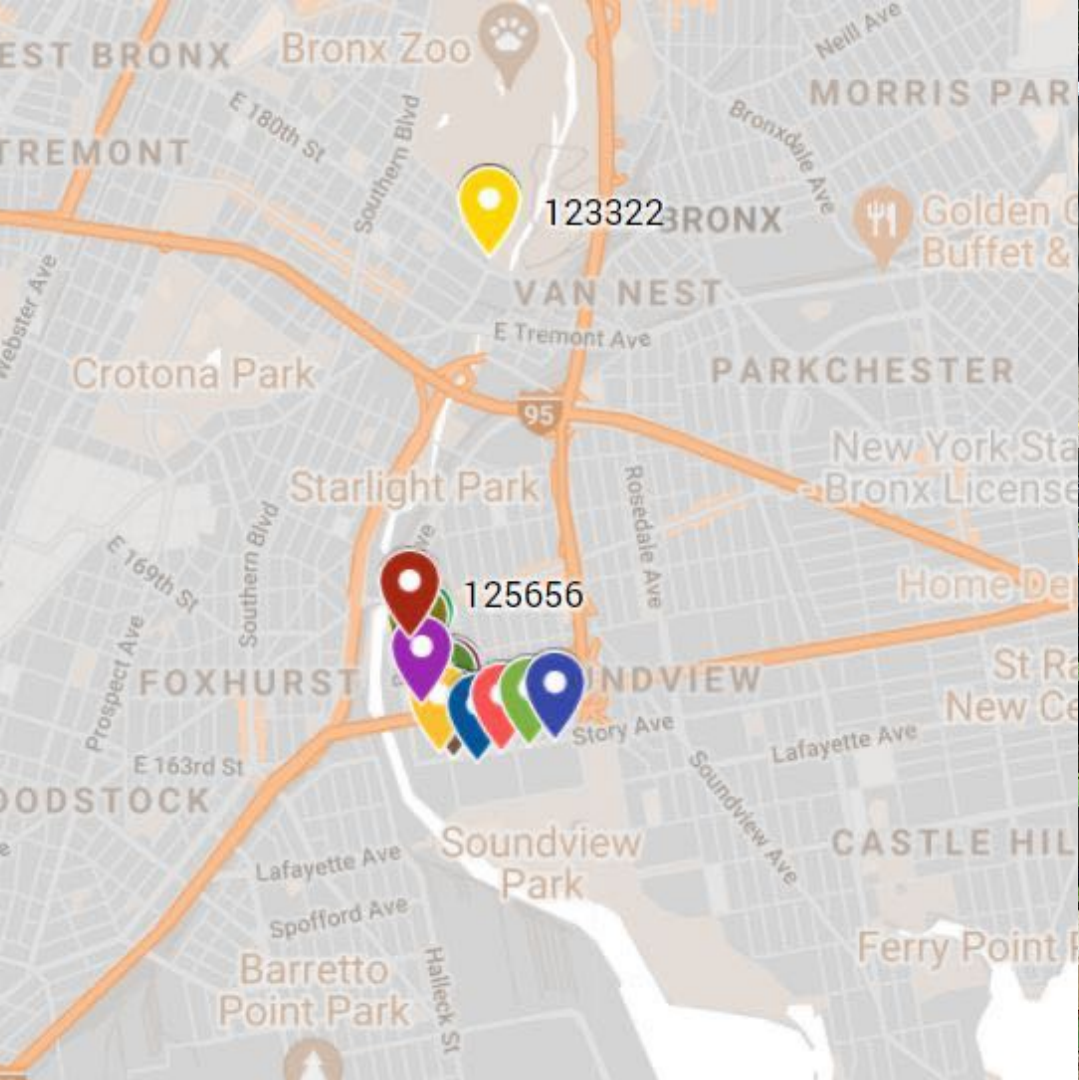
INTERVINE





INTERVINE





Project Timeline Overview

2021

Perform maintenance of 66 GI assets across 3 watersheds

Work with City agencies to refine maintenance and tracking protocol as basis for developing a long term contract proposal

2022

Analyze data from first year, develop scope and budget for proposal

Develop and submit long term contract proposal

2023

Share lessons learned and determine next steps

Anticipated Partnership Opportunities

At the end of the two-year project period, partners plan to hold a roundtable with other stewardship and workforce development organizations to share lessons learned and discuss how this work can be scaled up across the city.



Group Discussion



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