

GROUNDWORK USA 2010

YEAR IN REVIEW



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FROM THE DESK OF GWUSA DIRECTOR

Tequan Bryant from Yonkers, NY, had the opportunity of a lifetime: learn the ancient skill of dry stone wall building from an internationally renowned Scottish mason and get paid for it. In the best tradition of the New Deal, he and 10 other unemployed young men were paid by the National Park Service to restore more than a mile of stonewalls marking the entrance to FDR's Presidential homestead in Hyde Park New York. This was just one project in 2010 led by Groundwork to respond to some of the worst economic conditions across America since the Great Depression.

Groundwork communities have been hit very hard by the downturn as foreclosures, abandoned land, unemployment, and cuts in services for schools, public works and parks affect our most vulnerable communities. Groundwork rose to meet this challenge in 2010 with record numbers of jobs created, acres of brownfields reclaimed, expanded youth programs, and hundreds of tons of trash removed from neighborhoods, trails, parks, and urban waterways. Our work is, as always, about getting things done and making a difference on the ground. Our model of bringing government, business, and community groups together to address these problems through partnerships is resonating in Washington. We were one of two nonprofits in the U.S. asked to present to a forum hosted by the White House in their new Urban Waters federal partnership. Thank you all of the federal agencies that support our work at the national level and the many, many cities, foundations and private donors that make this important work possible on the ground to Change Places, Change Lives.

- Rick Magder



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2010 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

We planted **912 trees**, **962 shrubs**, and **26,426 flowering plants and vegetables**.

We cleaned, improved and maintained **38 acres of brownfields and derelict lands**, **256 acres of open space and parks**, almost **65,000 feet of riparian habitat**, and cleared **284 tons of trash and debris**.

We actively involved the community through **4,364 youth**, **5,513 adults**, **443 seniors**, **139 schools** and almost **64,000 volunteer hours**.



NEW GROUNDWORK TRUSTS LAUNCHED AROUND THE COUNTRY

Groundwork launched five new Trusts in:

- **Richmond, California**
- **Washington, D.C**
- **Wyoming County, West Virginia**
- **Buffalo, New York**
- **Doña Ana County, New Mexico**

These Trusts have already been hard at work on many exciting projects in their communities clearing vacant properties for reuse, planting gardens, restoring watershed habitats, getting youth involved through Green Teams in local projects and in service days at National Parks in their area.

GW Richmond has been focusing on the Richmond Greenway, while *GW Buffalo* has been working on converting four city owned vacant lots in Buffalo into a community garden. *GW Wyoming County* is partnering on revitalization projects at Horse Creek Lake and at the Old Itmann School.

GW Anacostia River, DC has been busy working with its summer and year-round Green Team on projects in the Anacostia River watershed doing many clean ups planting trees, raising awareness in the community and educating young

people on environmental stewardship and storm-water management concerns.

GW Doña Ana County has been working with local youth clearing and building the Vado Walking trail in the Del Cero community.



Learning & Working Together:

6,829 WEEKS OF ENVIRONMENTAL & GREEN JOBS TRAINING

GW Providence continued to hire successful graduates of its Sustainable Landscaping Adult Job Training program for its 8 week paid hands-on training. *GroundCorp* members then complete landscaping projects that improve the health, beauty, sustainability and resiliency of the communities where they live. Revenue generated by the program will be directed to sustain and grow *GroundCorp* with the goal of becoming a self-sustaining social enterprise by summer 2012.

GW Hudson Valley trained and employed 10 unemployed men (18-24 years old) in stone masonry in partnership with the Roosevelt Vanderbilt NHP.

GW Somerville trained and employed many youth (also 18-24 years old) in partnership with the Minute Man National Historic Park and the Frederick Law Olmstead NHP, while GW Anacostia River, DC, did the same in partnership with the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Trusts continued work on environmental education throughout the year in 2010.



What's

NEW AND COOL

GW Denver's Climate Challenge *Take Charge!* went state-wide, making its way into about 30 communities across Colorado. High school and college students are learning about energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs. The students then use their knowledge in a day of service to reach out to their own communities' residents, offering to change out incandescent porch bulbs to CFLs and providing people with information on low- and no-cost energy efficiency resources. *Groundwork Colorado* will be working on this project in Fort Collins, Golden, Carbondale and Glenwood Springs.

GW Hudson Valley is growing and expanding its programs to the Newburgh community, which is located about 90 miles north of Yonkers (where GWHV is now based) along the Hudson River. GWHV is partnering with the Armory Unity Center in Newburgh to rehabilitate the Newburgh Armory site to house programs directed toward youth in the area. GWHV is building a community garden that helps address local community food issues in the area while providing a venue to help connect people with their outdoor environment.



Groundwork USA's National Park Preservers Program, designed to provide stronger and more professional job training for 18-25 year old youth, took off in 2010. GW Somerville, GW Hudson Valley, GW Denver and GW Anacostia River DC implemented programs in area National Parks training youth in landscaping, stone masonry, carpentry, metallurgy, and the various aspects of restoring historic buildings.



Urban waters, Rivers, & trails:

64,655 feet of riparian habitat cleaned, conserved, or restored.
49.45 miles of sidewalk, paths, and trails built or improved.

GW Hudson Valley, which has been involved for almost 10 years in getting the Saw Mill River day-lighted celebrated a significant victory in December 2010 when groundbreaking for day-lighting the river took place. *GW Hudson Valley*, together with the Saw Mill River Coalition which they run, continue to work on advocating for and creating an ecological park with fish ladders for American Eel and Alewife, building interpretive signage, etc.

GW Anacostia River DC focused much of its work around the Anacostia River watershed, while *GW San Diego* focused its work last year around the Chollas Creek watershed.

GW Wyoming County has begun work on reclaiming Horse Creek Lake, and *GW Milwaukee* continues work on building connections to the Kinnickinnic River.

GW Lawrence has been involved since 2001 in the restoration of the Spicket River, which has long been highly industrialized, altered, dumped in and degraded, flowing 2.5 miles through brownfield and dense low-income neighborhoods. Continuing work on this project in 2010 has helped move along a 2.5-mile trail fully funded through design development and construction to the completion phase. Greenway trail construction is anticipated in summer 2012.

GW Somerville is involved in clearing the Mystic River of invasive plants that are now altering the habitats of the river system.

GW Elizabeth has been working since 2004 to reconnect communities to the Elizabeth River and Arthur Kill and amenities along the river through development of the Elizabeth River Greenway, a linear park and bike/pedestrian path. The project is currently out to bid and construction is expected to commence mid-summer 2011.



GW Denver continues to work on the Bear Creek Watershed, where E-coli contamination exceeds state standards. With its partners, *GW Denver's* goals for the watershed are to reduce pollutants and improve water quality, engage youth and community in testing and water quality improvements.

Urban Agriculture

Community Garden Beds: 333
Families Benefiting From Fresh Food: 3,963

GW Lawrence continues to manage the Lawrence Farmers' Market downtown, where they provide a wide variety of local produce, as well as baked goods, honey and fresh eggs. *Groundwork Lawrence* has sought to increase access to the market for all shoppers by accepting EBT (food stamps) and credit and debit cards and working to increase the redemption of WIC and Senior Farmers Market coupons. Today, the market provides a lively gathering place for the whole community with free attractions such as live entertainment, family activities and cultural and educational exhibits.

GW Hudson Valley expanded its produce yield from the Science Barge crops, and its community gardens, and expanded its shares from 20 to 40 low-income families in Yonkers, NY.



GW Somerville's Schoolyard Gardens have been hugely successful, yielding good food and great conversations with Somerville kids about healthy food choices. *GW Anacostia DC* made headway on its *One Square Yard of Garden* project, aiming to get residents to plant a square yard of garden for fresh produce in their backyards. Trusts all over the country continue to take on empty lots, school lots, and vacant lots converting them into community gardens that provide healthy food options for residents.

Groundwork *Green Teams*

GW Denver expanded its Green Team youth program to year-round and doubled the number of youth employed by the service-learning program.



GW Portland began outdoor classrooms with its youth Green Teams at its community-led Emerson Street Garden. GW Portland was instrumental in converting the Emerson Street Garden from a vacant, contaminated lot.

GW Somerville hosted three teams of six youth each in the summer of 2010 and focused on two significant environmental challenges in their community: the lack of green, open space and the lack of access to healthy food. The teams practiced environmental stewardship, maintained local gardens, performed community education about green space issues related to the Green Line extension, and conducted outreach about community health.

GW Hudson Valley had a great year with its Green Team. They constructed, painted, and filled 12 garden

boxes and converted a vacant lot into the Walnut Community Garden; went camping at Bear Mountain; did trail work on the Appalachian Trail and were then invited to New Hampshire for a week to participate in a trail conference and share their experiences — along with the GW Lawrence Green Team which also had a fun and productive year. GW Anacostia River, DC, has a year-round Green Team they have continued to work with year-long in 2010.

Performance Numbers*

Trees Planted: **912**

Shrubs planted: **962**

Flowers & vegetables: **26,426**

Youth involved: **4,364**

Number of schools involved:
139

Total volunteer hours: **63,914**

People engaged at events:
43,384

Number of jobs provided: **443**

Businesses involved: **524**

CO2 emission Tons reduced:
2,237

*These numbers are from all 2010 Groundwork programs & projects, including the Green Teams.



A Green Team having fun!

“My Green Team experience this summer was fly. Trying new things such as hiking and using power tools are very unique to me and they were life changing, and empowering. Learning how much damage people have done to our earth made me grow greater interest in helping change my ways for the better.”
- Ashley Perez, GWHV Green Team

Brownfields to: *Greenfields*

GW Gary helped with remediating old abandoned gas stations in the City of Gary. They did inventorying, mapping and property identification on the abandoned gas stations as well as extensive community outreach. After six sites were selected for assessments, it was found that two did not have harmful concentrations of contamination. The remaining four did, and will require remedial action plans. The City is working on next steps.

GW Dallas removed and recycled 6,000 tires from 7 illegal dumpsites in the Great Trinity Forest.

GW Elizabeth transformed 2 neglected local parks – Sheridan Park and Caldwell Park – through cleanups and plantings.

GW Denver has made much headway in converting the Oletski Valley vacant space into the redesigned Platte Farm Open Space.



GW Bridgeport led the successful conversion of a contaminated vacant lot next to an elementary school.

2010

Accomplishing our

GOALS

Transforming vacant properties for community use

Acres of derelict land improved: **38**

Acres of open space/parkland improved: **256**

Sites cleaned (one time): **214**

Sites maintained (regularly): **156**

Tons of trash/debris cleaned: **234**



GW Lawrence Green Team Partners with the Farm School to clean a 23.00 sf vacant lot that will become a community garden learning center
Giuffrida Place Community Garden
Lawrence Massachusetts

GW Lawrence won the 2010 Brownfields Renewal Award for its work on Manchester Street Park, while continuing work on its other brownfields projects: The Oxford Paper Site, getting the the Spicket River Greenway connecting three brownfields-to-parks built, as well as the transformation of vacant lots into community gardens on various City sites.

GW Hudson Valley continued work on converting vacant lots and maintaining community gardens in 2010, at the Willow and Orchard Street lots, and at the Schlobohm public housing complex; continued to play a critical role in the Saw Mill River's Larkin Plaza development; and has developed a partnership with the Armory Unity Center to convert the Newburgh Armory site into community gardens.