



# New York Restoration Project

March 28, 2008

BETTE MIDLER  
founder

Board of Trustees

BENJAMIN F. NEEDELL, Esq.  
chairman

TODD DEGARMO

AMY GOLDMAN, Ph.D.

ALFRED R. KAHN

KAREN J. LAUDER

ELLEN LEVINE

SARAH E. NASH

TIM O'BRIEN

CHARLES SUSSMAN  
secretary and treasurer

JANN S. WENNER

HON. ADRIAN BENEPE  
ex-officio

DREW BECHER  
executive director

Mr. Scott Shupe  
Chair, NY Chapter  
Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership  
300 Erie Blvd. West  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Dear Mr. Shupe,

It is my great pleasure to update you on the status of New York Restoration Project's (NYRP) clean-up and native planting project at Sherman Creek in East Harlem, New York City, which was generously funded by the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership with a grant of \$5,000 in 2007.

Over the past year, NYRP has conducted major improvements on the 400 linear feet of Harlem River shoreline that connects our boatbuilding workshop and educational facility to the waterfront where our environmental education programming is conducted. Prior to the generous contribution from the New York Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NY-CWRP), the area of interest was virtually impenetrable. The footing along the shoreline was unstable due to erosion that resulted after years of neglect. The remaining sustainable land was overrun by invasive plant material and littered with garbage and debris. The state of this rare riverfront property was unacceptable for use by the surrounding community, especially by local school children eager to view the water during our environmental education programs.

A major part of NYRP's improvements was to re-forest Sherman Creek with native plants, flowers, shrubs and trees. Funds received from NYCWRP purchased much-needed tools and equipment. With your support our AmeriCorps volunteers deployed with wheelbarrows, shovels, and other planting materials to reclaim this space and transform it into an inviting landscape. As our horticulture department wanted to ensure that each species was properly aligned with the delicate ecology of this waterfront landscape, significant amounts of research and planning was involved in the selection of each species planted.

Tons of garbage and invasive plant material were also removed from the site. Extensive grading was completed, which provided a safe terrain for a trail, as well as a natural slope leading to the water's edge. The regrading of the upper level now allows proper drainage of rainwater to the river. After making the area secure for use, NYRP laid a pedestrian trail that offers impressive views of the river. The path now completely connects our education center to the natural environment our 1,500 annual students are learning to respect and appreciate.

We are proud to report that the good work continues. NYRP intends for this site to retain its natural aesthetic beauty. Below please find some pictures of our work, both



# New York Restoration Project

BETTE MIDLER  
founder

**Board of Trustees**

BENJAMIN F. NEEDELL, Esq.  
chairman

TODD DEGARMO

AMY GOLDMAN, Ph.D.

ALFRED R. KAHN

KAREN J. LAUDER

ELLEN LEVINE

SARAH E. NASH

TIM O'BRIEN

CHARLES SUSSMAN  
secretary and treasurer

JANN S. WENNER

HON. ADRIAN BENEPE  
ex-officio

DREW BECHER  
executive director

before and after. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 212-333-2552, or email Nik Charov, our Deputy Development Officer, at [ncharov@nyrp.org](mailto:ncharov@nyrp.org).

Thank you again for your support of our efforts to clean and green New York City. We look forward to working with you again in the coming year.

Best,

Drew Becher  
Executive Director

**Planting:**



Before



After

**Shoreline:**



**Pedestrian Trail:**

