



Natural Heritage Trust



2018 Annual Report

Celebrating 50 years!



*Supporting Parks, Preservation
and the Environment Since 1968*

Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present our FY2017-2018 Year in Review. 2018 is an especially important year marking the 50th Anniversary of the Natural Heritage Trust as one of New York State's oldest and most experienced not-for-profit partners! This report highlights the ways which the Trust continued to successfully raise, manage and administer funds benefitting a variety of public projects and programs in the areas of historic preservation, outdoor recreation, conservation and waterfront revitalization.

We celebrate 50 years of accomplishments and our work as a steadfast and trusted collaborator with New York State agencies and businesses, along with partnerships with private groups and individuals.

At the close of this fiscal year (March 31, 2018) the Trust held just over \$43.8 million in total assets, including over \$24.7 million for permanent endowments. We received over \$15 million in program and activity revenues, donations, grants and corporate sponsorships, while also expending approximately \$12 million in support of a wide variety of programs and projects statewide.

The commitment of our friends and patronage of our donors have been critical to our success. We are deeply grateful to our agency partners—the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the NY Department of State (DOS)—and to the many individuals, businesses, foundations and communities for their investment in the work of the Trust. They all have generously supported us this year, and throughout the 50 years that we have been working to provide support for the natural resources of New York State.

We are happy to be able to share this celebration of our 50th year, and look forward to continuing success in our next half century and beyond!

Gratefully,

Allen G. Payne
Executive Director

July 2, 2018

Board of Directors

Rose Harvey, Chair

Commissioner, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

Rose Harvey has served as New York State Parks Commissioner since 2011. Since her appointment in 2011, Commissioner Harvey has initiated a variety of expansive and innovative new programs such as Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's \$1 billion *NY Parks 2020* revitalization and the *Connect Kids to Parks* program. Previously, she held multiple leadership positions with The Trust for Public Land, where she oversaw real estate acquisitions and urban park design and development. Commissioner Harvey also served as a McCluskey Fellow and Lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and senior fellow at Jonathan Rose & Companies. She serves on the Board of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Yale Leadership Advisory Council. Commissioner Harvey holds a B.A. from Colorado College and an M.E.S. from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Basil Seggos

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Since his appointment in 2015, Commissioner Seggos has managed programs promoting a clean, healthy and accessible environment and supporting world-class outdoor recreation on state lands and waters. In addition to advising the Governor on environmental policy and issues, he serves on a variety of boards including the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Delaware River Basin Commission, the Great Lakes Commission, Hudson River Park, the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), the NYS Drinking Water Quality Council, the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, NYS Energy Planning Board. He received his B.A. from Trinity College and earned his law degree from Pace University, where he received the Environmental Law award and Alumni Achievement award. Commissioner Seggos is a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.

Chair, State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SCOP)

Dr. Lucy Waletzky has been Chair of the Taconic Region Parks Commission since 2004 and Chair of the State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation since March 2007. Under her leadership at SCOP, the State Council's role has expanded with regional commissioners becoming more engaged in private fundraising, helping to build stronger community relationships and advocating to support and protect parks. Dr. Waletzky founded the Open Space Institute's Alliance for New York State Parks program in 2010, an initiative devoted to the restoration and support of New York's state parks. Through this partnership and her enduring support of other groups and organizations, Dr. Waletzky is, and continues to be, an unfailing and powerful voice in conservation, earning her numerous environmental awards. Most recently she was the 2018 recipient of OSI's Land Conservation Award.

Rossana Rosado

Secretary of State, Department of State (DOS)

Prior to being named the Secretary of State in 2016, Secretary Rosado was the first woman to serve as Editor and Publisher of the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the country, *El Diario La Prensa*, for which she earned numerous awards including an Emmy and a Peabody Award for Journalism. Secretary Rosado is equally accomplished in her roles in public service as she served on the board of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey from 2012 to 2015 and was recently reappointed to that role in 2017. She also chairs Governor Cuomo's Council on Community Re-entry and Reintegration of New Yorkers returning from prison, and served on Governor David Paterson's Task Force on Juvenile Justice. In addition to being a member of John Jay College's Foundation Board of Trustees since 2012, she was a Distinguished Lecturer at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice prior to joining the Cuomo administration. Secretary Rosado received her B.A. in Journalism from Pace University.

2017–2018 Highlights & Accomplishments

Endowments

Hallock State Park Preserve

July 2017 marked the grand opening of a new \$4.5 million visitor facilities at the Hallock State Park Preserve in Suffolk County. The new facilities provide public access to the 225-acre park situated on the North Fork of Long Island. When the parcel was conveyed to the state by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in 2003, TPL donated \$3.3 million to the NHT for development and maintenance of the park. The NHT invested the funds until the master plan for the park was complete, allowing the NHT to contribute \$2.5 million towards construction of the facilities, while also maintaining a \$2.2 million endowment that will offset over \$100,000 in annual operating expenses at the Preserve.

Harriman State Park Preserve

In November 2017, longtime conservation partner the Open Space Institute (OSI) donated \$1.875 million to the NHT for the funding future development costs, operating and programming of the recently expanded Harriman State Park Preserve located in Rockland and Orange counties.

Learn to Swim Program's Fifth Anniversary

Learn to Swim started in the summer of 2013 as a pilot program with Free Swim Programs being offered in New York City at Riverbank and Roberto Clemente State Parks. NHT provided the initial seed money for the program and continues to support the program through annual fundraising. The summer of 2018 celebrates our sixth season of Learn to Swim at more than 30 parks across the state, teaching thousands of youth to swim.

New York's park system is second to none, offering premiere swimming opportunities in its lakes, ocean beaches and pools in every corner of the state. In 2017 the program was featured in *The New York Times* as a model of innovative efforts in New York State to address the racial disparity in swimming ability. Learn to Swim continues to be supported through a partnership with the American Red Cross, the National Swimming Pool Foundation and the Northeast Spa & Pool Association (NESPA) Foundation.

Connect Kids to Parks Program

Connect Kids to Parks is part of a series of initiatives to introduce inner city kids and young people to the outdoors. Connect Kids is an integral component of the free recreation activity programs that kids and their families can participate in and enjoy at parks throughout New York State. To date, the NHT has raised over \$450,000 in support of Connect Kids initiatives.

Transportation Grant Program

A field trip refund grant program supported by the Department of Transportation (DOT)—free to 4th Graders—connects New York schoolchildren with New York State Parks and New York State history. Since the program launched in the spring of 2017, over 1,400 field trip grants have been awarded serving over 60,000 public school children who have visited state lands in every region of the state. The grant, funded through the Environmental Protection Fund, covers the costs of transportation and all program fees for any grade from a Title 1 school district.

Every-Kid-in-a-Park Program

New York also continues its to promote free State Park day use entry to all 4th Grade students, along with their families, through acceptance of the Every-Kid-in-a-Park pass (offered through the National Park Service).

Together, these exceptional programs have served over 100,000 of New York State's children and young people in just two years.

First-Time Camper Program

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Parks provide free "First-Time Camper" weekends across New York State that connect children ages 11-17 to their natural surroundings, instilling life-long appreciation of nature. The program is now in its fifth year and continues to expand with the help of private fundraising.

In 2017 there were four camping weekends for five families each, with 20 total slots for State Parks and 20 slots for DEC campgrounds. The new campers were provided with a family tent, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, camp chairs, lantern, and even firewood. A Camping Ambassador met families at the campsite and help them get camp set up with a camping 101 lesson. Campers also had the opportunity to learn from experts how to fish, hike, bird watch, paddle and more, all while having fun and making memories that last forever. Due to the success of the 2017 program, the 2018 program is expanding to include seven weekends for a total of 35 families for State Parks and 30 families for DEC.

New for 2017, through a partnership with the Office of Children and Family Services, 500 foster families received free camping gift cards and Empire Passes, affording them the opportunity to enjoy state parks, outdoor recreation, and camping.

Connect Kids to Parks



A child recaps his Learn to Swim class



Students use handmade binoculars on their field trip



A Learn to Swim class celebrates their successful session



A warm welcome from a park resident



Lessons in aquatic wildlife



Learning about native species

Capital Projects

DEC Clean Sweep NY

Clean Sweep NY is an Environmental Benefit Project which was initiated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Pesticide Management. Its title describes the effort to safely and economically dispose of canceled, unwanted, unusable, or otherwise obsolete pesticides and other chemicals from agricultural or non-agricultural business activities. Clean Sweep NY also provides for the disposal of elemental mercury, mercury containing devices such as thermometers, manometers, etc., from schools and other entities.

The Spring 2018 Clean Sweep NY collection event was notably productive with 20,011 pounds of chemical wastes collected for disposal from 6 participating entities. This collection event brings the grand total of chemical wastes collected across 25 Clean Sweep NY collection events to 1,837,222 pounds.

The Clean Sweep NY program is supported by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Agricultural Container Recycling Council, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New York Farm Bureau, and other related associations.

Bayard Cutting Arboretum's Breezy Island

Breezy Island was created in the 1890s from soil dredged from the Connetquot River. The Cutting family landscaped the resulting island and built a rustic structure where Mrs. Cutting would take tea. In 1965 the Tea House was determined to have structural issues and was demolished.

A restoration project began in 2016 to reclaim the island from invasive bamboo. The following year, a rustic tea house inspired by the original structure was built in memory of Maxwell H. Remmer, a local young man who grew up exploring the arboretum. A Long Island native garden was planted to complement the rustic structure.

This project was made possible with funding from The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, Inc., Maxwell H. Remmer Memorial Fund, the Bayard Cutting Arboretum Trust, and New York State Parks.

Carriage Road Rehabilitation at Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Sections of Rockefeller State Park Preserve's historic carriage roads began to experience erosion that required rehabilitation in order to to maintain their integrity and beauty. The cost of the project is estimated at over \$620,000 with \$500,000 of the total funding from the NY Parks 2020 Fund, and the remainder supported by the NHT's Rockefeller Preserve endowment.

The crushed stone trails of Rockefeller State Park Preserve are the original carriage roads laid out by John D. Rockefeller Sr. and Jr. in the first half of the 20th century. Today they are popular for walking, riding, jogging and carriage driving through the beautiful landscape of the former Rockefeller estate, most of which is now owned and managed by New York State Parks.

Improvements include improving drainage, regrading and resurfacing sections of several roads in the western side of the Preserve: Big Tree trail, Witch Spring trail, Gory Brook trail, Pocantico River trail, and Eagle Hill access. Additionally, the three magnificent stone arch bridges across the Pocantico River will be repaired and repointed.

Minna Anthony Common Nature Center

The Minna Anthony Common Nature Center was re-opened in the fall of 2017 after a major renovation and expansion funded by NY Works. The comprehensive renovation project for the Nature Center also includes new exhibits estimated at \$800,000. The affiliated Friends group is leading the fundraising campaign, with NHT serving as support for the project. The Grand Opening of the building with all the new exhibits took place on June 19, 2018. The new exhibitions include a tribute to the Nature Center's namesake, Minna Anthony Common. The Friends group will continue fundraising to secure an operating and maintenance endowment, which will be held in an account at the NHT.

Cultural Performance Center at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park

Working in partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Open Space Institute (OSI), the NHT is taking an active role leading a campaign to raise funds for an overhaul of the theatrical infrastructure of the Cultural Performance Center at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park. Serving over 60,000 people annually, the performance space currently has faltering sound and lighting equipment that does not adequately support the multi-purpose 40,000 square-foot space. The systems in place are original to the well-loved and nearly 25-year-old facility, and severely limit the diversity of use of the performance space.

Technical upgrades will dramatically improve the facility by enhancing production values; will increase the number, variety, and quality of programs and activities that can be offered for patrons of all ages; and will improve and expand the valuable civic and performance resources for the park and the Upper Manhattan and larger Harlem community. The campaign has raised over \$2.5 million to complete the facility upgrades and the fully renovated Cultural Performance Center is expected to open in spring of 2019.

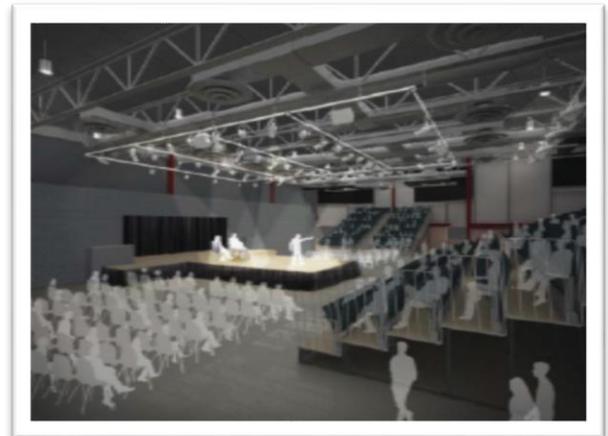
Capital Projects



Students are the first visitors to the updated Minna Anthony Common Nature Center



Progress on the Breezy Island Tea House



Rendering of the Riverbank Cultural Center



A stone arch bridge at Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Nature & Environmental Education Centers

New and revitalized nature and environmental education centers throughout the state are a top priority of New State Parks' renewed focus on conservation, stewardship of natural resources, and a sustainable environment. In an era where more and more children are disconnected from nature, environmental education is essential to preparing the next generation of leaders for the future they will inherit.

The Natural Heritage Trust is leading fundraising campaigns for two of these new Centers: the Nature & Energy Center at Jones Beach State Park and the Environmental Education Center at Green Lakes State Park. Both Environmental Education Centers will feature new and updated, interactive interpretive exhibits to enrich and enhance the public's understanding of each park's unique and wonderful natural features.

Jones Beach State Park Nature & Energy Center

Jones Beach State Park is Long Island's premier cultural, recreational and natural destination, welcoming 6.5 million visitors each year. In addition to the six and a half miles of spectacular beachfront that draw visitors from throughout the world, the Park features a famous and renowned Boardwalk, and offers a network of unique and undisturbed tidal wetlands. A 2014 revitalization plan for Jones Beach includes a wide array of improvements through the Park, many of which are now underway.

The Jones Beach Nature & Energy Center will feature interactive and interpretive elements to enrich and enhance the public's understanding of the Park's unique natural features, and to make connections to environmental conservation and sustainable energy. The new Center will be a part of the designated Park Preservation Area and a rebirth of the western most end of the Park with its undisturbed ocean dunes and the bay's tidal wetlands. Park Preservation Areas are the most restrictive form of protected land use, however interpretation and educational centers are allowed inside these areas to allow the public to learn about the unique and ecologically sensitive nature of these special and wonderful places.

The new Nature & Energy Center will house multiple teaching/exhibition spaces and classrooms. The Center is being planned as an integral and vital component of the transformation of Jones Beach's West End and will benefit the public by providing new programs to schoolchildren, along with expanded research and volunteer opportunities to local and visiting students and professors. The Center will promote improved understanding of Jones Beach's ecology and wildlife and the need to protect its fragile natural resources.

The project is in the final development phase of planning and conceptual design, with construction expected to begin in early 2019. The NHT is working the Long Island State Commission of Parks leading the fundraising efforts to raise \$2.5 million for exhibits and a maintenance and operating endowment.

Environmental Education Center at Green Lakes State Park

Green Lakes State Park is both a leading regional recreational resource and a nationally recognized natural treasure, taking its name from the Green and Round Lakes, two of only eleven meromictic lakes—where surface and deeper waters do not mix—in the country. The park attracts one million annual visitors by providing exceptional opportunities for residents of New York’s sixth largest metropolitan area to play, gather, and connect with nature.

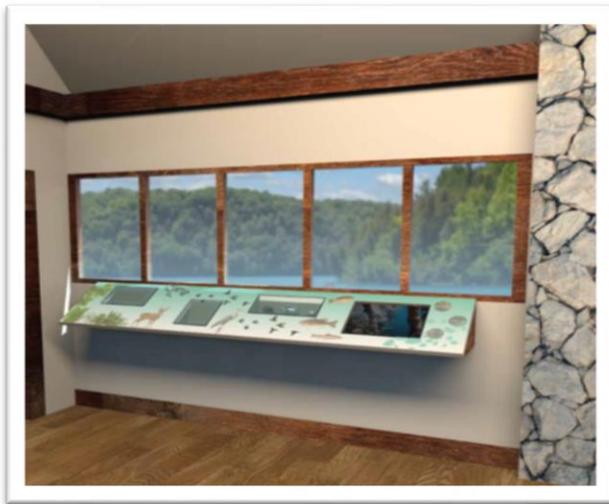
Building on the park’s already robust educational and research partnerships, a new dedicated environmental education center will provide families, schoolchildren, community partners, and research/academic communities from throughout the region with a permanent venue for interpretive programmatic offerings as well as observational tools to enhance learning and exploration. Currently, the park lacks adequate amenities to provide high quality educational and recreational programming for visitors, children and adults alike. The historic Boathouse will be transformed into an on-site Environmental Education Center. The project will relocate, and convert into classroom space, the historic but deteriorated Boathouse currently sited next to the public swimming beach at the park. The project will improve docks, trail signage, and provide a facility for non-motorized boat rentals, including an ADA-compliant kayak launch. Through expanded programming and interpretative exhibits, park patrons will be able to further explore and learn about the unique natural features Green Lakes State Park has to offer while fostering appreciation and inspiring stewardship for our natural resources.

The \$5.5 million for the building is part of NY Works and Parks 2020 and the NHT, in partnership with the Central Region State Commission of Parks, has raised over \$500,000 for state-of-the-art educational exhibits and interpretive elements for the new Center, including a new interpretive and educational pathway around the lakes. The new Environmental Education Center is expected to open in fall of 2018.

Nature & Environmental Education Center



Jones Beach Nature & Energy Center



Green Lakes Environmental Education Center



Financial Highlights

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY AND OPERATING ACTIVITY (For Year-Ending March 31, 2018)

Fiduciary Fund Revenue

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Grants and Contracts | \$5,207,476 |
| Gifts, Donations & Private Grants | \$4,814,073 |
| Merchandise Sales | \$1,178,345 |
| Activity & Program Income | \$1,118,560 |
| Mitigation & Environmental Benefits | \$970,755 |
| Unrealized Gains on Investments | \$936,508 |
| Investment Income | \$432,250 |
| Realized Gains on Investments | \$375,917 |
| Sponsorship & Advertising | \$266,962 |
| Other Revenue | \$147,220 |
| Total Revenues | \$15,448,066 |

Fiduciary Fund Expense

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Program Support & Personnel | \$5,734,065 |
| Activity & Event Support | \$2,177,306 |
| Capital Construction & Maintenance | \$1,080,562 |
| Promotional Materials & Merchandise for Resale | \$735,450 |
| Gift Reassignment | \$618,482 |
| Professional Services | \$268,377 |
| Miscellaneous | \$214,397 |
| Total Program Expenses | \$10,828,639 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Assets and Fund Balance Beginning of Year | \$39,192,770 |
|--|---------------------|

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Net Change in Fiduciary Position | \$4,619,447 |
|---|--------------------|

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Net Liabilities & Receivables | (\$354,844) |
|--|--------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| NHT Operating Revenues | \$1,125,099 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| NHT Operating Expenses | (\$773,755) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Assets and Fund Balance at Year End | \$43,808,717 |
|--|---------------------|

Financial Highlights

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

(For Year-Ending March 31, 2018)

Capital Projects/Reserves

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Main Reserve | \$902,277 |
| Bayard Cutting Arboretum | \$516,052 |
| Total Capital Projects | \$1,418,329 |

Endowment/Long-Term Investment

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Four Freedoms | \$2,959,849 |
| Hallock State Park | \$2,242,165 |
| Mount Loretto | \$3,193,579 |
| Rockefeller Preserve | \$7,938,278 |
| Minnewaska Preserve | \$2,417,902 |
| Main Long-Term Investment | \$1,893,232 |
| Sampson State Park | \$945,222 |
| Emma Treadwell Thacher | \$587,699 |
| Huttleston | \$114,160 |
| Harriman Environmental Education | \$504,569 |
| Harriman Stewardship | \$1,362,339 |
| Hempstead Lake | \$761,842 |
| Humphrey Nature Center | \$1,355,675 |
| Total Endowments | \$26,276,481 |

Short & Intermediate-Term Investment

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Main Management (Fiduciary) | \$14,100,519 |
| Total | \$14,100,519 |

Investment Targets

| | Capital Projects | Endowments | Short & Intermediate |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Fixed Income | 85% | 40% | 95% |
| Equities | 15% | 60% | 0% |
| Cash/Money Market | 0% | 0% | 5% |

Contributors, Sponsors & Partners

Individual Donors

\$25,000+

Anonymous
William Dake
Patricia DiLiberto
Andrew Kane
Allan Newell
Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Patricia K. Humphrey
William & Caryl Hutchens
John & Candace Marsellus
Allison Rockefeller
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Jody Satalin
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Lynn Sherard-Stuhr
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\$250 - \$499

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Alan Viani
Brian Vickers
Michael Virgintino
Denise Ward
Roswitha Weithase
Michael & Catherine Whalen
Jessica Whyne
Laurette Widder
Wayne Wilansky
Eli Wilner

Mitch Winston
James Wolling
William & Joann Woods
Cynthia & Virginia Wright
Herbert & Caroline Wuehler
Andrew Wyckoff &
Karen Simpson
Bryan Yates
Egon & Patricia Zadina
Marc Zalinsky

Foundation Support

Allyn Family Foundation
Bayard Cutting Arboretum
Trust
Christian Koehler Foundation
Dyson Foundation
Foundation for Long Island
State Parks
Louis P. & Betty A. Iacona
Fund at the Rochester
Community Foundation
Marcum Foundation, Inc.
National Swimming Pool
Foundation
Northeast Spa & Pool
Association/
NESPA Foundation
Peter G., Sally L.
& Christopher G.
Humphrey Foundation
Rauch Foundation
Robert G. Wehle Charitable
Rosamond Gifford Charitable
Corporation
The Neel Foundation
The Page & Otto Marx
Foundation
The Pratt-Northam
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The Rutkowski Family
Foundation, Inc.
The Setton Foundation

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Society, Inc.
Alliance for New York State
Parks/OSI
Bayard Cutting Arboretum
Horticultural Society
Bay Shore Retired Teachers
Association
Bellman Family Donor Fund
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