



The **New York City Urban Field Station**, a partnership between the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and NYC Department of Parks & Recreation presents a **Science in the Living City** seminar in collaboration with **Gowanus Canal Conservancy's Urban Ecology Lecture Series** on



Volunteer Stewardship: Why Do We Take Care of NYC?

Wednesday March 23, 2016, 6:30 - 8 pm

Gowanus Event Space
543 Union Street
Brooklyn, NY

Lectures are free with a \$5 suggested donation at the door. Brooklyn Brewery beer is available for a suggested donation of \$3.

RSVP on [Eventbrite!](#)



Cities are now home to 50% of humanity, requiring increasing resources to steward natural areas in the urban landscape. In NYC volunteers provide critical resources for public space stewardship. This discussion will explore why and how volunteers are working across NYC in community gardens, parks, street trees and other green spaces. Panelists will provide an overview of research and trends for NYC, examining what drives people to volunteer, as well as challenges and successes in engaging volunteers with stewardship. Panelists will examine the connection between the research and on-the-ground stewardship work. This lecture is for anyone interested in engaging volunteers in urban environmental stewardship - volunteer coordinators, researchers and professionals.



Leila Mougouei Bakhtiari (moderator) is an urban ecologist currently working as the Forest Management Analyst with the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) in New York City. She received a B.S. in Environmental Studies with a concentration on urban ecosystems from The New School. Her work with NAC and NYC Parks focuses on urban forest health studies, restoration and conservation efforts in NYC natural areas. She is also the co-chair of the urban forestry committee with Gowanus Canal Conservancy.



Lindsay K. Campbell (panelist) is a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, based at the New York City Urban Field Station (www.nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc/). Her current research explores the dynamics of urban politics, natural resource stewardship, and sustainability policymaking. Dr. Campbell holds a BA in Public Policy from Princeton University, a Masters in City Planning from MIT, and a PhD in Geography from Rutgers University.

Andrea Parker (panelist) has a passion for regenerating urban green infrastructure through civic engagement. As the Executive Director of the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, she works to empower a community of environmental stewards and design advocates in the rapidly changing urban ecology of the Gowanus. As a Landscape Designer, at Starr Whitehouse and WE Design, she focused on urban and community resilience. She received a BA from the University of Chicago, studied Landscape Horticulture at Merritt College, and received a MLA from the University of Virginia.



Jason Stein (panelist) is Advanced Volunteer Coordinator with NYC Parks Stewardship, where he works to train, educate, and empower independent volunteers (Super Stewards) organized around natural resources stewardship. His experience in the field of forest restoration is as a Parks crew leader for the Natural Resources Group, and job trainer for the MillionTreesNYC Training Program, as well as program manager for the MillionTreesNYC campaign. He holds a BA in philosophy from SUNY Purchase, and is an ISA certified arborist.

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MATTERS