See a Social Security Number? Say Something!
Report Privacy Problems to https://public.resource.org/privacy
Or call the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490
Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

For organizations with gross receipts less than $100,000 and total assets less than $250,000 at the end of the year

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

For the 2003 calendar year, or tax year beginning AUGUST 1, 2003, and ending JULY 31, 2004

Name of organization: GOWANUS DREDGERS

Address: 1260 FOURTH PLACE, STE 2, BROOKLYN, NY 11231-4513

Employer identification number: 32:003918

Telephone number: (118) 243 0849

Group Exemption Number: □

Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).

Website: www.gowanuscanal.org

Organization type (check only one)—□ 501(c)(3) □ 501(c)(4) □ 501(c)(5) □ 501(c)(6) □ 4947(a)(1) or □ 527

Check □ if the organization's gross receipts are normally not more than $50,000.

Some states require a complete return.

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See page 37 of the instructions.)

1. Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received 8,103.27
2. Program service revenue including government fees and contracts
3. Membership dues and assessments
4. Investment income
5a. Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory
5b. Less cost or other basis and sales expenses
5c. Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (line 5a less line 5b) (attach schedule)
6. Special events and activities (attach schedule). If any amount is from gaming, check here □
   a. Gross revenue (not including $ of contributions reported on line 1)
   b. Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses
   c. Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (line 6a less line 6b)
7a. Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances
7b. Less: cost of goods sold
7c. Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (line 7a less line 7b)
8. Other revenue (describe □)
9. Total revenue (add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8)
   □
   □
10. Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule)
11. Benefits paid to or for members
12. Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits
13. Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors
14. Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance
15. Printing, publications, postage, and shipping
16. Other expenses (describe □)
17. Total expenses (add lines 10 through 16)
18. Excess (or deficit) for the year (line 9 less line 17)
19. Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)
20. Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation)
21. Net assets or fund balances at end of year (combine lines 18 through 20)

Part II Balance Sheets—If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are $250,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ.

Cash, savings, and investments □
Land and buildings □
Other assets (describe □)
Total assets □
Total liabilities (describe □)
Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Cat No 106421 Form 990-EZ (2003)
### Part III
**Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

(See page 41 of the instructions.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(A) Name and address</th>
<th>(B) Title and average hours per week devoted to position</th>
<th>(C) Compensation (If not paid, enter ‘0’.)</th>
<th>(D) Contributions to employee benefit plans &amp; deferred compensation</th>
<th>(E) Expense account and other allowances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ray Howell, 123 Carroll St, BK11231</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Baird, 277 Union St, BK11231</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen Pooste, 124 Fourth Pl, BK11231</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian McCormick, 95 Kane St, BK11231</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

(Required for 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations and 4947(a)(1) trusts, optional for others)

- Habitat restoration - See attached sheets
  (Includes utilities, printing, postage, bank fees, etc.)
  (Grants $ 600) 1,319.00
- Waterfront access - See attached sheets
  (Grants $ 600) 1,313.49

Other program services (attach schedule) 31a

Other program expenses (add lines 28a through 31a) 32

**Part IV**
**List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees**

(List each one even if not compensated. See page 41 of the instructions.)

- Ray Howell, 123 Carroll St, BK11231
- Eileen Baird, 277 Union St, BK11231
- Owen Pooste, 124 Fourth Pl, BK11231
- Brian McCormick, 95 Kane St, BK11231

**Part V**
**Other Information**

(Note the attachment requirement in General Instruction V, page 14.)

- Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If “Yes,” attach a detailed description of each activity (Yes) (No) X
- Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents but not reported to the IRS? If “Yes,” attach a conformed copy of the changes (Yes) (No) X
- If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6, and 7 (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining your reason for not reporting the income on Form 990-T (Yes) (No) X
  - Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of $1,000 or more or 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements? (Yes) (No) X
  - Did the organization have a tax return on Form 990-T for this year? (Yes) (No) X
- Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year? (Yes) (No) X
- Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions. 37a
  - Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year? (Yes) (No) X
  - Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still unpaid at the start of the period covered by this return? (Yes) (No) X
  - Enter the amount of related party transactions included on line 9 39a
  - Enter related party transactions included on line 9, for public use of club facilities 39b
  - 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter. Amount of tax imposed on organization during the year under section 4911 40a
  - Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or did it become aware of an excess benefit transaction from a prior year? If “Yes,” attach an explanation. (Yes) (No) X
- Amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under 4912, 4955, and 4958 43
  - Enter: Amount of tax on line 40c, above, reimbursed by the organization. 43

**41** List the states with which a copy of this return is filed

**42** The books are in care of

**43** Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here

**Please Sign Here**

Signature of officer

Owen T. Pooste, Treasurer

Date 12.10.04

**Paid Preparer’s Use Only**

Preparer’s signature

Date

Check if self-employed

Preparer’s SSN or PTIN (See Gen. Inst W)

EIN

Phone no

Form 990-EZ (2003)
### Part I  Compensation of the Five Highest Paid Employees Other Than Officers, Directors, and Trustees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than $50,000</th>
<th>(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position</th>
<th>(c) Compensation</th>
<th>(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans &amp; deferred compensation</th>
<th>(e) Expense account and other allowances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NONE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total number of other employees paid over $50,000 . . . . . . . .

### Part II  Compensation of the Five Highest Paid Independent Contractors for Professional Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than $50,000</th>
<th>(b) Type of service</th>
<th>(c) Compensation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NONE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total number of others receiving over $50,000 for professional services . . . . . . . .
### Part III  Statements About Activities (See page 2 of the instructions.)

1. During the year, has the organization attempted to influence national, state, or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum? If "Yes," enter the total expenses paid or incurred in connection with the lobbying activities  
   $ ____________________  (Must equal amounts on line 38,  
   Part VI-A, or line 1 of Part VI-B)  
   Organizations that made an election under section 501(h) by filing Form 5768 must complete Part VI-A. Other organizations checking "Yes" must complete Part VI-B AND attach a statement giving a detailed description of the lobbying activities.  

2. During the year, has the organization, either directly or indirectly, engaged in any of the following acts with any substantial contributors, trustees, directors, officers, creators, key employees, or members of their families, or with any taxable organization with which any such person is affiliated as an officer, director, trustee, majority owner, or principal beneficiary? (If the answer to any question is "Yes," attach a detailed statement explaining the transactions)  
   a. Sale, exchange, or leasing of property?  
   b. Lending of money or other extension of credit?  
   c. Furnishing of goods, services, or facilities?  
   d. Payment of compensation (or payment or reimbursement of expenses if more than $1,000)?  
   e. Transfer of any part of its income or assets?  

3. Do you make grants for scholarships, fellowships, student loans, etc.? (If "Yes," attach an explanation of how you determine that recipients qualify to receive payments.)  
   a. Do you have a section 403(b) annuity plan for your employees?  
   b. Did you maintain any separate account for participating donors where donors have the right to provide advice on the use or distribution of funds?  
   b. Do you provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services?  

### Part IV  Reason for Non-Private Foundation Status (See pages 3 through 6 of the instructions.)

The organization is not a private foundation because it is:  
5. □ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)  
6. □ A school. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii). (Also complete Part V )  
7. □ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).  
8. □ A Federal, state, or local government or governmental unit. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).  
9. □ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(v) Enter the hospital's name, city, and state  
10. □ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Also complete the Support Schedule in Part IV-A.)  
11a. □ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vii). (Also complete the Support Schedule in Part IV-A.)  
12. □ An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its charitable, etc., functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See section 509(a)(2) (Also complete the Support Schedule in Part IV-A.)  
13. □ An organization that is not controlled by any disqualified persons (other than foundation managers) and supports organizations described in: (1) lines 5 through 12 above; or (2) section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6), if they meet the test of section 509(a)(2) (See section 509(a)(3)).  

Provide the following information about the supported organizations. (See page 5 of the instructions.)  

(a) Name(s) of supported organization(s)  
(b) Line number from above  

14. □ An organization organized and operated to test for public safety. Section 509(a)(4). (See page 5 of the instructions.)
**Part IV-A  Support Schedule**

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 10, 11, or 12.)  Use cash method of accounting.

**Note:** You may use the worksheet in the instructions for converting from the accrual to the cash method of accounting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning)</th>
<th>(a) 2003</th>
<th>(b) 2002</th>
<th>(c) 2001</th>
<th>(d) 2000</th>
<th>(e) Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Gifts, grants, and contributions received. (Do not include unusual grants. See line 28)</td>
<td>8,103</td>
<td>2,335</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Membership fees received</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,201</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or furnishing of facilities in any activity that is related to the organization's charitable, etc., purpose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Gross income from interest, dividends, amounts received from payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), rents, royalties, and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to it or expended on its behalf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 The value of services or facilities furnished to the organization by a governmental unit without charge. Do not include the value of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Other income Attach a schedule. Do not include gain or (loss) from sale of capital assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Total of lines 15 through 22</td>
<td>9,503</td>
<td>3,534</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Line 23 minus line 17</td>
<td>9,503</td>
<td>3,534</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Enter 1% of line 23</td>
<td>95.03</td>
<td>135.36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**26 Organizations described on lines 10 or 11:**

a) Enter 2% of amount in column (e), line 24 | 26a
b) Prepare a list for your records to show the name of and amount contributed by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) whose total gifts for 2000 through 2003 exceeded the amount shown in line 26a. Do not file this list with your return. Enter the total of all these excess amounts | 26b
c) Total support for section 509(a)(1) test: Enter line 24, column (e) | 28c
d) Add: Amounts from column (e) for lines 18 through 26c | 26d
e) Public support (line 26c minus line 26d total) | 26e
f) Public support percentage (line 26e (numerator) divided by line 26c (denominator)) | 26f

**27 Organizations described on line 12:**

a) For amounts included in lines 15, 16, and 17 that were received from a "disqualified person," prepare a list for your records to show the name of, and total amounts received in each year from, each "disqualified person." Do not file this list with your return. Enter the sum of such amounts for each year:

|------|------|------|------|

b) For any amount included in line 17 that was received from each person (other than "disqualified persons"), prepare a list for your records to show the name of, and amount received for each year, that was more than the larger of (1) the amount on line 25 for the year or (2) $5,000 (include in the list organizations described in lines 5 through 11, as well as individuals) Do not file this list with your return. After computing the difference between the amount received and the larger amount described in (1) or (2), enter the sum of these differences (the excess amounts) for each year:

|------|------|------|------|

c) Add: Amounts from column (e) for lines 15 through 21 | 27c
d) Add Line 27a total and line 27b total | 27d
e) Public support (line 27c minus line 27d total) | 27e
f) Total support for section 509(a)(2) test: Enter amount from line 23, column (e) | 27f
g) Public support percentage (line 27e (numerator) divided by line 27f (denominator)) | 27g
h) Investment income percentage (line 18, column (e) (numerator) divided by line 27f (denominator)) | 27h

**28 Unusual Grants:**

For an organization described in line 10, 11, or 12 that received any unusual grants during 2000 through 2003, prepare a list for your records to show, for each year, the name of the contributor, the date and amount of the grant, and a brief description of the nature of the grant. Do not file this list with your return. Do not include these grants in line 15.
Part V

Private School Questionnaire (See page 7 of the instructions.)
(To be completed ONLY by schools that checked the box on line 6 in Part IV)

29. Does the organization have a racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students by statement in its charter, bylaws, other governing instrument, or in a resolution of its governing body? 

30. Does the organization include a statement of its racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students in all its brochures, catalogues, and other written communications with the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?

31. Has the organization publicized its racially nondiscriminatory policy through newspaper or broadcast media during the period of solicitation for students, or during the registration period if it has no solicitation program, in a way that makes the policy known to all parts of the general community it serves? If "Yes," please describe; if "No," please explain. (If you need more space, attach a separate statement.)

32. Does the organization maintain the following:
   a. Records indicating the racial composition of the student body, faculty, and administrative staff?
   b. Records documenting that scholarships and other financial assistance are awarded on a racially nondiscriminatory basis?
   c. Copies of all catalogues, brochures, announcements, and other written communications the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?
   d. Copies of all materials used by the organization or on its behalf to solicit contributions?

   If you answered "No" to any of the above, please explain. (If you need more space, attach a separate statement.)

33. Does the organization discriminate by race in any way with respect to:
   a. Students' rights or privileges?
   b. Admissions policies?
   c. Employment of faculty or administrative staff?
   d. Scholarships or other financial assistance?
   e. Educational policies?
   f. Use of facilities?
   g. Athletic programs?
   h. Other extracurricular activities?

   If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please explain. (If you need more space, attach a separate statement.)

34a. Does the organization receive any financial aid or assistance from a governmental agency?

34b. Has the organization's right to such aid ever been revoked or suspended?

   If you answered "Yes" to either 34a or b, please explain using an attached statement.

35. Does the organization certify that it has complied with the applicable requirements of sections 4.01 through 4.05 of Rev. Proc. 75-50, 1975-2 C.B. 587, covering racial nondiscrimination? If "No," attach an explanation.
Part VI-A  Lobbying Expenditures by Electing Public Charities
(See page 9 of the instructions.)
(To be completed ONLY by an eligible organization that filed Form 5768)

Check □ if the organization belongs to an affiliated group. Check □ if you checked “a” and “limited control” provisions apply.

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures
(The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)

- 36 Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grassroots lobbying)
- 37 Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)
- 38 Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 36 and 37)
- 39 Other exempt purpose expenditures
- 40 Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 38 and 39)
- 41 Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table—
  - If the amount on line 40 is—
    - The lobbying nontaxable amount is—
      - Not over $500,000 .............. 20% of the amount on line 40
      - Over $500,000 but not over $1,000,000 $100,000 plus 15% of the excess over $500,000
      - Over $1,000,000 but not over $1,500,000 $175,000 plus 10% of the excess over $1,000,000
      - Over $1,500,000 but not over $17,000,000 $225,000 plus 5% of the excess over $1,500,000
      - Over $17,000,000 .............. $1,000,000

- 42 Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 41).
- 43 Subtract line 42 from line 36. Enter -0- if line 42 is more than line 36.
- 44 Subtract line 41 from line 38. Enter -0- if line 41 is more than line 38.

Caution: If there is an amount on either line 43 or line 44, you must file Form 4720

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)
(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the instructions for lines 45 through 50 on page 11 of the instructions.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)</th>
<th>Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) 2004 (b) 2003 (c) 2002 (d) 2001 (e) Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 Lobbying nontaxable amount</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 45(e))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Total lobbying expenditures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 Grassroots nontaxable amount</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 48(e))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Grassroots lobbying expenditures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part VI-B  Lobbying Activity by Nonelecting Public Charities
(For reporting only by organizations that did not complete Part VI-A) (See page 11 of the instructions.)

During the year, did the organization attempt to influence national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of:

- a Volunteers
- b Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines c through h.)
- c Media advertisements
- d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public
- e Publications, or published or broadcast statements
- f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes
- g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body
- h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any other means
- i Total lobbying expenditures (Add lines c through h.)

If "Yes" to any of the above, also attach a statement giving a detailed description of the lobbying activities.
Part VII. Information Regarding Transfers To and Transactions and Relationships With Noncharitable Exempt Organizations (See page 11 of the instructions.)

51 Did the reporting organization directly or indirectly engage in any of the following with any other organization described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3) organizations) or in section 527, relating to political organizations?

- **a** Transfers from the reporting organization to a noncharitable exempt organization of:
  - (i) Cash
  - (ii) Other assets

- **b** Other transactions:
  - (i) Sales or exchanges of assets with a noncharitable exempt organization
  - (ii) Purchases of assets from a noncharitable exempt organization
  - (iii) Rental of facilities, equipment, or other assets
  - (iv) Reimbursement arrangements
  - (v) Loans or loan guarantees
  - (vi) Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations

- **c** Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, other assets, or paid employees

- **d** If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," complete the following schedule. Column (b) should always show the fair market value of the goods, other assets, or services given by the reporting organization. If the organization received less than fair market value in any transaction or sharing arrangement, show in column (d) the value of the goods, other assets, or services received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Amount involved</th>
<th>(b) Name of noncharitable exempt organization</th>
<th>(c) Description of transfers, transactions, and sharing arrangements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line no</td>
<td></td>
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52a Is the organization directly or indirectly affiliated with, or related to, one or more tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3)) or in section 527? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- **b** If "Yes," complete the following schedule.

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Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2004
Our Mission
Our mission is to assemble and educate a diverse group of individuals, businesses and organizations to improve the Gowanus waterfront in Brooklyn and foster awareness of issues affecting the New York- New Jersey harbor. The Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club intends to contribute to transforming a dilapidated, historically significant estuary into a self-sustaining, environmentally friendly and healthy waterfront to be enjoyed and treasured by current and future generations. By encouraging waterfront activity and stewardship of the waterway, our organization seeks to reconnect the community with their shoreline. Renewing this relationship strengthens the desire and need for remediation of our harbor.

General Description
The Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing waterfront access and education related to the estuary and bordering shoreline neighborhoods. The Dredgers were founded in 1999 and are based on the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, NY. Programs are conducted on the canal as well as in neighboring waterfront communities of Red Hook, Sunset Park and Brooklyn Heights.

The Dredgers encourage an understanding of the NY-NJ Harbor as a resource for recreation and education as well as a waterway for carrying commuters, tourists and goods. During the 2004 season, over 1,500 individuals, including more than 300 youth, participated in our programs and we logged over 2,000 trips on the Gowanus Canal. As people experience and enjoy our waterfront through our programs, they become advocates for its revitalization. These efforts are proving to be fruitful as recent legislation has provided funding primarily due to the rise and popularity of paddling on the Gowanus Canal.

All of the Gowanus Dredgers facilities, equipment and funding are used to provide safe access to the waterfront and to educate the community about the estuary. The Dredgers run an array of events throughout the year including tours on the waterway, leading walking and bicycle tours, conducting lectures at public forums and educational institutions and organizing waterfront festivals. Volunteers in our programs monitor the health of oysters and sea grass that naturally clean the water and we have adopted an apple tree that is growing on the shoreline. All Dredgers activities and workshops are free and membership in the organization is not required to participate in our programs. In addition, our facilities and services are available to the public to launch canoes, rowboats and kayaks.
Regular Programs

Walk-up Canoeing
This is the Gowanus Dredgers original and most popular program. The program runs on selected weekends and holidays from March 21st to November 1st, and on many weekday evenings by appointment. Participants utilize club canoes for a short paddle inside the protected canal and Gowanus Bay. After being fitted with a life jacket (which must be worn at all times) a club member gives instruction on how to paddle, safety tips on how to use a canoe and helps with boarding and supervises departure. Participants are free to explore the estuary at their own pace and enjoy discovering the canal’s unique mix of wildlife and urban waterway infrastructure.

Oyster Gardening
Oyster gardening is a hands-on program run by the Gowanus Dredgers in partnership with the NY/NJ Baykeeper where volunteer members of the Gowanus Dredgers care for three hundred small (3/4 inch) “seed” oysters in an oyster float and a lantern net. Throughout the year, the Dredgers, together with students and other volunteers, measure the oysters to compare growth and survival rates with different parts of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. Oyster gardening fosters a sense of stewardship for the Estuary and the oyster float becomes a natural aquarium that teaches us about the diversity of the estuarine environment.

Like coral reefs, oyster reefs provide habitat for harbor fish, such as striped bass, summer flounder and tautog, as well as many other marine organisms. Oysters also function as a natural water filter. As they feed, they can filter over 25 gallons of water a day and remove suspended sediments and algae from the water. This filtering improves water clarity, removes contaminants and enhances conditions for underwater grasses to grow.

Classroom and Site Visit Environmental Education
Many schools use the Gowanus Canal in their programs and often invite the Gowanus Dredgers to participate as guest lecturers. These classes are tailored to focus on the environment, engineering or biology and are delivered on the shoreline or in the classroom. In the classroom setting, videos and new segments are shown or a slide lecture followed by a student discussion about developing solutions to facilitate a clean harbor.

South Brooklyn Waterfront Tour
International visitors to New York, local residents, businesses and a variety of individuals have called on the Gowanus Dredgers for an individual tour of the estuary. Trained members of the organization lead an exploration of the Gowanus Canal to educate the public about the wildlife and vegetation of the New York / New Jersey Estuary. These are guided trips of the Gowanus Canal, Red Hook, Sunset Park and New York harbor. The exact destination depends on the tides and the weather, but the tours usually cover at least four or five miles. The rich history of the neighborhoods and settlement of Brooklyn is discussed in addition to news and commentary about the developing shoreline and recent improvements to the estuary.
Bicycle Tour
Throughout the year the Gowanus Dredgers host groups of up to fifty bicyclists to explore a ten-mile section of the South Brooklyn shoreline. The tour focuses on issues affecting habitat and water quality but also includes a lecture about the area history as well as recent developments and offers a quick introduction to resources along Brooklyn's shoreline. The tour stops at community organizations where representatives inform the group about their efforts and the workshop highlights the variety of uses and environmental issues found on the waterfront.

Lighten Up Brooklyn
The Gowanus Dredgers participate in the Brooklyn Borough President's annual cardiovascular program by hosting walk-up canoeing and bicycle tours throughout the month of June. A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control reported that more than 44 million Americans are considered obese, which is a 74% increase since 1991. Obesity can lead to a number of serious health conditions including heart disease and type 2 diabetes. The focus of the Gowanus Dredgers Lighten Up Brooklyn program is to introduce people to recreational waterfront activities with the hope that they are captivated by the sports of canoeing and bicycling and will develop a routine of regular exercise.

Special programs
“Heart of Gowanus” Film Production
Over the course of five years, cinematographer Keith Rodan, with the support of the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club, has filmed the rebirth of the Gowanus Canal. The 30-minute documentary features the spring cleaning festival sponsored by the Urban Divers and the Gowanus Dredgers and is offered to local schools for screening as part of our lecture series. Funding is needed to reproduce copies of this film and to develop a full documentary to highlight the years of effort needed to restore a contaminated waterfront.

Gowanus Oktoberfest
The Gowanus Oktoberfest, hosted in collaboration with the Urban Divers as an end of season event highlights accomplishments over the past year. Fortunately, this continues to be a celebratory event, documenting the return of wildlife and record-breaking numbers of paddlers on the waterway. The event is catered by guest chef, author and local bridge operator Lenny “The Chicken Man” Thomas. Seasonal data gathered from Urban Diver's Gowanus Monitor Project is presented and a "race you brung" boat race is conducted with prizes awarded to a winner of each boat category.

South Brooklyn Waterfront Resource Map
The Gowanus Dredgers designed and printed over 20,000 copies of the "South Brooklyn Waterfront Resource Map" locating and listing neighborhood organizations. The resource is used by organizations to collaborate efforts and informs the public of resources available to them. Using text developed with the Brooklyn Historical Society, the reverse side of the document chronicles the history of the Red Hook and Gowanus Neighborhoods. Fifteen award-winning photographs are included documenting the sordid and beautiful features found on the shoreline. The 17-inch by 22-inch full color map appeared in thousands of editions of the local Brooklyn Daily Eagle newspaper. In addition, over 1,000 copies were distributed to organizations listed on the map and at Gowanus Dredgers events. Today, we reprint the maps at an 11x17 format with updates including new organizations. The map shows our waterfront bike tour route and is a guide for individuals to tour the waterfront at their leisure.
Spring and Fall Canal Cleaning Festival
Trash is a challenging issue facing our shoreline and the Dredgers clean the water whenever we encounter rubbish. We help finance, organize, manage and participate in two major initiatives to clean the estuary in the spring and fall. The spring cleaning event in collaboration with the Urban Divers, focuses on the water’s edge, removing trash that has washed ashore over the winter. Community volunteers armed with landing nets, skiffs, canoes and kayaks, are guided on a tour to collect trash. The fall event is part of a state-wide beach cleanup in collaboration with the American Littoral Society concentrating efforts on the upland areas. Each of these events removes hundreds of bags of trash from the estuary, sustain life and prevent future dumping. Since our program started in 1999, there has been a sharp decline in dumping and we are increasing our monitoring efforts.

Earth and Surf Festival
Every spring, the Gowanus Dredgers transport our canoes inland and place them on wheels to participate in the annual Red Hook Earth and Surf Parade. Red Hook is a neighbor to the Gowanus Canal and shares similar visions of a restored shoreline. This parade highlights the efforts dedicated to the renaissance of the neighborhood and waterfront and highlights the fact that there is more work ahead of us. Dance Theatre Etcetera produces this event that includes live music, giant puppets and a host of imaginatively costumed participants. Throughout the afternoon, the Gowanus Dredgers host free canoe rides for the community of Red Hook at Valentino Pier. This is a wonderful day to enjoy the waterfront and often is the first time or the only opportunity for many urban youth to experience a canoe ride.

Governors Island Rising Festivals
This summer, the Dredgers expanded their tours to include a voyage to Governors Island, situated off the coast of Red Hook in the East River. Fortunately, development plans of this national treasure include recreational uses and the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation allowed an assortment of twenty canoes and fifteen kayaks to land at the north dock for a short tour of the historic structures including the 20-acre Governors Island National Monument. Participants in the tour hailed from all five boroughs and beyond. The Sebago Canoe club, founded in 1933, was enlisted to provide extra canoes and additional supervision. Tours next season are being planned but are contingent on securing funds for the extra insurance.