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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW YORK CARES ABOUT OUR GARDEN**  
**New York Cares Volunteers Groom Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum's Garden**

*Bronx, NY, April 23, 2012* — Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum was one of 80 sites for New York Cares' annual spring greening day. More than 5,000 volunteers worked throughout New York City from 9:30 to 3:00. Nearly 100 of those volunteers were on site at Bartow-Pell, cleaning up brush piles, digging up tulips, composting flower beds, deadheading wildflowers, and preparing the Children's Garden for school groups.

Many of the day's volunteers—previously strangers to this treasure in the Bronx—were captivated by the mansion, its terraced gardens and four centuries of history. "It's amazing," said Petra Slater, an Aon volunteer who lives in Manhattan. "I used to live in London. Bartow-Pell reminds me of an English garden. A hidden gem so close to the city but it feels like it's a world away."

Volunteers' efforts helped prepare the site for Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum's *Beauty in the Bronx Open House Weekend* on May 4-6, being held in celebration of National Preservation Month. Free Open House Weekend events will include **Owls and Falcons and Skunks, Oh My!**, a presentation by Bobby and Kathy Horvath of WINORR (Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation), who will bring a wonderful assortment of rescued owls, birds of prey, and other animals for visitors to meet first hand; and **Cracked Walnuts**, the washboard and banjo duo of Jeff and Jan Ausfahl, who will perform Civil War-era classics, folk songs, and traditional jigs and reels. Free garden and mansion tours, the Bronx Seaside Trolley, hikes, and children's games are also scheduled. For more details on the Open House Weekend – or to see photos of the New York Cares volunteers hard at work – visit [facebook.com/bartowpell](https://facebook.com/bartowpell).

A National Historic Landmark and part of New York City's largest park, Bartow-Pell is the last of the 19th-century country estates once found throughout the Pelham Bay area. For event registration or for more information, call 718-885-1461 or email [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).



*Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. To reach us by public transportation, take the #6 Lexington Avenue Local subway to Pelham Bay Park station, followed by the Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus direct to the mansion gate. For driving directions, please visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org). The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.*