



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jeffrey D. Klein

## **Senator Klein Congratulates Bronx Regional Economic Development Winners on \$1.3 Million Funding Award**

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**BRONX, NY** – At the Regional Economic Development Awards, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo today announced the allocation of \$1.3 million in funding for community-based organizations and non-profits in the 34<sup>th</sup> Senate District. The four winners included: the North Riverdale Merchant Business Association, the New York Botanical Garden, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation in partnership with the Bronx River Alliance.

“Today is a great day for Bronx residents and for our entire community. With these awards the state has made a significant investment in the 34th Senate District, as these four groups will receive a total of \$1.3 million dollars. Today’s announcement demonstrates that New York State and Governor Cuomo recognize what I’ve known all along, that the Bronx is an outstanding community filled with hard-working people and big ideas. I’d like to congratulate these winners on this significant accomplishment and I look forward to continuing to work together as we make our communities stronger and the quality of life better for the residence of the 34th Senate District,” **said Senator Jeff Klein.**

**Total Award Funding:**

- The North Riverdale Merchant Business Association - \$100,000
- The Bronx Botanical Garden - \$882,000
- The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation - \$25,000
- The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation & The Bronx River Alliance - \$256,612

The projects chosen are standout not only because they benefit the community, but are a boon to the local economy. The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation’s plan to expand and upgrade the Arthur Avenue Market will include additional retail space, a rooftop garden and open space that will support urban farming, along with a brand-new theater and exhibition area.

The Riverdale Smart Growth Plan by the North Riverdale Merchant Business Association will create safer traffic patterns in commercial districts, improve sidewalks, community parks and protect major community assets.

The New York Botanical Garden’s project will retrofit existing parking areas adjacent to the iconic conservatory by installing interlocking concrete pavers. The improvements will be made as part of a larger stormwater management effort aimed at reducing runoff in developed areas and improving overall water quality.

The New York City Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the Bronx River Alliance will enhance and improve Shoelace Park and the Bronx River Forest by stabilizing riverbanks, reducing erosion and providing increased job training and skills for seasonal workers, trainees and volunteers.