In 2019, GreenRoots celebrated 25 years of fighting for environmental and social justice. Along with our valuable members and community partners, Chelsea, East Boston and beyond are healthier, more powerful and more just communities! As we close out the year, GreenRoots reflects on 19 of our most significant accomplishments in 2019.

1. Making Polluters Pay
Together with our friends at Mystic River Watershed Association, we were successful in bringing $1.3M in on-the-ground restoration funding for projects in Chelsea and throughout the watershed. These funds are the last remaining penalty dollars from an Exxon Mobil spill in the Island End River in Jan. 2006.

2. NEVERSource
GreenRoots successfully "intervened", representing dozens of concerned East Boston residents, in the Energy Facility Siting Board permitting process, for the Eversource Electrical Substation. We are represented by pro bono attorney Joshua Daniels. Eastie leaders Sandra Nijjar, Dr. Marcos Luna and GreenRoots Waterfront Initiative Coordinator John Walkey testified.

3. Protests & Direct Action
We complemented our legal strategy against the Eversource Electrical Substation with much direct action, protests, letter writing campaigns and partnerships with groups such as CLF, Union of Concerned Scientists, Mass Power Forward and more! 2020 will be the year when we win this fight! Si Se Puede!

4. Transforming Dever Park
GreenRoots, together with the City of Chelsea and KaBOOM!, transformed Dever Park into a vibrant, multi-sport court and playground! Thanks to dozens of volunteers from Chelsea Public Works, Chelsea Housing Authority, Chelsea Police Department, KIND, Jet Blue, Chelsea Collaborative, Kiwanis and more!

5. Youth Empowerment
GreenRoots ECO Youth Crew had many impressive victories including organizing a national Environmental Data Justice Webinar; collecting more than 100 surveys as part of the Healthy Neighborhoods Study; and collaborating with Mattapan youth to analyze the relationship of "green and blue" spaces on mental health.

6. Chelsea First Urban Farm
GreenRoots celebrated the Inaugural Growing Season at Chelsea's First Urban Farm where we grew over 1,000lbs of fresh produce which was donated to those who are food insecure in our community. We also supported four other community gardens throughout the city.
7. Getting On the Chelsea Creek
GreenRoots organized five public canoeing and kayaking events on the Chelsea Creek -- launching in Chelsea and East Boston! Thanks to Harbour Foods, US Coast Guard and the Cities of Chelsea and Boston!

8. Resident-Owned Energy
GreenRoots and our Green Justice Coalition and GJC-RUN partners completed the assessment for an energy microgrid - clean, reliable energy. And to move us closer to resident-owned energy, GreenRoots, GJC-RUN and the City of Chelsea secured funding to conduct energy efficiency work in municipal buildings.

9. Major Public Transit Wins
GreenRoots organized around a number of different Transit Justice campaigns. Our wins to date include: Chelsea Transit Task Force meetings in Chelsea with the MBTA’s GM to address transportation concerns; free fares on the Silver Line and Commuter Rail during the Chelsea Viaduct/Chelsea Curves construction; commitment for a 112-bus pilot to improve service; a half-lift on the Chelsea Street Bridge; improvements to The Ride; and means testing for a low-income fare among other wins.

10. Raices Verdes en Zumix 94.9
Throughout the year, we held weekly Spanish language radio shows on Radio Zumix to reach a broader audience and engage community members on all of our campaigns and projects. Thank you Zumix for providing the space and support for our weekly show!

11. Creekside Commons
GreenRoots revitalized Creekside Commons Park, a dynamic playground along the Mill Creek Walkway which we originally designed, fundraised for and brought to fruition a decade ago. Special thanks to Chelsea’s Department of Public Works and Blue Cross Blue Shield for partnering on the services days!

12. Clean-ups & EJ
GreenRoots organized several waterfront clean-ups in addition to our Annual Earth Day Celebration. This led to hundreds of pounds of trash removed from our waterfront and our city's streets. GreenRoots also organized at least ten Environmental Justice (or Toxic Tours) for community members, academic institutions, funders and other stakeholders interested in better understanding the environmental and public health burdens Chelsea and Eastie residents face on a daily basis.

13. Weekly Caminatas Verdes
GreenRoots organized weekly Caminatas Verdes or green walks from Spring - Fall to get community members to better connect with one another and to the open spaces that exist in our neighborhoods. In addition, we organized pop-up park events and other fun community activities!
14. GreenRoots Receives Accolades
Many GreenRoots Board Members, Staff, and Resident Leaders were recognized for their leadership in Chelsea, East Boston and the larger region on environmental and social justice.

15. Bringing Strategies Back to Chelsea & Eastie
GreenRoots members, staff and board traveled nationally and internationally to bring lessons from other successful efforts back to our communities and to share our effective strategies.

16. Addressing Displacement
GreenRoots convenes the Chelsea Anti-Displacement Roundtable which brings together partners like The Neighborhood Developers, Chelsea Collaborative, City Life Vida Urbana, Greater Boston Legal Services, MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center, NU Law Clinic and City Leaders. In October, the Roundtable organized a City Council Candidate Forum focusing on the issues of housing and displacement in Chelsea. Over 100 people participated in the fully bilingual forum.

17. Robust Strategic Planning
Over the last several months, GreenRoots has been undergoing strategic planning. Throughout this process, more than 120 community partners and stakeholders (not always those who agree with us) completed surveys and in-depth interviews; and over 150 people participated in our daylong popular education workshops with our consultant teams. The plan will be completed by spring 2020!

18. Youth Lead on Climate Change
ECO participated in the International Climate Strike, calling on elected and appointed leaders to make climate change a priority and implement aggressive policies NOW. The work didn’t end at the Strike, GreenRoots collaborated on actions throughout the whole week; and all of our work helps to achieve climate justice.

19. Language Justice
GreenRoots proudly uplifts our commitment to language justice. All GreenRoots meetings, including board meetings and staff meetings, are 100% bilingual. To honor our commitment, we purchased headsets to ensure we can always provide simultaneous interpretation. We’ve also advocated for language justice at the local level (ZBA, Planning Board and City Council meetings are now interpreted simultaneously) and at the MBTA / FMCB meetings, and with the Department of Public Utilities.