As we close out the year, GreenRoots reflects on 18 of our most significant accomplishments in 2018. Thanks to our members, partners, allies and supporters for collectively contributing to these victories! Happy New Year!

1. Chelsea Walk Revitalization

Raised $50K+; engaged dozens of residents and businesses; and with a local artist and the City of Chelsea, we created a vibrant new space with culture, history and art!

2. 2018 Social Innovator

As one of eight nonprofits selected for Social Innovation Forum’s 2018 cohort, GreenRoots receives financial and capacity-building support for 2 years!
3. No Eastie Substation!
East Boston and Chelsea residents gained visibility and momentum in our effort to stop the proposal to build an electrical substation in an EJ neighborhood on the Chelsea Creek.

4. MBTA Chelsea Task Force
GreenRoots, together with Councilor Vidot, successfully negotiated with the MBTA to establish a Task Force, with more than 50% T riders, to address Chelsea’s public transportation issues.

5. Chelsea’s 1st Urban Farm
With funding and support from First Parish in Lincoln, dozens of volunteers, businesses & local partners, we established the 1st high-production farm to address food insecurity.

6. Microgrid Assessment
Chelsea was chosen to participate in an assessment for an energy microgrid. GreeRoots’ partners include the City of Chelsea, MGH & BIDMC health facilities, New England Produce Center, Chelsea Housing Authority and more!
7. $1.3M Preserved for Mystic

Together with MyRWA, we convinced NAWCA Council to keep penalty fines, from an ExxonMobil oil spill in the Mystic and Island End Rivers in 2006, for projects in our communities.

8. Expanded Staff Capacity

Increased staff with 2 new full-time organizers focused on: Youth and Food Justice, and Public Transportation and EJ; and 1 part-time grant writer.

9. Lead Free Water for ALL

Together with the City of Chelsea and Clean Water Action, successfully acquired funding to support replacement of Lead Service Water Pipes for Chelsea homes.

10. Chelsea Creek Boating!

Organized numerous canoeing, kayaking and boating events to get residents onto our waterfront for all to enjoy our rivers!
11. Flourishing Urban Gardens

Supported 3 community gardens, in partnership with the Chelsea Community Gardeners, Mace, YFM and other youth; and helped create 4th garden with members Angel and Stacy!

12. Strong Communications

Host a weekly radio show on Zumix 94.9 and a Chelsea Community Cable TV program to spread the word about our work. Also have a strong Facebook and Twitter presence!

13. Recognized as Leaders

GreenRoots staff and board have been named to local and statewide boards and commissions and have been recognized with prestigious awards. They’ve also participated in well-recognized trainings throughout the nation. We’re grateful to have such a talented, committed and gifted team.

14. Lanterns on Chelsea Creek

With MIT and Northeastern, we floated illuminated lanterns representing 76 chemical violations in the Chelsea Creek over the past 5 years. Follow-up with those responsible is underway.
15. Impressive Youth Leadership

GreenRoots supports the 6-member ECO youth crew, Junior Supervisor Adela Gonzalez and many youth interns throughout the year. These young people lead impressive projects and represent all the good in Chelsea youth.

16. Creative Visioning

GreenRoots led residents through a number of creative visioning sessions, including the People’s Assembly, to dream about a waterfront that offers more access, more amenities and fewer environmental and public health burdens.

17. Engaging East Boston Residents

GreenRoots staff have organized and engaged residents in East Boston to be involved in important development decisions such as Suffolk Downs and Plan East Boston.
18. Being Member-Led

GreenRoots is 100% member-led, with resident leaders from Chelsea, East Boston and surrounding communities working together to achieve healthier urban communities without displacement.

THANK YOU to each and every one of our members for your commitment and dedication!