

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK PLANTS SEEDS FOR A GREENER FUTURE
Over 5,600 Trees Planted — Spirit of Ridgewood Cleanup
Brings Employees Together in Service**



RIDGEWOOD, NY: April 15, 2025 — As Earth Day approaches, **Ridgewood Savings Bank (Ridgewood)** is proud to share its growing impact on the environment and local communities. Since launching its Free Green Checking account in 2022, Ridgewood has helped plant more than 5,600 trees through the nonprofit **One Tree Planted** — a testament to the power of purpose-driven banking.

“Free Green Checking is more than just a smart, modern banking option — it gives our customers the power to make a positive environmental impact with every new account,” said **Leonard Stekol, Chairman, President and CEO of Ridgewood Savings Bank**. “At Ridgewood, we are committed to aligning our products with our purpose. We believe that even small actions can grow into something meaningful. The acorn in our logo reflects that spirit — each account opened today has the potential to make a lasting difference for tomorrow.”

Since launching Free Green Checking in 2022, Ridgewood’s environmental impact has grown steadily with a total of 5,632 trees now planted, and Ridgewood’s commitment to Earth Day goes beyond planting trees.

On March 22, Ridgewood employees joined forces for a **Community Cleanup at Bushwick Playground in Brooklyn**, located at Putnam and Knickerbocker Avenues. The cleanup was organized by **Angela D’Amato, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager of the Grand Avenue branch** and a board member of **New York State of Mind (NYSoM)**, the nonprofit that hosted the event. NYSoM organizes community-based events ranging from food drives to movie nights and neighborhood beautification projects. The cleanup brought together a dedicated crew of Ridgewood volunteers from across branches and departments, all united under the “Spirit of Ridgewood” initiative.

“It was incredibly rewarding to see our team come together for such a hands-on project in the heart of the community — especially as we approached Earth Day,” said D’Amato. “Bushwick Playground is a space for children and families, and it means a lot to know we played a role in keeping it clean and inviting. That’s what the “Spirit of Ridgewood” is all about — showing up, pitching in, and giving back.”

Free Green Checking: A Greener Way to Bank

Ridgewood’s Free Green Checking account is designed with sustainability and simplicity in mind. The account features:

- Zero monthly fees
- Free eStatements
- 24/7 digital banking access
- 90,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide
- Bill Pay + Zelle® for secure, convenient transactions

For every new Free Green Checking account opened, Ridgewood donates to One Tree Planted, helping to plant trees in U.S. National Forests.

Strengthening Community Through Giving

In 2024, strengthening the bonds of community was at the heart of everything Ridgewood did. The Bank was honored to collaborate with neighbors and support many meaningful causes throughout the year, resulting in a powerful impact:

- \$1,011,916 in Corporate Giving, Donations & Outreach
- \$175,950 in Community Reinvestment
- \$86,123 in Employee Charitable Giving
- \$83,858 in Bank-Matched Donations
- 1,581 Employee Volunteer Hours

Ridgewood remains deeply rooted in its mission to serve customers and uplift communities. From planting trees to restoring local parks, the Bank believes that small acts — like its acorn logo — can grow into something mighty. This Earth Day, Ridgewood continues to live out the “Spirit of Ridgewood,” nurturing a legacy of generosity, sustainability, and community care.

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About Ridgewood Savings Bank

Founded in 1921, Ridgewood Savings Bank is a strong, stable mutual savings bank with over \$7 billion in assets and 36 branches across the New York metropolitan area. Recognized by Newsweek as one of America's Greatest Midsize Workplaces 2025 for excellence in employee experience, the Bank has also been ranked a Best Regional Bank by Newsweek (2025) and Bankrate (2024), named a Best Bank by Money (2023, 2024), and received an Honorable Mention from the American Bankers Association Foundation for its efforts to protect older Americans (2023). Since its inception, Ridgewood has stayed true to its community bank roots and mission to deliver exceptional service and trusted financial guidance. As it continues to evolve, the Bank remains committed to combining award-winning customer care with highly rated, user-friendly digital banking solutions—helping provide a modern, personalized experience for every customer. Ridgewood Savings Bank continually strives to be the bank that delivers “Time-Honored Values with Modern Solutions.” Learn more at [ridgewoodbank.com](https://www.ridgewoodbank.com).

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