



**GREENPOINT
COMMUNITY
ENVIRONMENTAL
FUND**

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Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund 2014 “Small Grants”

Greenstreets and Community Greening

John Ericsson Middle School 126 (MS 126) will receive \$24,998 (and contribute \$25,000 in matching funds) to create wildlife demonstration sites using native plants, shrubs, and shade trees at two locations at MS 126. The benefits of the project include helping to lower urban air temperatures, improving storm water filtering, providing a research venue for students, and offering a location to engage students and their families in community greening activities. The non-profit **Center for Educational Innovation - Public Education Association** is a project partner and will manage all financial requirements of this grant.

North Brooklyn Boat Club will receive \$24,660 to fund a “Don’t Put Your Butt in the Creek” campaign. The campaign will focus on raising awareness of and putting an end to the problem of inappropriately disposed-of cigarette butts fouling Newtown Creek. The campaign will couple the placement of cigarette disposal containers labeled with “Don’t put your butt in the Creek” outside Greenpoint bars and restaurants with community education and publicity about the problem of cigarette butts in the creek. The **Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn** is partnering in the project and will manage all financial requirements of the grant.

Waterfront Restoration and Infrastructure

Newtown Creek Alliance (NCA) will receive \$24,735 (and contribute \$1,000 in matching funds) to research and develop a plan for transforming the end of North Henry Street into a publicly accessible and ecologically beneficial open space and shoreline. Located on the ‘No Name’ tributary of Newtown Creek, the site consists of 20,000 square feet of city-owned upland and degraded shoreline offering open space, public access to the water, and an opportunity to reduce stormwater runoff to the creek. The grant will enable NCA to inventory existing plant and animal species, assess soils, shoreline stability and the hydrodynamics of the property, as well as to research regulatory and access issues related to planning the site’s development.

Newtown Creek Alliance will receive \$24,980 (and contribute \$4,300 in matching funds) to design and build a biological “living dock” as a prototype for combining remediation strategies, education, and public access to Newtown Creek’s aquatic environment. The 200 square foot dock will be placed on the eastern shore of the ‘No Name’ tributary of Newtown Creek, near North Henry Street. The dock will provide a landing for small boats and critical habitat for indigenous plants and animals that help

improve water quality in the creek. The dock will also provide a stage for both research and environmental education.

Greening Community Buildings, Facilities and Infrastructure

The Greenpoint Reformed Church will receive \$5,000 (and contribute \$1,000 in matching funds) to determine the feasibility of installing a green roof on the church, located at 136 Milton Street. Green roofs provide a number of environmental benefits, including reducing stormwater runoff, and related air pollution. An engineering study will be conducted to determine the strength and durability of the 2,500 square foot roof, originally constructed in 1848. A detailed description of roof conditions and an estimate for installation of a green roof will be prepared.

Parks and Open Space

61 Franklin St. Garden will receive \$25,000 (and contribute \$25,000 in matching funds) to further the development of a self-sustaining garden at 61 Franklin Street. The funding will help this NYC GreenThumb garden, which was until recently a derelict lot, continue development as a community green space by improving the planting space, constructing community education spaces and rain water harvesting facilities, and installing solar panels to serve as a renewable power source for the garden. The **Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn** is a project partner and will manage all financial requirements of the grant.

Java Street Community Garden will receive \$19,178 (and contribute \$10,620 in matching funds) to improve sustainable practices at the Java Street Community Garden. This NYC GreenThumb garden, once an empty lot and now covered with vegetable garden plots, is managed by a collective of 30 neighborhood volunteers. The grant will be used to add a rainwater garden and stormwater collection system, a perennial sidewalk garden, sheltered community gathering space, native plants, and solar panels to serve as a renewable energy source for the garden. **In Our Back Yards** is a project partner and will manage all financial requirements of the grant.

New York City Audubon Society will receive \$24,871 (and contribute \$25,636 in matching funds) to create an Urban Oasis in McGolrick Park. The Urban Oasis project will entail identifying and planting native species, including wildflowers, that provide food and shelter for migratory birds, inventorying birds before and after planting, and engaging volunteers to plant and maintain the species in McGolrick Park. The project will help build a community of Greenpoint residents engaged in environmental stewardship and the long-term improvement of McGolrick Park, one of Greenpoint's few green spaces.

Environmental Education and Stewardship

Audubon New York/National Audubon Society will receive \$24,997 (and contribute \$10,370 in matching funds) to implement a "For the Birds!" environmental education program at the Monitor School (PS 110). For the Birds! is an innovative environmental

education program that promotes learning in the sciences and language arts as well as community engagement for young students and adults. The program will move between the classroom and Monsignor McGolrick Park where native habitat sites will serve as focal points for students to learn about science concepts, ecosystem processes, and the bird and other wildlife species that rely on urban green spaces.

Audubon New York/National Audubon Society will receive \$24,996 (and contribute \$10,390 in matching funds) to implement a “For the Birds!” environmental education program at St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy. For the Birds! will involve the same elements, including moving between the classroom and Monsignor McGolrick Park, of the program as described above.

Build It Green!NYC will receive \$12,500 (and contribute \$5,000 in matching funds) to determine the feasibility of developing a community compost site in Greenpoint. The site would be operated by BIG!Compost, which currently runs a local food scrap collection program. Composting helps divert organic waste from landfills, and compost can then be used to improve soils in tree beds, gardens and parks. The study will examine community attitudes toward composting, siting options (ideally a brownfield site), the possibility of using compost to remediate soils in Greenpoint, and the costs and benefits of various composting technologies. The non-profit **Community Environmental Center** is a project partner and will manage all financial requirements of the grant.

Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce and **Groundswell** will receive \$25,000 (and contribute \$25,000 in matching funds) to design and create a large scale public artwork that explores the history of environmental justice and advocacy in Greenpoint. The project will engage 15 local youth in a curriculum that emphasizes the history of local conservation efforts and will culminate in the creation of a mural to inspire community-led environmental stewardship. The mural, after being shared with the community, will be placed in a highly visible location either on Greenpoint Avenue opposite the Newtown Creek Visitor’s Center or on McGuinness Blvd at the base of the Pulaski Bridge.

Greenpoint Waterfront Association for Parks and Planning will receive \$12,400 to organize and conduct four public panel discussions in partnership with local ecological and environmental advocacy organizations. The discussions will be tailored to local environmental concerns, including water and soil quality, land use regulations, and community greening. Each session will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about local environmental issues and the organizations engaged in them, and to participate in community greening activities.

La Casita Verde will receive \$25,000 to fund a mobile compost initiative, “Soil Cycle,” at three Greenpoint schools (Citizens of the World Charter School, John Ericsson MS 126 and Northside Charter High School) housed in the same building. In the initiative, specially designed cargo bikes will collect organic wastes from local schools, compost the wastes as the rider pedals, and allow the composting process to be monitored. Students will learn first-hand the basics of microbiology and the practice and benefits of urban composting, and also reduce the organic waste generated by their schools. The nonprofit **Eyebeam**

Atelier is partnering in the project and will manage all financial requirements of the grant.

North Brooklyn Boat Club will receive \$24,693 (and contribute \$25,000 in matching funds) to expand their waterways environmental education program. Last summer, the club organized and led bi-weekly public paddle trips for over 400 nonmembers as well as leading multiple trips a week for its 250 members. Funding would add two 12 to 14 person canoes to its current fleet of 25 small boats. These larger, more stable boats would allow the Club's education program to serve Greenpointers of all ages and boating skills. The funds will also be used to develop an environmental curriculum tailored to the local waterways, including environmental history and landmarks. The result will be a significantly larger community of informed and inspired environmental stewards in Greenpoint. The **Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn** is partnering in the project and will manage all financial requirements of the grant.

North Brooklyn Boat Club will receive \$24,426 (and contribute \$3,600 in matching funds) to support ongoing educational programming at the ED Shed. The ED Shed, established in conjunction with LaGuardia Community College, is a hands-on environmental educational and research center with ongoing programs that connect Greenpoint residents to their surrounding waterways. The grant will be used to develop and expand community workshops on marine sciences and aquatic conditions in Newtown Creek and the East River, including water testing, wildlife monitoring, plankton sampling, as well as to create an instructional aquarium that houses local fauna. The **Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn** is a project partner and will manage all financial requirements of the grant.

Solar One will receive \$24,954 (and contribute \$3,000 in matching funds) to implement the Green Design Lab™ (GDL) K-12 program at MS 126 and PS 110 in Greenpoint. The GDL program uses interactive activities related to water, air, energy, materials, and food, and student-led greening projects, to inspire students to actively participate in improving the environment and health of their schools, homes, and community.

YMCA of Greater New York, Greenpoint Branch will receive \$22,750 (and contribute \$12,000 in matching funds) to support their "Green Beans" program for children ages 5-12. Green Beans is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) program, focused on environmental science, nature, gardening and technology, that educates more than 200 local children every year. The funding will be used for an afterschool program that takes place in and supports the Lentol Garden. Students will learn about rainwater collection systems and environmental monitoring, and participate in plant maintenance and composting.