Welcome to the 4th edition of the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund newsletter, where we celebrate the real tangible accomplishments that GCEF is bringing to Greenpoint. Since Fall 2016, 11 more projects have been successfully completed and 15 more are still going strong. In this edition of the newsletter, we provide a round-up of the many project accomplishments, and a pictorial update about how GCEF projects are making Greenpoint a healthier, safer, and “green-ier” place to live. For more detailed information and the latest news, visit the GCEF website at [www.GCEFund.org](http://www.GCEFund.org).

**GCEF 2016 OPEN HOUSE** / On October 15, 2016, GCEF held its first ever OpenHouseGCEF. This Greenpoint-wide event was offered in 5 locations involving 17 active GCEF grants. The day-long event was an opportunity for the public to visit some of GCEF’s most important and exciting projects, including Newtown Creek SAMPLES, MacCarren Park Urban Farm, and Newtown Creek Wildflower Roof. GCEF also organized presentations at the Greenpoint Library, and gave a special tour of select projects for local elected officials and members of the press.

**GCEF IN ACTION IN 2017** / It’s been an active year for all GCEF projects. Among the 33 funded Small Grants, 11 more projects reached their objectives and were successfully completed in the last year. Among the graduates were: Greenpoint Lead in Garden Soil; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Restaurants); SoilCycle; Go Green Activity Hub; Greenpoint Bioremediation; Newtown Creek SAMPLES; 61 Franklin Street Garden; For the Birds! Greenpoint @ P.S. 110 and St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy; Urban Birds of McGolrick Park; and Green Tweens.

Among the remaining 6 active small grants, the Greenpoint Parks Community Stewardship project has continued to support the

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**ABOUT GCEF**: GCEF is a $19.5 million community grant program created by the NYS Office of the Attorney General and Department of Environmental Conservation from funding obtained by the State in a settlement with ExxonMobil over its massive Greenpoint oil spill. To date, GCEF has invested over $54 million in the Greenpoint community’s environmental improvement priorities.

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**OpenHouseGCEF**
Saturday, Oct. 14 • 11am - 3pm
McGolrick Park

OpenHouseGCEF will celebrate McGolrick park as a centerpiece of life in Greenpoint and feature many of the exciting projects GCEF is funding to make our community a healthier, safer, and “greener” place to live!

**Activities include** live music, crafts, a scavenger hunt, a tree and bird walk, “green” storytime, a touch tank of Newtown Creek critters, and so much more! Visit [www.GCEFund.org](http://www.GCEFund.org) for the most up-to-date schedule.
2017

GCEF Grantee Highlights!

View more photos and all the projects’ updates online at www.GCEFGrant.org.

Over 90 volunteers helped beautify American and Greenpoint playgrounds as part of the Greenpoint Parks Community Stewardship, installing over 20 planters and planting native vegetation.

At No Name Inlet, 500 plugs of salt marsh cordgrass were planted across six areas along the West shore bulkhead as part of the Intertidal Wetland Project.

McCarren Park Urban Farms and Green Infrastructure Corridor is near-complete, providing a demonstration backyard and ample seating. Five workshops have already been hosted by GrowNYC in 2017, and 3 more are scheduled for this fall.

Volunteers, including Girl Scout Troop #2866, participated in Curb Your Litter: Greenpoint’s August and September clean ups. Far photo by Greg Mihalko, Partner & Partners.

Greenpoint Lead in Garden Outreach Project held 3 educational workshops this spring, provided free soil testing, and created and distributed a 25-page, Greenpoint-specific, lead-in-soil educational Toolkit.

A tree stewardship day in July hosted by Greenpoint. Greenpoint teaches area residents how to care for street trees. Volunteers got their hands dirty in the tree beds surrounding American Playground.

The Greenpoint Monitor Museum participated in Waterfront Alliance’s City of Water Day in July, giving a project update including the latest concept design.
maintenance and enhancement of open spaces across Greenpoint. Two newly founded groups—Friends of Transmitter Park and Friends of American Playground—won small park group grants and the program manager has been developing a volunteer leader training program for each location, expected to begin in December.

Java Street Garden improved their garden space for the growing season by replacing a portion of raised beds with cedar quadrants.

Students from the YMCA-Greenpoint Branch’s Green Tweens STEM project learned about sustainable energy sources, like the sun, and built solar-powered, mobile robots.

The NYC Soil & Water Conservation District hosted their first community workshop for the Creating Green Buffers project. This interactive workshop generated a map of the study area—with potential locations marked for green roofs, bioswales, tree pits, green walls, and rainwater harvesting—that is currently being shared with area businesses.

The Greenpoint Business Environmental Stewardship program is in the final stages of its in-depth environmental assessments at two manufacturing companies in Greenpoint, and is in the process of contracting with a third. The project team is planning an informational session for the Greenpoint community about best sustainable manufacturing processes for sometime next year. Relatedly, Evergreen continued outreach to some 630 local businesses regarding the benefits of green infrastructure as project lead of the Greenpoint Industrial Environmental Improvement Program.

In the Large and Legacy Grant category, 9 of the 11 funded projects are continuing their work. The Horticultural Society of New York completed a revitalization of the native pollinator garden for the Monsignor McGolrick Park Restoration grant, one of the three areas to be restored. The renovation of the park’s dog run is nearly complete, and a celebration event is planned for later this fall.

In addition to its successful clean up events, Curb Your Litter: Greenpoint partnered with the Center for Urban Pedagogy to develop a guide for workshops about environmental justice, and solid waste management and reduction.

In May, the four Greenpoint public schools participating in the Greenpoint Eco-Schools program received the “Green Flag Award,” a national honor given to top schools who show exceptional leadership in integrating sustainable principles throughout their schools and curriculum. The Eco-Schools Green STEM Afterschool Clubs, initiated with 2015 GCEF funding, has now provided students with 315 “green” afterschool sessions on waste, water, and wildlife.

This summer, the Greenpoint Library closed and demolition work has begun. The Greenpoint Library and Environmental Education Center, as the new library will be known, is on track to re-open at the end of 2018.

Greenpoint Greenpoint and McCarren Park Urban Farms and Green Infrastructure Corridor are both closing in on their project goals. Newtown Creek Wildflower Roof completed its final area of green roofing. The Intertidal Wetland Project received approval for the second phase of an environmental site assessment. Engineering and design work continues at the Monitor Museum.

A note that in consultation with the Greenpoint Community Advisory Panel (CAP), GCEF decided to end the West Street Watershed Project after it encountered unanticipated problems that would prevent it from achieving its objectives. While this was a very difficult decision, especially in light of the community’s excitement over the project, it was determined that the most responsible course of action was to end the project and re-invest its remaining funds back into other GCEF projects.

In 2018, as the program begins its fifth year of funding on-the-ground-projects, stay tuned for more exciting news!