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Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund Hosts Third Annual OpenHouseGCEF at McGolrick Park This Sat., October 13

Fun eco-friendly activities, TBD and showcasing of GCEF- funded community environmental improvement projects for the entire family!

GCEF, an environmental improvement program of the NYS Office of the Attorney General and DEC, has invested \$67 million in the community's future

GREENPOINT (October 13, 2018)--The Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund (GCEF) and the McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance (MPNA) will team up to host the third annual OpenHouseGCEF event for a fun-filled day for all ages. OpenHouseGCEF annually showcases how GCEF-funded projects are making Greenpoint a healthier, safer, and “greener” place to live. This year’s event will feature an unprecedented 25 GCEF projects!

GCEF (www.gcefund.org) is a \$19.5 million grant program created by the New York State Office of the Attorney General and Department of Environmental Conservation with monies obtained through a settlement with ExxonMobil over its Greenpoint oil spill. Through 61 grants totaling almost \$17 million to 47 projects, coupled with over \$50 million in matching funds secured from grantees, GCEF has invested \$67 million in the Greenpoint community’s environmental future to-date.

“The Attorney General’s Office and DEC created GCEF to ensure that monies obtained in the ExxonMobil oil spill settlement were invested into a cleaner and healthier Greenpoint,” said **Peter Washburn, Office of the Attorney General and GCEF Program Director**. “In close collaboration with Greenpoint residents, GCEF has been an overwhelming success – bringing an investment of \$67 million into environmental improvements across the community. OpenHouseGCEF is an

opportunity to celebrate the continuing ‘greening’ of Greenpoint.”

DEC continues to support the projects funded through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund,” said **Steve Zahn, Regional Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**. “I encourage the community to join us at the open house and learn about the fund’s accomplishments to improve Greenpoint’s environmental awareness.”

“We are grateful for all that the GCEF has done to improve McGolrick Park, and the environment throughout Greenpoint,” said **Ingrid Bromberg-Kennedy, a steering committee member of the McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance and a member of the GCEF Community Advisory Panel**. “We are looking forward to once again hosting the GCEF Open House in McGolrick Park, and the fantastic opportunity it provides to both feature GCEF projects and to celebrate the key role this park plays in our community.”

Activities from OpenHouseGCEF this year will include:

- A daffodil bulb planting scavenger hunt
- a walk with New York City Soil and Water Conservation District to learn how to create green space in industrial areas of eastern Greenpoint
- children’s story time with “green” picture books
- community scanning of documents, photographs and memorabilia to be featured in the Greenpoint Library archive
- exploring the magic of compost in a portable soil play structure and take home a bag of compost made by the MS 126 composter
- making seed bombs to benefit birds, bees and wildlife
- painting river stones to place in the newly renovated PS 110 garden
- how to use soil testing kits, collect soil and read soil test results
- learn how birds adapt to survive, touch feathers and birds skulls and dissect an owl pellet

- get up close with critters from Newtown Creek and observe the “Sewer in a Suitcase”, a model demonstrating how NYC sewers work
- tree and bird identification walks thru McGolrick Park

GCEF-funded projects will exhibit at OpenHouseGCEF, and representatives will be available to discuss the projects and their accomplishments with the community. Featured projects include:

- Environmental Education Shed (“The Ed Shed”), the SAMPLES Project, Gateway to Greenpoint, the Living Dock, the Greenpoint BioRemediation Project and the Intertidal Wetlands Project (led by the Newtown Creek Alliance)
- For the Birds! Environmental Education Program (led by Audubon NY)
- Greenpoint Monitor Museum, USS Monitor Park Shoreline Design Project (led by Greenpoint Monitor Museum)
- Greenpoint Library Environmental Education Center and Youth Environmental Education and Digital Remediation Reporting Project (led by Brooklyn Public Library – Greenpoint Branch)
- Greenpoint Eco-Schools (led by the National Wildlife Federation)
- Greenpoint Citizens Club (led by 61 Franklin Street Community Garden)
- Greenpoint Parks Stewardship, Kosciusko Bridge Design Project and Ziemia Project (led by the Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn)
- Greening Greenpoint: An Urban Forestry Plan and Greening the Industrial Shoreline of Newtown Creek (led by City Parks Foundation)
- Go Green Activity Hub (led by Town Square)
- Improving Sustainable Practices at Java Street Community Garden (led by Java Street Community Garden)

- McGolrick Park Environmental Education Stewardship Project (led by the Horticultural Society of New York)
- McCarren Park Urban Farm and Green Infrastructure Corridor and Lentol Garden Renovation (Grow NYC)
- Newtown Creek Wildflower Roof and Community Space (led by NYC Audubon)
- PS 110 Garden Renovation (led by PS 110 PTA)
- Strengthening our Common Ground: Lead in Soils in Greenpoint (led by Neighbors Allied for Good Growth)

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