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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Second Annual OpenHouseGCEF at McGolrick Park This Sat., Oct. 14**

*Fun eco-friendly activities, community dog contest and showcasing of grant-funded community environmental improvement projects for the entire family!*

BROOKLYN (October 14)--The Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund (GCEF) and the McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance (MPNA) will team up to host the second annual OpenHouseGCEF event for a fun-filled day for all ages. OpenHouseGCEF annually showcases how GCEF-funded projects that are making Greenpoint a healthier, safer, and “greener” place to live. This year’s event also celebrates Msgr. McGolrick Park’s place as a centerpiece of the Greenpoint community.

“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 enjoyed remarkable success – bringing over \$54 million to environmental improvements throughout the community. OpenHouseGCEF is an opportunity for the community to celebrate the continuing ‘greening’ of Greenpoint.”

Activities from OpenHouseGCEF will include:

- a “Dogs of McGolrick” contest and celebration of the Park’s new dog run
- 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
- a look at construction plans for the new green Brooklyn Public Library on Norman Ave.
- creating peddle and solar-powered compost with a cargo bike
- interactive display of Newtown Creek creatures

GCEF 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 46 grants totaling \$16.8 million to 40 projects, coupled with \$37.6 million in matching funds secured from grantees,

GCEF has invested over \$54 million in environmental improvement projects throughout Greenpoint, making our community a healthier, safer, and “greener” place to live.

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:

- McGolrick Park Restoration (led by the Horticultural Society of New York)
- Greening Greenpoint: An Urban Forestry Plan (led by the City Parks Foundation)
- Newtown Creek Wildflower Roof and Community Space (led by NYC Audubon)
- The Living Dock and the Intertidal Wetlands Project (led by the Newtown Creek Alliance)
- Curb Your Litter: Greenpoint (led by the North Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce)

For more information about OpenHouseGCEF, the GCEF and its projects, visit [www.gcefund.org](http://www.gcefund.org).

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