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Dear Community Advisory Panel (CAP),

Happy 2019 from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund (GCEF)! To celebrate the New Year – and GCEF’s upcoming 8th anniversary – we’d like to provide some highlights of GCEF’s activities in 2018.

It’s been another very productive year for this groundbreaking program. With the funding of 6 new projects (and enhancements to 9 existing projects) in 2018, 23 of its GCEF’s 47 funded projects continue to serve the Greenpoint community through environmental education and stewardship, greening our streets and community buildings, enhancing parks and open spaces, and restoring our waterfront.

Some highlights of GCEF’s 2018 follow:

In 2018, GCEF Grants Invested Another \$1.4 Million in Greenpoint

As you may recall, with your help and guidances, GCEF provided another opportunity for GCEF grants in 2018.

Highlights of the 2018 grant round included:

- GCEF issued a Request For Proposals soliciting proposals to:
 - Sustain the benefits of past GCEF-funded work by supporting maintenance, organizational capacity, or enhanced community engagement;
 - Enhance the impact of past GCEF-funded work by targeting a new area of Greenpoint or a new Greenpoint audience; and/or
 - Implement a new project that will realize environmental benefits for a significant portion of the Greenpoint population.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation hosted an online grant application webinar for 24 interested applicants.
- GCEF received 26 funding proposals, requesting \$1,989,616.
- Before awarding 2018 grants, GCEF held a call with the CAP to preview the awards.
- **On June 22, 2018, GCEF awarded Grants totaling \$940,812 to 15 projects**, including 9 grants to expand existing GCEF projects and 6 grants for new projects (see Table 1 below).

- With the combination of **\$472,024 in matching contributions** from grantees, this grant round's investment in Greenpoint totaled **over \$1.4 million**.

Table 1: GCEF 2018 Grant Awards*

Grantee	Project Title	Award Amount	Type of Grant
New York City Audubon Society, Inc.	The Newtown Creek Wildflower Roof and Community Space - II	\$99,557	Enhancement to existing project
Brooklyn Public Library	Greenpoint Environmental Education Center Youth Environmental Education & Digital Remediation Report Acquisition	\$25,287	Enhancement to existing project
National Audubon Society, Inc.	Audubon New York's For the Birds! Environmental Education Program	\$100,000	New project
PS 110K PTA	PS110 Garden Renovation	\$83,725	New project
North Brooklyn Community Boathouse	Environmental Education Shed (Ed Shed)	\$88,784	Enhancement to an existing project
Newtown Creek Alliance	Newtown Creek SAMPLES	\$27,963	Enhancement to an existing project
61 Franklin Street Garden	Greenpoint Citizens Club	\$27,000	Enhancement to an existing project
GrowNYC	Lentol Garden Renovation	\$99,241	New project
Open Space Alliance For North Brooklyn	The Kosciuszko Bridge Design Project	\$100,000	New project
Newtown Creek Alliance	Gateway to Greenpoint	\$30,428	New project
Town Square	Go Green Brooklyn Digital Hub	\$50,000	Enhancement to an existing project
Neighbors Allied for Good Growth	Strengthening Our Common Ground: Lead in Soils in Greenpoint	\$50,000	Enhancement to an existing project
City Parks Foundation	Greening the Industrial Shoreline of Newtown Creek in Greenpoint	\$53,826	Enhancement to an existing project
The Horticultural Society of New York	McGolrick Park Environmental Education Stewardship Project	\$75,000	Enhancement to an existing project

Open Space Alliance For North Brooklyn	Ziemia	\$30,000	New project
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* Visit [the GCEF website](#) for details on these projects

GCEF’s Total Investment in Greenpoint’s Environmental Priorities Has Now Topped \$67 Million

To date, GCEF has awarded 61 grants totaling \$16.6 million to 47 projects and leveraged an additional \$50.4 million in matching contributions from grantees, bringing GCEF’s total investment in improving Greenpoint’s environment to over \$67 million. GCEF-funded projects encompass area parks, education, community spaces, infrastructure, stewardship, and the waterfront in Greenpoint.

As of this writing, 24 of the 47 GCEF funded projects have now closed, including the 6 projects that ended in 2018. In 2019, GCEF will begin winding down the program. As mentioned, the remaining 23 projects are expected to wrap up activities no later than June 2019. Information on the status of GCEF projects can be found at www.gcefund.org/projects/

Once Again Celebrated GCEF’s Contribution to Greenpoint through 3rd Annual OpenHouseGCEF

On October 13, 2018, Greenpointers had another chance to learn first-hand about exciting improvements being made to the community’s environment by some of GCEF’s 47 projects. The 3rd OpenHouseGCEF was held at McGolrick Park, and drew 300 Greenpointers who participated in a range of fun and educational activities hosted by 18 GCEF grantees, representing 28 different GCEF-funded projects.

Attendees enjoyed a lively day at McGolrick Park filled with daffodil bulb planting, free native plant and compost pick-ups, learning about home garden soil testing, owl pellet dissection, live jazz music, a bird and tree identification walk, story time readings of ‘green’ children’s books, and rock painting for PS 110’s garden renovation.

Photos from the day can be found [here](#) and an example of local media coverage is available [here](#).

GCEF Kept Greenpointers “In-the-Loop” through its 5th Edition of the GCEF Newsletter And On-going Community Outreach

Ensuring ongoing engagement and partnership with the Greenpoint community is one of GCEF’s central commitments, and 2018 was another active year – ensuring that Greenpointers were well-informed about GCEF’s 2018 grant opportunities, OpenHouseGCEF 2018, grantee events, and many other GCEF-related activities.

GCEF’s 2018 newsletter provided a roundup of GCEF’s activities, an overview of the program accomplishments, and a pictorial update of GCEF-funded projects. The newsletter was distributed to Greenpointers via eblast, local green markets, at community hot spots, and in backpacks of students from Greenpoint schools. If you haven’t seen it, we encourage you to check out the [2018 GCEF newsletter](#).

In addition, we updated the [GCEF Brochure](#) to reflect the latest program developments.

Highlights of GCEF’s community outreach included:

- **53 tweets sent to GCEF’s over 200 followers.** An example of a GCEF tweet:



- **42 e-blasts sent to our 1,471 GCEF listserv subscribers.**
- **Adding 16 news stories and articles about GCEF and GCEF-funded projects to our website’s [archive of press coverage](#).**

GCEF-Funded Projects Continue to Help “Green” Greenpoint

Throughout the course of 2018, GCEF-funded projects continued to involve and benefit the Greenpoint community. Some examples of GCEF project events follow.

500th New Tree Planted in Greenpoint, April 12, 2018. On April 12, 2018, City Parks Foundation’s Greening Greenpoint planted its 500th tree, a Princeton elm, on Leonard Street. This extremely popular GCEF project has provided the community with new trees, expanded tree

beds, increased permeable surfaces, and involved residents in the care of our local trees. Read more about it [here](#).



Photo: New York State Assemblyman Joe Lentol, representatives from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, the New York State Attorney General's Office, City Parks Foundation's Greening Greenpoint, and members of St. Stans Girl Scout Troop 2832 join in planting the GCEF-funded Greening Greenpoint project's 500th tree on Leonard Street.

Curb Your Litter Wrap, April 18, 2018. The North Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce wrapped up their GCEF-funded community cleanup program. All told, the program engaged 60 volunteers and hosted 12 cleanup events, and removed 5,000 pounds of garbage from Greenpoint's streets.

Earth Day Greenpoint, April 22, 2018. GCEF grantees celebrated Earth Day with the Greenpoint community by sponsoring a range of activities, including:

- Flower dissection and seed bomb making in McGolrick Park by **The Horticultural Society of New York**,
- Tours of the demonstration garden in McCarren Park by **GrowNYC**,
- Stewardship of 31 new street trees on a block of Kingsland Avenue by **City Parks Foundation's Greening Greenpoint**,

- A give-away of 9,600 pounds of compost recycled compliments of community composting by **North Brooklyn Neighbors**, formerly Neighbors Allied for Good Growth, in partnership with the Department of Sanitation,
- Seed bomb making for children by **National Wildlife Federation's Eco Schools** in combination with tours of the bird-friendly Kingsland Wildflowers Green Roof by **NYC Audubon**, and
- A soils workshop and planting event with **Newtown Creek Alliance** and the Urban Soils Institute at the **Kingsland Wildflowers Community Center**.

Go Green! Brooklyn Festival, June 2, 2018. The annual Go Green! Brooklyn Festival was held at McCarren Park. GCEF manned a table at the event, and distributed information about the program, including updates about the 15 new grants awarded in 2018 and recommendations about how residents could get involved with ongoing and new GCEF projects.

The Greenpoint Monitor Museum Public Information Session, June 13, 2018. The Greenpoint Monitor Museum held an information session that provided the community an opportunity to learn more about their GCEF-funded ecological shoreline restoration project as well as to provide feedback on the project's design. Read more about the event [here](#).

Oral History and Scanning Project Kick Off, June 23, 2018. The Greenpoint community was invited to join the Brooklyn Public Library's kick-off of their GCEF-funded oral history and scanning project work. The event introduced the community to the project, one that seeks to document and preserve the neighborhood's environmental history through voice recordings and by scanning a range of personal items brought in by residents. Additional information about the event and the project can be found [here](#).

Third Annual Kingsland Wildflowers Event, September 22, 2018. Greenpointers had a chance to celebrate the third season of programming, education, and research at the GCEF-funded Kingsland Wildflowers event. Participants were able to explore the half-acre, green roof habitat and native plant garden located on the Broadway Stages building. Other North Brooklyn community organizations also participated and featured activities to engage families and children. The green roof provides bird-friendly habitat, reduces polluted stormwater, provides publicly accessible green space, and creates an outdoor education classroom and related environmental education programming for Greenpoint residents.

Bushwick Inlet Streaming, October 20, 2018. The GCEF-funded Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park and North Brooklyn Boat Club held an event for Greenpointers to map the historic Bushwick Inlet directly onto the hardscape. This interactive, family workshop was led by Stacy Levy, an internationally known artist. A video of the event is located [here](#).

Planning Session for Renovation of Lentol Garden, November 7, 2018. GrowNYC held a planning session for community members to participate and provide input on the GCEF-funded renovation of Lentol Garden. This project will renovate and upgrade the 35,000 square foot Lentol Garden, an existing community garden and green space, to spur community involvement in the garden and create a vibrant neighborhood gathering spot.

Soil Safety Workshops, July 21, 2018 and November 17, 2018. With GCEF funding, North Brooklyn Neighbors held two workshops in Greenpoint on lead in the soil and soil safety. Participants learned about lead contamination in exposed soils and steps that can be taken to avoid this contamination. Workshop participants were also offered free soil testing.

Gateway to Greenpoint Visioning Workshop, November 26, 2018. Newtown Creek Alliance used GCEF funding to hold a community-visioning workshop to plan for public and environmental development of a 13,000 square foot city-owned parcel at the corner of Greenpoint and Kingsland Avenues in Greenpoint. Development of the parcel will connect with other public access/restoration projects along Kingsland Avenue, including the GCEF-sponsored Kingsland Wildflowers green roof.

GCEF Continues to Support Its Projects and Grantees

Alas, all of GCEF's projects are slated to wrap up by the end of June 2019. So, in addition to continuing to share these projects and their benefits with the Greenpoint community, GCEF will begin to wind the program down in 2019 and 2020, including archiving GCEF materials for the Greenpoint community.

Further, GCEF is committed to helping to ensure the continued success of its projects – and the organizations implementing them – into the future. To this end, GCEF is developing a workshop for past and current GCEF grantees that will provide training, expertise, and connections to foster the long-term sustainability of both GCEF projects and GCEF grantees. The workshop is proposed for spring 2019. Please stay tuned to www.gcefund.org for related announcements.

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As you can see, 2018 was another busy and productive year for GCEF and for Greenpoint's environment – and we look forward to another year of accomplishments in 2019.

As always, we thank you and your fellow CAP members for your continuing support and assistance to GCEF, and helping with the “greening” of Greenpoint.

If you would like more information about any of the items covered in this update – or anything related to GCEF – please feel free to contact Melissa Gibbons at melissa.gibbons@nfwf.org.

All the best,

Melissa
Director,
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation