

Clean Soil Stockpile in Spring Creek

East New York Farms! has opened the City's first stockpile of clean soil in Spring Creek, Brooklyn.

East New York Farms! (ENYF!), a subsidiary of United Community Centers, has promoted community gardens and farmers markets across East Brooklyn for 20 years. At the stockpile, ENYF! receives clean soil from the New York City Clean Soil Bank and compost from the city Sanitation Department. A contractor mixes the soil and compost into topsoil, which ENYF! distributes to local community gardens.

Since the stockpile opened in April 2019, ENYF! has delivered topsoil to one school garden and seven community gardens, several of which had high levels of lead. The topsoil was placed over the high lead areas in these gardens, reducing any potential exposure.

The ENYF! stockpile also features a dozen raised beds planted and maintained by 35 area gardeners.



The stockpile is a community asset where topsoil is made and distributed at no cost to gardens across East New York, which has the largest number of Green Thumb gardens in the City. More broadly, the ENYF! stockpile can serve as a model of how to address the issue of high lead in soil that exists in some of the City's community gardens.

The ENYF! stockpile is a partnership between the New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) and ENYF! In 2017, ENYF! told OER that it had its eye on a vacant City property on Wortman Avenue and wanted it for a stockpile of clean soil. OER then approached the city Department of Transportation, which issued ENYF! a two-year license for the site this past winter.



ENYF! expects to deliver topsoil to 25 community gardens over the next two years. And starting in fall 2019, ENYF! will offer clean soil and topsoil to individual gardeners who come to the stockpile, located at Wortman Avenue between Lincoln and Autumn Streets.

OER seeks to partner with other non-profits with the interest and capacity to run a stockpile in their community. Community-based organizations interested in learning more about stockpiles of clean soil should [contact OER](#).