



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

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**NYC CLEAN SOIL STOCKPILE ADVANCES SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS;
SUPPORTS AGENCY PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS THROUGHOUT
THE CITY**

NEW YORK—Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) Director Mark McIntyre today announced the accomplishments to date of the NYC Clean Soil Stockpile.

The City stockpile, located in East New York, Brooklyn, opened last September, and today holds 8,000 cubic yards (CY) of clean soil for use by City agencies, private construction projects and for community gardens and other community uses. The clean soil comes from deep excavations at construction sites in OER's land cleanup program.

Soil at the stockpile is free. Generating sites dispose of soil at the stockpile at no cost, and parties receive soil without paying a purchase fee. The soil is also exempt from state solid waste regulations through a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

In the first seven months of operation, the stockpile has received 14,000 cubic yards of soil and distributed a total of 5,729 CY of soil. A fourth of this soil has gone to City agencies, including 1,434 CY to the Department of Environmental Protection to backfill utility trenches; 665 CY to the Department of Parks & Recreation to restore ballfields and open spaces and to the GreenThumb program for distribution to community gardens; 210 CY to the NYC Economic Development Corporation for small capital projects; and 140 CY to the Department of Transportation to fill orange plastic barrels at highway exit ramps. The stockpile has also distributed 3,440 CY to private construction projects and 40 CY to community gardens including the Red Hook Farm, the Umani Garden in Brooklyn, and the Randall's Island Parks Conservancy.

By keeping clean soil in the city rather than trucking it to New Jersey and other destinations, the stockpile and OER's companion Clean Soil Bank, which coordinates direct transfers of soil between generating and receiving sites, has reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the construction industry. Since September 1, the stockpile and Clean Soil Bank have eliminated 195,826 miles of truck trips, preventing the release of 424 metric tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

“With the stockpile, OER seeks to greatly increase the volume of soil recycling within the City and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the construction industry,” said **OER Director Mark McIntyre**. “We are pleased to benefit the environment, support agency and community projects, and save taxpayers’ money.”

The stockpile, which can hold 12,000 cubic yards of soil, is open every Tuesday and Wednesday. Parties interested in using the stockpile or the Clean Soil Bank can [contact OER](#).

“NYC’s farms and gardens have a large need for high-quality soil,” said **Simon Skinner of New York Restoration Project**. “We value that we can pick up soil from the stockpile at no cost and that it comes from within NYC, saving us time and gas.” NYRP manages 80 acres of parkland in Northern Manhattan and 52 gardens across the city and conducts about 20 urban agriculture projects each year through its Gardens for the City program.

For over a decade, the Randall’s Island Urban Farm’s 100+ raised beds and flock of hens have hosted field trips for K-12 students from East Harlem, the South Bronx, and western Queens. It recently received a soil delivery to build out the chicken pasture with clean, lead-free soil, and to build additional planting beds to experiment with growing a crop of potatoes. “All the food we produce is donated to local food pantries, community refrigerators, and incorporated into our educational programming,” said **Ciara Sidell of Randall’s Island Park Alliance**. “The stockpile is allowing us to increase production of food and to continue to safely welcome the public into our chicken pasture to learn about raising chickens in NYC.”

Dr. Sara Perl Egenderf, a post-doctoral researcher at Cornell University, has been studying soil contamination and restoration and conducting research on the NYC Clean Soil Bank for seven years. “Contaminated soils are found all over the world, posing a particular risk to children, people with low incomes, and communities of color,” she said. “Since changing bioavailability doesn’t guarantee effectively mitigating exposure to soil lead, the best thing to prevent exposure is to bring in new soil. Mixing these minerals, which are being dug up anyway, with compost builds clean topsoil to support food justice and food sovereignty. The NYC Clean Soil Stockpile enables this on a large scale, limiting exposure to contaminants and providing free and meaningful resources for communities.”

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