

## OVERVIEW

The Partnerships for Parks Capacity Fund Grant provides up to \$3,000 to strengthen the outreach, membership, and program-planning capacity of community groups who care for their neighborhood parks in all five boroughs of New York City.

- This grant is seed money for volunteer-run groups working with Partnerships for Parks who do not have existing staff, are new to the grant application process, have limited budgets, or do not have an established track record in fundraising.
- This grant covers outreach and materials for hands-on service projects or programming that cultivate long-term stewardship of green spaces. It can also cover general promotional materials for groups and their activities, and infrastructure-related costs such as 501(c)(3) filing fees for groups who demonstrate more advanced fundraising capability.

## DEADLINES AND TIMELINE

### Round 1

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2020**

Earliest notification of decisions: May 31, 2020

### Round 2

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

Earliest notification of decisions: January 31, 2021

**All submissions (emailed or mailed) must be received by 11:59PM on the due date. Late applications post-marked on the due date will not be accepted.**

## FOLLOW THESE STEPS AS YOU BEGIN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING:

The application process should not begin with submitting the proposal. Contact us to go over your ideas first and be available and prompt in your responses during the grant review period.

### WHAT ELSE TO KNOW?

Expect to hear about the funding decision roughly ten weeks after the deadline. Grant-funded projects and activities may only begin after awards are announced.

Grant activities must be completed within one year of receiving the award.

Grant funds must be spent and a grant report submitted upon completion of the project, no more than one year after receiving the grant.

Groups who receive grants may reapply one year after their award date, but must have completed and submitted a final report for all previous grant activities.

- 1** Speak with your outreach coordinator or Catalyst organizer to discuss your project and your group's goals.
- 2** Register for an individual consultation to discuss your group's specific proposal questions with the grants team.
- 3** Be available during the review period to answer questions. Return calls and/or emails promptly.

For information or to register for a consultation, visit

**[www.partnershipsforparks.org](http://www.partnershipsforparks.org)**

or email the grants team at

**[Grants@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:Grants@cityparksfoundation.org)**.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Park and community groups proposing projects for any NYC Parks property throughout the five boroughs. If you are not part of a group, you are strongly encouraged to include a letter of recommendation from the group supporting the park in which you are proposing to do your project.
- Groups who lead projects or programs that engage the community, expand the group's capacity to serve as long-term stewards of green spaces, and are free and open to the public.
- Applicants are not required to have 501(c)(3) status, but if groups are not 501(c)(3) organizations or do not have an outside fiscal sponsor, grant funds can only be accessed by reimbursement or paid invoice directly to vendors.

## PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO

- Groups with a strong history of collaborative work with Partnerships for Parks, NYC Parks, and/or City Parks Foundation and a long-term commitment to stewardship. Participation in and/or leading a Partnerships for Parks It's My Park service project is strongly advised.
- Groups who support neighborhood parks in historically under-resourced areas.
- Volunteer-run groups who have budgets less than \$10,000.
- NYC Parks-focused community groups who have a long-term commitment to their neighborhood park and/or street trees. Groups eligible for GreenThumb, Historic House Trust, or flagship parks resources; non-profits with established staff and funding, and program/service providers using the park as a venue for a one-time event will not be given priority.

## WE DO NOT FUND

- Projects not on NYC Parks property.
- Equipment such as computers, printers, laptops, or tablets.
- Fundraisers or materials that will be sold for profit.
- Capital improvements to parks.
- Staff time. It is our expectation that the programs we fund will be run primarily by volunteers. In cases of paid non-profit staff, salaries must come from a different source. *Exceptions are made for outside consultants such as educators or performers who provide a needed service or expertise and intern stipends when projects provide meaningful youth employment related to parks.*
- Local travel.
- Overhead costs like rent, general liability insurance, utilities, etc.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

Events or programs that bring new audiences to the park and encourage sustainable involvement, small physical improvements or beautification projects, training, filing for 501(c)(3) status, and the production of outreach tools such as newsletters, banners, posters, postcards, or bulletin boards.

Examples of past grantees include:

- **Friends of Travers Park** in Queens received \$2,000 for plant material for park and street trees, quarterly newsletters, flyers, postcards, and banners to increase membership and volunteer efforts.
- **Brooklyn's Coney Island Beautification Project** was awarded \$2,000 for multilingual flyers, a rainwater irrigation system, plants, and 501(c)(3) filing fees.
- **Friends of St. Mary's Park** in the Bronx received \$1,500 for a cultural nonprofit group to perform in the park, community visioning materials, and flyers and posters for advertising.

Groups may submit ONLY ONE of the following applications per round (see Partnerships for Parks' website for the guidelines and applications):

- Project
- Publication
- Website