

## **NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund FAQ**

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**Q1: What is the NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund ?**

**A:** The NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund was formed through the support of and collaboration with national, family, and community foundations to equitably provide support to nonprofits and organizations of all sizes that provide essential maintenance, stewardship, public programming, and management of parks, community gardens, and other open spaces across the five boroughs of New York City.

While COVID-19 is causing unimaginable devastation to our communities and economy, what has remained available to New Yorkers sheltering at home are their parks, the most fundamentally democratic and accessible public resources. Parks are a respite in these extraordinary times, providing critical outlets for stressed New Yorkers to maintain their physical and emotional health. Parks cost money to maintain. Without proper care, public green space can quickly deteriorate, not only damaging the park's aesthetic beauty but leading to serious health and safety issues. Our goal is to identify and draw attention to the impacts of the crisis on our sector and work collaboratively to address our most pressing needs.

The creation of the Fund will help address both immediate and longer-term operational needs such as landscape maintenance and restoration, horticultural care, as well as environmental education, public programming and volunteer efforts. Parks will be critical to our city's recovery – bringing fresh air, active recreation, creativity, and solace. Another surge in park use is expected as distancing regulations are relaxed, and as people feel more comfortable gathering outdoors. With parks playing a critical role in every New York City community, the impact of this funding will be felt across neighborhoods, touching the lives of nearly every New York City resident.

**Q2: Who is eligible for the NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund ? Is there any priority given?**

**A:** Any grassroots community group or nonprofit organization composed of two (2) or more people proposing work in parks and open spaces are eligible for the grant. Groups do not need to have 501(c)3 status to apply.

This grant is open to anyone citywide, however priority will be given to community groups and organizations who have been actively involved/or investing in these spaces. Examples include the nonprofit conservancies that provide park maintenance and operational support, park programming groups, smaller 'friends of parks' groups, and other stewardship groups supporting community gardens, public plazas, and water bodies.

Groups may apply for grants based on their operating budgets. There is an application for groups with budgets generally up to \$10,000 and one application for nonprofits with budgets typically more than \$10,000. If you are not sure which category is appropriate for your group, please contact [NYCGreenFund@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:NYCGreenFund@cityparksfoundation.org).

**Q3: When is the grant deadline? When will I find out about grant decisions?**

**A:** Grassroots groups with operating budgets typically in the \$10,000 or less range

The deadline for groups with operating budgets typically in the \$10,000 or less range is due June 12 (11:59 PM), with notification in mid-July. Projects must be completed within one year of funding receipt, with required reporting at 9 months and project completion.

Nonprofit organizations with operating budgets over \$10,000

The deadline for organizations with operating budgets over \$10,000 is due June 1 (11:59 PM). Funding will be disbursed on or about June 15. Projects must be completed within one year of funding receipt, with required reporting at 9 months and at project completion.

It is likely that there will be additional funding awarded later in the year; those deadlines will be announced as they are determined.

**Q4: What size of grants are you giving out?**

**A:** Grassroots groups with operating budgets typically in the \$10,000 or less range

Grants may be awarded in amounts of \$500, \$1,000, or \$1,500. Grants for \$1,000+ must include a stewardship service project component.

Nonprofit organizations with operating budgets over \$10,000

Grants of up to \$100,000 will be available to larger nonprofits. Multiple nonprofits applying together can access up to \$150,000.

**Q5: What type of work will the grant support?**

**A:** Grassroots groups with operating budgets typically in the \$10,000 or less range

Grants will be given groups that focus on parks and open spaces to support stewardship-related service projects and supplies and provide emergency-related needs (e.g. Personal Protective Equipment, enhanced sanitation measures, remote volunteer training, etc.).

Nonprofit organizations with operating budgets over \$10,000

Grants will be given to support organizational operations, to retain maintenance and operations jobs, volunteer or service project coordination and supplies, employ vulnerable youth or volunteers, emergency-related needs, advocacy efforts related to NYC open space and parks funding, and post-pandemic planning.

**Q6: Is there anything you do not fund?**

**A:** Electioneering, lobbying, and litigation are not eligible for funding. Capital expenses are also not eligible.

**Q7: There is a pandemic right now. How does this impact our grant if we cannot hold stewardship projects?**

**A:** City Parks Foundation works very closely with NYC Parks and is taking our cues from the agency regarding stewardship projects. At this stage, in line with State and City directives, all public gatherings in parks are cancelled through June 30. In the interest of the health and safety of citizens, NYC Parks is not accepting, nor reviewing, event applications for any Special Events or permits. We would recommend that you plan your stewardship project for the fall of 2020 or the spring of 2021, and we will work with you to adjust your project and budget should the need arise as restrictions on public gatherings are lifted or imposed.

You can find more at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/coronavirus>.

**Q8: I am not sure if my project fits into a category. What should I do?**

**A:** We will be hosting two webinars with an emphasis on groups with budgets under \$10,000, please register at <https://cityparksfoundation.org/nyc-green-fund/>. The webinars will be occurring in late May and early June and a recording will be available. You should reach out to City Parks Foundation directly at [NYCGreenFund@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:NYCGreenFund@cityparksfoundation.org) with any grant-related questions.

**Q9: What will the funding decisions be based on?**

**A:** Funding criteria will differ based on your budget size. You can find the criteria on our grant guidelines for grassroots groups with operating budgets typically in the \$10,000 or less range [here](#) and nonprofit organizations with operating budgets over \$10,000 [here](#).

**Q10: How are decisions made about the grant?**

**A:** Grant making decisions are governed by a Steering Committee comprised of the funders who have contributed to create the NYC Green Fund.

**Q11: How much money is being administered through the Fund?**

**A:** The starting pool of funds is \$2.3 million; we anticipate that this sum will increase as additional funders lend their support to this effort.

**Q12: How many grant rounds will there be?**

**A:** There is only one round right now; we anticipate future grant rounds may be announced in fall 2020 and possibly spring 2021.

**Q13: What if groups already have an open grant with City Parks Foundation (i.e. Partnerships for Parks' Capacity Fund Grant)? Are they eligible to apply for the NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund?**

**A:** Yes, all groups are eligible whether or not they have open grants with Partnerships for Parks/City Parks Foundation.

**Q14: My group is not a 501c3. If I receive a grant, what happens to the money?**

**A:** City Parks Foundation offers grant-only fiscal sponsorship with no administrative fee. This means that we create an account and hold the money for you.

**Q15: I want to get involved, care for, and advocate for my park on a more regular basis. How should I go about doing this?**

**A:** Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks, employs outreach coordinators in every borough to support community members and groups who want to get involved in their local parks. They are the liaisons between the community and the NYC Parks Department and can connect you to other resources, the right contacts, and to other groups in your community. You can contact Partnerships for Parks to be connected to your outreach coordinator [here](#).