



A joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks.

**CITY PARKS FOUNDATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS ANNOUNCE
\$473,000 IN GRANTS FOR 68 GRASSROOTS VOLUNTEER GROUPS CARING FOR
PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ACROSS NYC**

**NYC GREEN FUND GRANTS ARE PART OF AN EXPANSION OF THE NYC GREEN
RELIEF & RECOVERY FUND CREATED AT THE HEIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC**

Funding supports local groups sustaining parks and open spaces in the wake of the pandemic as awareness grows around the importance of urban green space for public health and mitigating extreme heat

October 3, 2023 -- New York, NY -- Today, **City Parks Foundation** and **Partnerships for Parks** announced the selection of 68 grant recipients through the [NYC Green Fund's](#) Grassroots grants program. These 68 NYC-based community groups will receive grants of up to \$30,000 to support open space stewardship, environmental action, organizational development, health and wellness, youth engagement, and live arts and culture programs in parks, gardens, and open spaces.

Grants have been distributed across New York City with a focus on Environmental Justice Areas, identified as low-income or minority communities that are more vulnerable to environmental injustices due to a history of systemic racism and inequitable resource distribution. Concentrating the funds in these areas aligns with the mission of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice to work towards a City where all New Yorkers can live, work, learn, and play in healthy, resilient, and sustainable neighborhoods — now and into the future.

*“Every New Yorker deserves safe, clean and active green spaces within their local neighborhoods,” said **Heather Lubov, executive director of City Parks Foundation.** “With the contributions of the NYC Green Fund and its funders, we are thrilled that these grants will help assist hyper-local efforts that support communities to realize this goal all around the city.”*

*“As we continue to face significant environmental, economic, and social challenges as a City, we look to our parks and green spaces for much-needed shade, cleaner air, and a connection to nature and each other,” said **Sabina Saragoussi, director of Partnerships for Parks.** “Through the NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant, we have expanded our support of community-led efforts which ensure these spaces are vibrant and accessible centers of*

environmental activism, wellness, and culture. This is particularly important for communities disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.”

The recipients were selected through an open call and application process, then reviewed with an inclusive, collaborative, consensus-based approach. A majority of the organizations funded contain substantial BIPOC leadership, are broadly inclusive, and plan to work with neighborhood artists, youth, and small-business owners, benefiting local communities exponentially. Project highlights include:

- Garden beautification program at the NYCHA Amsterdam Houses in Harlem to absorb rain water, improve soil, and impact public safety, provided by **Amsterdam Together**
- Weekly community-supported agriculture program providing low-cost, farm-fresh produce for community members in need, as well as arts programming and an Earth Day celebration, both organized by and supporting a 50-garden collective known as **LUNGS** on the Lower East Side
- Stewardship of the urban canopy on Roosevelt Island, led by **iDig2Learn**
- Street tree maintenance, rain gardens, community clean-ups, and an art-mobile providing public art workshops in Hollis, led by **Abuela Neighborhood Maintenance**
- The renovation of a bioswale—green infrastructure designed to filter and absorb stormwater—to reduce runoff, improve water quality, support ecosystem health, strengthen community bonds, and beautify Crown Heights, led by **Walt L. Shamel Community Garden**
- Kayaking on the Red Hook and Washington Heights waterfronts, provided by **Red Hook Boaters** and **Uptown Paddling**
- Skateboard clinics in Brownsville, led by **Environmental Hood Restoration**
- Basketball team and mentorship program empowering hundreds of young people in Harlem, providing positive alternatives to street violence, led by **JumpShots over GunShots**
- Installation of safety features in Maker Park, an open space for cultural events on Staten Island that has been struggling with illegal dumping and misuse, led by **Maker Park Radio**
- Sunset meditation at Socrates Sculpture Park, led by **Mindful Astoria**

*“Receiving this grant catapults our efforts to draw humans closer to nature in NYC”, said **iDig2Learn founder Christina Delfico**. “Stay tuned for exciting experiences within our expanding urban forest that invite all to see trees as ‘who’ and not ‘what’ thanks to Partnerships for Parks [NYC Green Fund] and City Parks Foundation’s support of our ‘Seeing the Forest for the Trees’ initiative.”*



The NYC Green Fund was unveiled during the pandemic to support essential stewardship for the city’s green spaces and has since evolved into a longer-term program to provide financial, network, and technical support for open space stewards in order to create a more resilient and equitable New York City parks ecosystem. The Fund is administered by City Parks Foundation with the grassroots grants program managed by Partnerships for Parks (PfP)—a joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks.

Full list of 2023 NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant recipients

The Bronx

Bronx Institute for Urban Systems
Bronx River Community Garden
Center for Community Engaged Learning
Direct Rapid Irrigation Program LLC
Eastchester Road Community Garden
Friends of 4 Parks Alliance, Inc.
Orisha Wholeness

Brooklyn

Age Friendly Central Brooklyn, Inc
Arts & Democracy, Inc.
Canarsie Neighborhood Alliance
El Grito
Environmental Hood Restoration
Friendly Pickleball
Friends of Asser Levy Park
Friends of Garden Kitchen Lab
Friends of McGolrick Park
Marine Park Alliance
Marion Street Park Block Association
Narrows Botanical Gardens Inc
Newkirk Community Garden
One Whale's Tale
Parachute Literary Arts
Prospect Heights Community Farm
Red Hook Boaters
The Friends of Brownsville Parks

The Hanging Gardens of Brooklyn
Walt L Shamel Community Garden

Manhattan

A Living Library Think Park & Gardens
Amsterdam Together
Carrie McCracken Truce Garden
Connectemonos
Courtney's Stars of Tomorrow
Friends of Corlears Hook Park
Friends of Montgomery Triangle Park
iDig2Learn
Isham Park Restoration Program 1970, Inc.
JumpShots Over GunShots
Loisaida Open Streets Community Coalition
LUNGS (Loisaida United Neighborhood Gardens)
Lydia's Magic Garden
Malcolm X Boulevard Beautification Group
PROJECT HARMONY, INC
Salsa Stories
SamyuktaNYC
The Japanese Folk Dance Institute of New York
Uptown Paddling
West 123rd St. Community Garden
West 132nd Street Community Garden

Queens

Abuela Neighborhood Maintenance
Alliance for FMCP
Forest Hills Community Garden
Friends of Alley Pond Park (FoAPP)
Hallets Cove Playground Association
Hosanna Quality of Life Development Center Inc
International Girls Ensemble
Kissena Synergy Velodrome Friends Group
Living Faith Community Development Corporation
LONG LIVE LINDEN
Mindful Astoria
Moore Jackson Community Garden



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Queensboro Dance Festival
Sunset Garden
The Kunqu Society

Staten Island

Conference House Park Conservancy Inc
Friends of Tompkinsville Park
H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths
Maker Park Radio
Roc-A-Natural Cultural Foundation Inc

About the NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program

The NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program is intended to advance the viability of grassroots initiatives across parks and open spaces in all five boroughs and to foster a resilient network of equitable public green spaces. The NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program provides support for a range of programming areas including open space stewardship, environmental action, organizational development, health and wellness, youth engagement, and live arts and culture. With direct funding and technical assistance, diverse community groups will receive support in their work to activate and enrich parks and open spaces across NYC. To contribute to the NYC Green Fund [donate now](#) or contact greenfundgrassroots@cityparksfoundation.org for more information.

Generous private support for the NYC Green Fund is provided by the Albert Giving Fund, Altman Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, The Charles H. Revson Foundation, Essex Avenue Foundation, The J.M. Kaplan Fund, The JPB Foundation, Klein Family Foundation, Leon Levy Foundation, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Libra Fund, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Monarch Foundation, The New York Community Trust, and The Thompson Family Foundation.

For more information on the NYC Green Fund, visit cityparksfoundation.org/nyc-green-fund-2.

About City Parks Foundation

At City Parks Foundation, we are dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community building and education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs -- located in more than 300 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach 275,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: thriving parks mean thriving communities.



About Partnerships for Parks

Partnerships for Parks is a unique public-private partnership between City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks that supports and champions neighborhood volunteers by providing the tools needed to advocate and care for neighborhood parks and green spaces. We equip people, organizations, and government with the necessary skills and resources to ensure these spaces are dynamic community assets. More information about Partnership for Parks is available at partnershipsforparks.org.

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