



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED \$913,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO 32 MID-SIZE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROGRAM AND SUPPORT PARKS, OPEN SPACES IN NYC

Funding supports local groups sustaining parks and open spaces as awareness grows around the importance of urban green space for public health and mitigating climate change

December 19, 2023 – New York, NY – City Parks Foundation, a New York-based independent nonprofit offering free programs in public parks in the five boroughs, announced the selection of 32 grantees through the [NYC Green Fund](#)'s Treetops Grants program. These 32 NYC-based nonprofits received either one- or two-year grants of up to \$40,000 annually to support a wide range of projects in parks and open spaces in New York City, including stewardship, environmental action, organizational development, health and wellness, youth engagement, and live arts and culture. Overall, a total of **\$913,000** was distributed to organizations.

Projects were selected for funding across New York City with a focus on Environmental Justice Areas, identified as low-income or minority communities that are more vulnerable to injustices due to a history of systemic racism and inequitable resource distribution. Concentrating 60% of 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.

The Treetops grants complement City Parks Foundation's October 2023 announcement of grants awarded through the Fund's Grassroots grants program, which supports groups with annual operating budgets of up to \$175,000. Treetops grants picks up where grassroots stops, by supporting small and mid-sized organizations with annual operating budgets of between \$175,000 and \$2.5 million. In early 2024, City Parks Foundation will launch two funding opportunities including a new round of the Grassroots grant program dedicated to supporting community-led programming and the Pathways grant program, intended to identify solutions to systemic challenges faced by the open space sector.

"With the environmental, economic, and social challenges facing our City, we look to our parks for recreation, respite, and connection to nature and each other," **said Heather Lubov, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation**. "Through the NYC Green Fund Treetops grant program, we are thrilled to galvanize private support for community-driven projects to ensure that the network of individuals and organizations dedicated to parks and open space stewardship is both equitable and resilient."

"It is hard to overstate how important clean, vibrant parks are to urban neighborhoods. They encourage healthy activities, strengthen community connections, and often drive localized



economic development — all while helping clean the air, reduce water pollution, and cool our streets,” **said Arturo Garcia-Costas, Senior Program Officer, New York Community Trust and Co-Chair, NYC Green Fund.** With this latest round of NYC Green Fund Treetops grants, we’re helping create a stronger, healthier, and more equitable New York.”

The recipients were selected through an open call and application process and then reviewed by a committee of NYC Green Fund supporters with a collaborative, consensus-based approach. City Parks Foundation serves as the grants administrator. Project highlights include:

- Culturally-affirming arts and stewardship activities provided by **Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice** in an area of the Bronx that is breaking free from a history of environmental and racial injustice.
- **Futures Ignite**’s science education and green infrastructure care along the Clean Air Green Corridor, a hub of young leadership and community action on the 182nd Street Open Streets in Manhattan.
- **Friends of Alice Austen House** revitalizing under-utilized areas of Alice Austen Park on Staten Island to create a new native pollinator garden and educational programs around sustainability and personal identity.
- Strengthening connections between Brooklyn-based **Fort Greene Park Conservancy and Friends of Commodore Barry Park** by expanding volunteer and cultural programs and investing in organizational development to further their shared mission.
- **Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park**’s stewardship program to engage volunteers in caring for Queens’ flagship green space and to empower area youth with paid green workforce development opportunities.
- **Green Guerrillas** creating pathways across NYC for the employment for BIPOC youth through skill-building workshops, connections with leaders in food and environmental justice, and hands-on engagement in community gardens.

Full list of NYC Green Fund Treetops grantees:

- Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park
- Bronx Land Trust
- Bronx River Alliance, Inc.
- CatRock Ventures, Inc.
- Concrete Safaris Inc.
- Dancewave Inc.
- Fast Feet Running and Athletics, Inc.
- Fort Greene Park Conservancy, Inc.
- Freshkills Park Alliance
- Friends of Alice Austen House, Inc.
- Futures Ignite
- Gowanus Canal Conservancy



- Green Guerillas, Inc
- Guardians of Flushing Bay
- I Challenge Myself
- Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy
- Newtown Creek Alliance
- NYC Audubon
- NYC H2O
- Parent-Child Relationship Association Inc.
- Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation
- RISE Rockaway
- Socrates Sculpture Park
- Sunnyside District Management Association
- The Bronx is Blooming
- The Forest Park Trust Inc.
- The Mary Mitchell Center
- The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art (MoCADA)
- Van Cortlandt Park Alliance
- We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.
- Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum
- Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Inc.

For more information on the program, visit www.cityparksfoundation.org/nycgreenfund

About the NYC Green Fund Treetops grant program

The NYC Green Fund Treetops grant program provides funding for small- to mid-size organizations that program, steward, and advocate for parks and open spaces across NYC's five boroughs. The grant program offers support for a range of programming areas including stewardship, environmental action, organizational development, health and wellness, youth engagement, and live arts and culture. With direct funding and technical assistance, diverse partners 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 bfidler@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, Con Edison, 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, The Monarch Foundation, The New York Community Trust, and The Thompson Family Foundation.

For more information on the NYC Green Fund, visit www.cityparksfoundation.org/nycgreenfund.

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.

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