



A joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks.

CITY PARKS FOUNDATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS ANNOUNCE \$343,900 IN GRANTS FOR 58 GRASSROOTS VOLUNTEER GROUPS CARING FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ACROSS NYC

NYC GREEN FUND GRASSROOTS GRANTS WILL ADVANCE INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES ACROSS THE FIVE BOROUGHS

Funding supports local groups volunteering in parks to address pressing concerns including tackling adverse health outcomes, mitigating climate change, and supporting migrant communities with a focus on our city's most vulnerable neighborhoods

May 30, 2024 -- New York, NY -- Today, **City Parks Foundation** and **Partnerships for Parks** announced the selection of 58 grant recipients through the [NYC Green Fund](#)'s Grassroots grants program. These local groups will receive grants from \$1,220 to \$36,800 to support open space stewardship, live arts and culture, health and wellness, environmental action, organizational development, and youth development programs in parks and open spaces across New York City.

The grants have been awarded with a focus on Environmental Justice Areas, majority BIPOC-led community groups, and groups with budgets under \$50,000, targeting communities that are most vulnerable to environmental injustices and working towards a city where all people can live, work, and play in communities that are safe, healthy, and free of harmful environmental conditions.

*"With the help of the NYC Green Fund and its funders, we are able to support hard-working community groups across our city that are ensuring neighborhood green spaces are clean, safe, and active," said **Heather Lubov, executive director of City Parks Foundation**. "These important local initiatives benefit our city and we are thrilled to be able to advance these efforts."*

*"Our city parks and green spaces provide cooling shade, cleaner air, and space for connection, respite, and joy," said **Sabina Saragoussi, director of Partnerships for Parks**. "Through the NYC Green Fund Grassroots grants program, we provide much-needed support to community partners to ensure these spaces are centers of wellness, culture, and environmental activism."*

The recipients were selected through an open call and application process, then reviewed through an intensive, collaborative, consensus-based method that included staff and leadership across NYC Parks and City Parks Foundation. The funded projects are unique and creative; providing community-led solutions to community-identified needs; highlighting the diverse cultures and art forms that make our city shine; creating experiences that engage and involve

neighborhood youth and senior citizens; promoting green, resilient communities with native plants and pollinators; increasing our tree canopy; focusing on nutrition and holistic wellness; and tackling some of the our most pressing issues as a city with compassion and care.

Project highlights include:

- A mass beach cleanup at Rockaway Beach, expert panel, participatory art build and spectacle performance involving community members at all levels by **Artichoke Dance Company**. The project will transform collected plastic waste into a simulated floating trash patch including QR codes for signing plastic-reducing legislation and will outfit participants in the upcycled trash at the Mermaid Parade as its first-ever environmental display.
- A group of community gardeners with disabilities will transform an underutilized area of Chappetto Square in Queens with raised beds and gardening tools designed with accessibility in mind by **Friends of Triboro G**.
- **Seed Healing Network** will host a holistic clinic for community members at and near the NYCHA Queensbridge Houses, the largest public housing complex in North America, will provide acudetox and reiki therapy as well as Narcan supplies, and will create a multilingual zine and local resource guide highlighting shelters, primary care, food pantries, and affordable holistic services.
- A community center without walls in Brownsville, Brooklyn will provide a summer play street program for young people to enhance their academic, athletic, and artistic skills and postsecondary aspirations while building both peer and inter-generational relationships across their community by **Empowering Youth Towards Excellence**.
- “Beyond Memorial,” a youth-led program that will create an art and healing justice response to gun violence and loss through temporary light installations as an alternative to NYPD light towers, planned by **Liminal** in collaboration with the Brownsville Community Justice Center in Brooklyn.
- Two months of weekly performances and art workshops around the theme of Bed-Stuy legends and legacies by **STooPS Art and Community**.
- A healthy eating program distributing organic produce from local farmers including seminars on superfoods, salads, and green juices and smoothies targeting low-income immigrant families and people of color in order to reverse negative health outcomes by **Friends of Devoe Park** in the Bronx.
- Monthly learning circles facilitated by the South Bronx Farmers around the rewards of growing and eating healthy, organic foods, with a focus on special needs community members and intergenerational knowledge sharing by **La Finca del Sur**.
- A public film series featuring up and coming Latinx filmmakers by **Latino Film Market Inc.**

- Expanding a youth soccer program by hiring new coaching staff and providing material resources to children of newly arrived immigrants by **Uptown Soccer, Inc.**
- Uplifting tea and its potential as a catalyst for community engagement across cultures by **Tea Arts & Culture.**
- Creating a lecture series to educate community members around Olmsted Beil House, a 324-year-old historic site, to galvanize restoration of the house by the **Friends of Olmsted Beil House.**

The NYC Green Fund was launched 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 2024 NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant recipients

The Bronx

El Rincon Criollo Centro Cultural Inc.
 Friends of Devoe Park
 Friends of Echo Park
 James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc
 Kelly Street Garden (KSG)
 La Finca del Sur
 Leave It Better Foundation Inc.
 Mapes Avenue Garden
 Morrisania Band Project
 Stewards of Ewen Park
 *Tibbetts Brook Beautification Association
 Uptown & Boogie Healthy Project

Brooklyn

1100 Block Bergen Street Community Garden
 Artichoke Dance Company, Inc.
 ASNEAA, Inc.
 Central x South East Brooklyn CDC
 Cooper St. Garden
 Empowering Youth Towards Excellence Inc



**PARTNERSHIPS
for PARKS**

A joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks.

Friends of South Oxford Park Inc.
Friends of WNYC Transmitter Park
Jane Bailey Memorial Garden
Liminal
*Owl's Head Park Volunteers
*Rooney Triangle Fund Initiative
STooPS Art & Community, LLC
Sunset Park Waterfront Education Center Conservancy
Vernon Cases Community Garden

Manhattan

*500 West 150th St Block Association
Art in the Park Inc
Diamante Garden
FLEX-N-POETTREE
Frederick Douglass Boulevard (FDB) Community Garden
Friends of Ralph Bunche
Friends of Tompkins Square Park
Latino Film Market Inc
Montefiore Park & Neighborhood Association
*More Gardens Fund
Parijata Performance Projects
Pleasant Village Community Garden
*Proyecto de Embellecimiento 137th Street Beautification Project
Sixth Street & Avenue B Community Garden (aka 6B Garden)
Stuyvesant Park Gardeners
Tea Arts & Culture
Uptown Soccer, Inc
Walking in the Spirit Productions/Arts and Jazzfest NYC
Washington Heights & Inwood (WHIN) Food Council

Queens

Friends of Arverne and Cardozo Parks, Inc.
Friends of Juniper Valley Park
Friends of Phil Rizzuto 'Smokey' Park, NY
Friends of Triboro G
Green Earth Urban Gardens Inc
*Jackson Heights Beautification Groups
NYSOM Group



Seed Healing Network
The Garden by the Bay

Staten Island

Conference House Association
Friends of Olmsted-Beil House
Westerleigh Parks Coalition Corp.

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, 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.

*These grantees are participating in tree planting initiatives through the NYC Green Fund's Urban Forest Grants, brought to you by Con Edison.



For more information on the NYC Green Fund, visit 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.

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 to advocate and care for neighborhood parks and green spaces. We equip people, organizations, and government with the skills, tools, 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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