

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CITY PARKS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$140,000 IN
WILDFIRE RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS CARING FOR AREAS
IMPACTED BY 2024 NYC WILDFIRES**

Five grants awarded to help support recovery efforts in NYC

March 11, 2025 - New York, NY - Today, [City Parks Foundation](#) announced that they have awarded \$140,000 in wildfire rapid response grants through the NYC Green Fund to parkland organizations that experienced significant fire damage in the fall of 2024. Climate change continues to exacerbate drought and extreme weather, with 230+ fires reported in 15 parks across NYC between October 29 - November 15, 2024, a record for a two-week period in city history. These grants, urgently organized and awarded in response to last year's wildfires, will provide funding to support recovery efforts for natural areas with more than one acre burned, including site stabilization and native plantings. These awardees include local stewards and partners that provide system-wide guidance and support for our urban forests and natural areas.

"The recent and unprecedented wildfires critically damaged our city's essential park spaces, and this funding will help begin the necessary restoration," said Heather Lubov, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation. "Although this funding is modest, we hope it will spur others to step up and add to these grants to ensure that all of the affected natural areas are repaired."

"Climate change continues to bring a variety of risks to New York City and its natural areas, and having unpredictable staffing and fewer resources to care for these spaces has made it difficult to prevent wildfires and mount a recovery response when necessary." said Sarah Charlop-Powers, executive director of the the Natural Areas Conservancy. "The NAC is extremely grateful for the generous support of the NYC Green Fund, which will allow us to work closely with our conservancy partners affected by wildfires to ensure that our natural areas are restored and managed for climate resiliency."

Friends of Inwood Hill Park in Manhattan will engage in erosion control and the planting of native trees and shrubs in the areas affected by wildfires. Their hope is that this will complement natural regeneration and encourage the succession of the oak and hickory forest.

Marine Park Alliance in Brooklyn experienced fires across nearly six acres of preserved land. They will plant native shrubs and herbaceous material and remove invasive plants to favor the recruitment of native species. They plan to utilize their close relationship to the Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department, who will advise them in their efforts to curb future fires.

The **Natural Areas Conservancy** (NAC) champions urban natural areas in New York City and across the nation through innovative research, partnerships, and advocacy. Utilizing funding from the grant,



the NAC will help support grantees with plant selections and quantities that align with the affected areas' forest community types and long-term goals for site habitats.

Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn will utilize funds for a three-year restoration of the Ravine fire site. They plan to stabilize damaged slopes, remove invasive plants and hazardous trees, decompact the soil, and plant native species. The Alliance will collaborate with researchers from the Natural Resources Group, Natural Areas Conservancy, and others to monitor their progress and share findings with other parks groups in New York City.

Van Cortlandt Park Alliance in the Bronx will plant native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous materials at three of the sites that were affected by wildfires. These sites include Northwest Woods, Croton Woods, and Northeast Woods areas of the park.

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

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, Freedom Together Foundation, The J.M. Kaplan Fund, Klein Family Foundation, Leon Levy Foundation, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Libra Fund, The Monarch Foundation, The New York Community Trust, and The Thompson Family Foundation. The NYC Green Fund's Urban Forest Grants are brought to you by Con Edison. Additional support provided by The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

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 environmental education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs -- located in more than 400 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach over 285,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: thriving parks mean thriving communities.

About the NYC Green Fund

The NYC Green Fund is a pooled grant program intended to support an equitable and resilient network of parks and open spaces to benefit the well-being of all New Yorkers. The 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. The NYC Green Fund is administered by City Parks Foundation.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Hallie Grossman / hallie_grossman@dkcnews.com

Lena Lee / lena_lee@dkcnews.com

Jeanna Chin / JChin@CityParksFoundation.org

Ellie Plass / EPlass@CityParksFoundation.org