



**CITY PARKS FOUNDATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS ANNOUNCE  
\$514,000 IN GRANTS FOR 78 COMMUNITY GROUPS  
VOLUNTEERING IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ACROSS NYC**

**NYC GREEN FUND GRASSROOTS GRANTS WILL PROVIDE FUNDING TO SUPPORT  
ISSUES FROM EXTREME HEAT AND AIR POLLUTION TO HEALTH DISPARITIES AND  
FOOD INSECURITY**

*The NYC Green Fund is a lifeline to frontline communities at a time when funding to address equity, environmental justice, and climate change is under threat*

**May 12, 2025 -- New York, NY -- City Parks Foundation** and **Partnerships for Parks** announced today the selection of 78 grant recipients to receive a total of \$514,000 in funding through the 2025 spring round of the [NYC Green Fund](#) Grassroots grants program. Of the groups, 63 are new applicants and 15 are returning second-year grantees. Founded to address the devastating impact of the COVID-19 crisis on open space in New York City, the Fund transformed into 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.

Since the fiscal crisis of the 1970s, hundreds of community groups across the city — many in under-resourced areas and working with low or no budgets — have volunteered to provide critical care and programming for local green spaces, rescuing them from neglect and disrepair. These groups rely on outside funding and support to keep their work going and in turn, New Yorkers rely on these groups to sustain the green spaces necessary for a healthy, thriving, and resilient city.

With funding for programming addressing equity, climate change, and environmental justice under threat, the future of organizations of all sizes addressing these issues hangs in the balance. Funding sources like the NYC Green Fund are a lifeline for smaller community groups sustaining neighborhood parks, many of whom are from Environmental Justice Areas (which experience disproportionate environmental hazards resulting from pervasive social inequities), BIPOC communities, migrant communities, communities with higher-than-average poverty levels, LGBTQ + communities, elderly communities, and other vulnerable populations.

The current round of the NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program will provide grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$23,000 to support stewardship and activation of local parks and



open spaces across the city with live arts and culture, environmental action, tree canopy expansion, youth development, and health and wellness programming. The Grassroots grants program focuses on Environmental Justice Areas, majority BIPOC-led community groups, and groups with budgets under \$50,000; supporting communities that experience historic and continuing disparities including systemic racism and disinvestment.

The vision of the NYC Green Fund is to create a resilient and equitable NYC parks ecosystem for the benefit of all New Yorkers. 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. This year marks the 30th anniversary of PfP, the largest community engagement program for local parks in NYC. PfP has been bringing New Yorkers together across neighborhoods, backgrounds, and sectors to help local green spaces thrive since 1995.

*"We are proud to center equity in our work supporting community groups in New York City who care for local parks," said **Sabina Saragoussi, director of Partnerships for Parks**. "With the help of the NYC Green Fund, we can help our partners enliven and enrich these important community spaces, particularly those that need it the most. Our community partners rely on this support, and we rely on them to care for our parks, which are essential to the health and well-being of our city."*

*"Parks rely on the generosity of hundreds of grassroots volunteers to help maintain and activate them and these volunteers rely on our support," said **Heather Lubov, executive director of City Parks Foundation**. "As vulnerable communities across New York City face an uncertain future, the NYC Green Fund will continue to be a lifeline for those volunteering to do the needed work of sustaining neighborhood parks."*

*"At NYC Parks, we know that community groups are the beating heart of our city parks. The NYC Green Fund Grassroots grants ensure that these passionate stewards will continue to have the tools they need to keep our greenspaces vibrant, inclusive, and resilient," said **NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue**. "We are proud to support this critical investment in environmental justice, equity, and community leadership, and we look forward to continuing our work with community groups across the city to care for our shared parks and greenspaces."*

The funded projects tackle environmental and social issues facing New York communities including extreme heat and wildfires, green space neglect, food insufficiency, lack of youth programming, health inequity, cultural loss, and tree canopy disparities with creative, community-based responses such as environmental education, pollinator habitats, urban farming, food distributions, green internships, cultural preservation, and tree planting.



#### Grantee project highlights:

- **Friends of Inwood Hill Park:** Will lead monthly educational events in Manhattan for children to learn about fire ecology and forest regeneration work happening in the aftermath of last year's wildfires.
- **Leadlights Ensemble:** Will host performances in underutilized parks across Northern Manhattan that combine live music, interactive storytelling, and book giveaways for local children.
- **Ujamaa Garden:** Will transform an overgrown lot with pollinator gardens, bi-weekly food distributions, and a Caribbean cultural celebration in an effort to reach young mothers in the Eastchester section of the Bronx.
- **Bee University NYC:** Will provide a comprehensive youth development program, introducing local youth to a variety of green jobs from beekeeping to coastal restoration via a partnership with Billion Oyster Project on Staten Island.
- **Three and a Half Acres Yoga:** Will provide weekly trauma-informed yoga classes to underserved communities and training for instructors to build organizational capacity in multiple boroughs.
- **Garifuna Heritage Center for the Arts and Culture, Inc:** Will keep Garifuna language and culture alive through music and dance workshops, language and storytelling events, and large public performances in the Bronx.
- **iDig2Learn:** Will care for over 100 trees and encourage people of all ages to "See the Forest" through environmental education. A previous NYC Green Fund grant helped them gain support to start a new pocket forest in NYC.
- **Living Faith Development Corporation:** Will connect over a dozen immigrant girls from Flushing to outdoor experiences across NYC. This program was launched with a previous NYC Green Fund grant and is expanding with this continued support.

#### Full list of Spring 2025 NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant recipients

##### **The Bronx**

Bridge Play Foundation Inc.  
Decatur Block Association Inc  
Drew Community Garden  
El Rincon Criollo Centro Cultural Inc.  
Friends of Devoe Park\*\*  
Garifuna Heritage Center for the Arts and Culture, Inc.  
James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc\*\*  
Kelly Street Garden\*\*  
La Finca del Sur\*\*  
Morrisania Band Project\*\*



Stewards of Ewen Park\*

Ujamaa Garden

### **Brooklyn**

Crown Heights CARE Collective

Edison Youth Recreation Center

Fred McLeod Community Garden

Friends of Brower Park

Friends of Bush Terminal

Friends of Irving Square Park\*

Friends of Lentol Garden\*

Friends of McGolrick Park

Friends of Raymond Bush Playground

Friends of St. Andrews Playground

Friends of WNYC Transmitter Park\*\*

La Casita Verde Community Garden

Marine Park Alliance

New York City Disc Golf Association

Ocean by the Park Tree Club\*

One Whale's Tale

PaleFO Cinema

Prospect Lefferts Gardens Heritage Council Inc.

Rap CIdy D is 4 Dope

The Flatbush African Burial Ground Coalition

The Hanging Gardens of Brooklyn

Union Street Garden and Community Development

### **Manhattan**

136 St. Green Initiative & Community Enhancement Block Association\*

Central Harlem Compost\*

Connectemonos

FLEX-N-POETREE\*\*

Frederick Douglass Boulevard Community Garden\*\*

Friends of Bennett Park

Friends of Bogardus Plaza, inc

Friends of Inwood Hill Park\*

Friends of Tompkins Square Park

iDig2Learn\*

Jazz WaHi, Inc.



La Plaza Cultural Armando Perez Community Garden  
Latino Film Market Inc\*\*  
Leadlights Ensemble  
More Gardens Fund  
Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association  
Proyecto de Embellecimiento 137th Street Beautification Project\*\*  
Rotary Club of Harlem  
Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition  
Stuyvesant Park Gardeners\*\*  
The Japanese Folk Dance Institute of New York  
Uptown Soccer, Inc\*\*  
Washington Heights & Inwood (WHIN) Food Council\*\*

#### **Queens**

227th Street Cambria Heights Community Garden  
Edgemere Alliance  
Friends of Yellowstone Park  
Halletts Playground Alliance  
NYSOM Group\*\*  
South Jamaica Infinity Garden  
Tail Waggers Task Force  
The Garden by the Bay\*\*  
Western Queens Food Co-op

#### **Staten Island**

Bee University NYC  
Forgotten Foods  
Friends Who Think Pink Breast Cancer Organization Inc  
New York City Mountain Bike Association  
Richmond County Orchestra

#### **Multi-borough**

Artichoke Dance Company  
ASNEAA Inc.  
Beazer's Garden Urban Environmental Education Services, Inc.\*  
Camp Uwani  
Grow Our Game Inc  
Living Faith Community Development Corporation  
Three and a Half Acres Yoga



\*These grantees are helping to sustain and expand the tree canopy thanks in part to the NYC Green Fund's Urban Forest Grants, brought to you by Con Edison.

\*\*These grantees are receiving second-year funding.

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For more information on the NYC Green Fund, visit [cityparksfoundation.org/nycgreenfund](http://cityparksfoundation.org/nycgreenfund).

### **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, tree canopy expansion, environmental action, organizational development, health and wellness, youth development, and arts and culture. With direct funding and technical assistance, diverse community groups 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](mailto:greenfundgrassroots@cityparksfoundation.org) for more information.

### **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 320 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach over 278,000 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 Partnerships for Parks is available at [partnershipsforparks.org](http://partnershipsforparks.org).

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