



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CITY PARKS FOUNDATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS PROVIDE \$397,000
IN GRANTS TO 60 GRASSROOTS GROUPS VOLUNTEERING IN PARKS
AND OPEN SPACES ACROSS NEW YORK CITY**

**NYC GREEN FUND GRASSROOTS GRANTS FOCUS ON GROUPS IN
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES TO ADVANCE GREEN SPACE EQUITY,
AWARDING OVER \$2 MILLION TO DATE**

With New York City in a budget crisis, the NYC Green Fund is more important than ever to support the care of local green spaces, many in underserved neighborhoods more vulnerable to environmental harms

May 6, 2026 -- New York, NY -- Today, **City Parks Foundation** and **Partnerships for Parks** announced the recipients of the spring 2026 [NYC Green Fund](#) Grassroots grant program. Sixty community groups across the city will receive a total of \$397,000 through the Fund. The NYC Green Fund is a pooled grant program founded during the COVID-19 pandemic when park use soared and funding dwindled, laying bare the inequities in access to green space and resources within our city. The NYC Green Fund has expanded into a long-term program due to continued and growing demand and need. The vision of the Fund is to create a resilient and equitable NYC parks ecosystem for the benefit of all New Yorkers. To date, the Grassroots program has provided over \$2 million in grants to community groups across the city, particularly in neighborhoods suffering excessive environmental hazards.

As awareness grows around the importance of urban green space for the health of both people and the planet, the NYC Green Fund provides a financial lifeline for community groups sustaining local parks, many of whom are from Environmental Justice Areas — identified by the City and State as being disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution, negative public health outcomes, and the impacts of climate change. As of 2023, nearly half of the city's population resides in Environmental Justice Areas.

*"We are thrilled to announce our spring 2026 NYC Green Fund Grassroots grantees," said **Sabina Saragoussi, Director of Partnerships for Parks**. "We thank the funders for this crucial support for local park groups sustaining and activating the neighborhood parks we all enjoy and rely on for respite and connection to nature and each other. These funds help*

communities ensure these precious green spaces are vibrant places that enrich the lives of New Yorkers in all corners of the city.”

*“The NYC Green Fund is a mainstay for the grassroots volunteer groups who care for parks and open spaces in our city,” said **Heather Lubov, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation**. “On the heels of another budget crisis, the Green Fund is as critical as ever, providing the support needed to keep these groups afloat and keep our neighborhood parks thriving.”*

*“Parks is deeply committed to empowering our vital network of grassroots community groups with training, collaboration and resources to help bring their park vision to fruition,” said **NYC Parks Commissioner Tricia Shimamura**. “Thanks to these important grants from the NYC Green Fund, these groups can expand on their crucial work to bolster greenspaces in neighborhoods that have historically suffered from disinvestment — strengthening their communities, enhancing resiliency, expanding access to community gardening, and helping make our city greener, more equitable, and more livable.”*

Community groups across the city have sustained local green spaces since the fiscal crisis of the 1970s when parks fell into neglect, misuse and disrepair. Building on this movement of grassroots, green space activism and inspired by the conservancies formed in the 1980s to support flagship parks, PfP was founded in 1995 to support local parks, bringing communities together with city government and private resources. Today PfP, a joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks, is the largest community engagement program for local parks in NYC.

This spring, the NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program will provide grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$30,000 to support stewardship and activation of local parks and open spaces across the city. The Grassroots grants program prioritizes support for Environmental Justice Areas, majority BIPOC-led community groups, and groups with budgets under \$50,000; supporting communities that experience historic and ongoing inequities including systemic racism, disinvestment and less access to healthy green space.

Funded projects tackle growing environmental crises such as pollution, flooding and extreme heat with innovative projects like creating street art around the dangers of dumping in storm drains, improving stormwater management systems with rain garden installation, tree canopy expansion and care, beekeeping training for youth and the transformation of an abandoned lot into an urban farm.

Grantee project highlights:

- **Flatbush Mixtape** in Brooklyn will develop the Flatbush Garden Network in partnership with Lefferts Historic House, complete with a seed library and tool-sharing system.
- **Ujamaa Garden** in the Bronx will undertake an environmental remediation project to finish the multi-year transformation of an abandoned lot into a thriving community space for local mothers and children to grow their own food.
- **Green Oasis Community Garden** in Manhattan will host monthly woodworking and clothes repair workshops, while expanding support available to existing partners through a new artist-in-residency program at the garden.
- **Forgotten Foods** on Staten Island will build a train-the-trainer curriculum centered in urban agriculture and community organizing for Staten Island youth aged 15-24 to lead stewardship programs at community gardens and NYCHA campuses.
- **Kew Kids Kindness Krew** in Queens will host open skate days and rollerblading lessons at Forest Park while also supporting the park through stewardship activities.
- **Bee U NYC** will train the next generation of environmental leaders through the Urban Beekeeping Fellowship for ages 16-24. With Green Fund support, Bee University expanded to Brooklyn last year and now to the Bronx.
- **We Are Southern Brooklyn, Inc.** will engage young people through environmental stewardship and youth workshops to address local forms of pollution with clean-ups and a public awareness campaign using street stencils placed near storm drains with messages like: *Don't Dump, This Drains into the Creek!*
- **Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Assoc.** in Manhattan will host the 4th annual pop-up "We're Outside" art exhibit at Marcus Garvey Park, coinciding with the SummerStage Charlie Parker Jazz Festival.
- **Earth Stewards NYC** in Brooklyn will improve stormwater management systems in and around Canarsie Park through a combination of routine tree care, rain garden installation, and trail maintenance.

Full list of Spring 2026 NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant recipients

The Bronx

Drew Community Garden*
RedMoon Arts Movement Inc
Stewards of Ewen Park**
Target Bronx Community Garden
Ujamaa Garden*

Washington's Walk Coalition*
Wilde for Good

Brooklyn

Another World Movement Center, Inc.
Brooklyn Metropolis Lions Club, Inc.
Earth Stewards NYC*
Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro
Farmer's Garden
Flatbush Mixtape
Fred McLeod Community Garden**
Friends of Brower Park**
Friends of Hilltop Playground
Friends of McGolrick Park**
Friends of Raymond Bush Playground
Greene Acres Community Garden
Newkirk Community Garden
One Whale's Tale**
Owl's Head Park Volunteers*
Pineapple Ride Inc.
Prospect Lefferts Gardens Heritage Council Inc.
RaP CiDy D is 4 DOPE
Rising Earth Human Impact Education inc.*
The Amazing Garden
The Friends of Brownsville Parks
The Hanging Gardens of Brooklyn**
Union Street Garden and Community Development*
We Are Southern Brooklyn, Inc.

Manhattan

Arts and Jazzfest NYC / Jazz By The Water
Connectemonos**
Friends of Art Park Alliance Inc (FAPA)
Friends of Tompkins Square Park
Green Oasis Community Garden
iDig2Learn**
Jazz WaHi, Inc.



Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association
Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition (SRPCC)**
The Japanese Folk Dance Institute of New York**
The Rotary Foundation of Harlem
Uptown Dance Collective

Queens

Brooklyn Surf Club
Caring Wish
Friends of Phil Rizzuto Smokey Park, NY Inc.
Green Earth Urban Gardens Inc
Halletts Playground Alliance**
Kew Kids Kindness Krew
Rockaway Chamber Music
Rockaway Civic Association*

Staten Island

Empowerment Zone Inc.
Forgotten Foods
New York City Mountain Bike Association
Richmond County Orchestra

Multi-Borough

Bee U NYC
Bronx Burners Run Club
Dominicans Love Haitians Movement
Morrisania Band Project
Plant by Plant

*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.

Generous private support for the NYC Green Fund is provided by The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Freedom Together Foundation, The Thompson Family Foundation, Essex Avenue Foundation, Con Edison, The Charles H. Revson Foundation, Leon Levy Foundation, The Monarch Foundation, Altman Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, The New York Community Trust, Treebed LLC, Albert Giving Fund, and Klein Family Foundation. The



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For more information on the NYC Green Fund, visit 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 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 engagement and capacity building, and environmental education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs -- located in 330 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach nearly 300,000 people and organizations 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.

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