



**NYC GREEN RELIEF & RECOVERY FUND  
ANNOUNCES \$845,000 IN GRANTS TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC WEAKNESSES  
IN THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE CITY'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

*Funding will support public awareness, green infrastructure program models, funding challenges, and more*

**March 4, 2021 -- New York, NY** -- Today, the [NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund](#) -- a growing alliance of foundations and corporations -- announced the selection of 8 new grant recipients through a competitive funding opportunity. The NYC-focused organizations will receive \$845,000 in grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000 to raise awareness of the critical importance of NYC's parks and green spaces, while supporting needed systemic changes in the open space stewardship sector. The Fund is being administered by [City Parks Foundation](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how essential open space is for the health and well-being of our communities, as well as stubborn inequities in their funding, accessibility, and maintenance. And with climate change intensifying, the City's green spaces will become increasingly critical infrastructure, especially for the lower-income communities at greatest risk from heat waves, floods, and other extreme weather events. The nonprofits awarded grants will be addressing a range of systemic challenges and stubborn threats facing the open space system.

At the request of the NYC Green Fund, the Central Park Conservancy's Institute for Urban Parks looked closely at the major challenges facing parks and open space in New York City [see literature review [here](#)]. This research and subsequent discussions with practitioners informed the review and selection process for this funding opportunity.

Projects supported:

- Gowanus Canal Conservancy: Awarded \$100,000 to develop a collaborative approach to green infrastructure maintenance
- Municipal Art Society of New York: Awarded \$70,000 to advocate for a unified approach by the government to managing and planning for open space in New York City
- Natural Areas Conservancy: Awarded \$125,000 to identify alternative funding sources for natural area restoration and management
- New Yorkers for Parks: Awarded \$100,000 to build a broad multi-sector coalition and educate the public and policy makers on existing acute park issues, showing how parks and

park development go hand in hand with social and environmental justice, public health, climate resilience, affordable housing, and economic development and the public realm.

- North Brooklyn Parks Alliance: Awarded \$50,000 to support North Brooklyn Open Space Coalition's district wide open space planning and platform creation in Brooklyn's Community Board 1
- South Bronx Unite: Awarded \$75,000 to spearhead the Mott Haven-Port Morris Waterfront Plan and promote environmental justice policies valuing green space
- The Trust for Public Land: Awarded \$200,000 to conduct an economic benefits study of parks in NYC and initial analysis of funding options other than city tax dollars
- Waterfront Alliance: Awarded \$125,000 to provide a pathway for NYC to open its waterfront lands to the communities that need them the most

Because the need is so great, we encourage those interested in supporting this work to [donate now](#) to The NYC Green Fund or contact [NYCGreenFund@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:NYCGreenFund@cityparksfoundation.org) for more information.

Current contributions to the Fund total \$5.3M and will be distributed over a three year period. To date, the NYC Green Fund has awarded more than 200 grants totaling more than \$3.7M. Grantmaking will continue in spring 2021 to support maintenance needs in parks and open spaces across NYC. The NYC Green Fund is supported by a growing coalition of national, family, and community foundations, corporations, and philanthropic individuals.

The current list of funders includes:

Albert Giving Fund in memory of Jean Albert  
Altman Foundation  
Booth Ferris Foundation  
Charina Endowment Fund  
Con Edison  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation  
The J.M. Kaplan Fund  
The JPB Foundation  
Leon Levy Foundation  
The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust  
Libra Fund  
Lily Auchincloss Foundation  
The New York Community Trust  
Prospect Hill Foundation  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation  
The Tiffany & Co. Foundation  
The Thompson Family Foundation  
& many philanthropic individuals

While the City slashed the Parks Department's FY21 budget by 14%, the pandemic has shown that New Yorkers are heavily reliant on our parks and open spaces for fresh air, recreation, and mental health. The current proportion of the City budget dedicated to parks is at its lowest point since the 1970s. While the NYC Green Fund will help replace private funding losses, it cannot substitute for adequate public support for parks.

**For more information on the NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund, visit [cityparksfoundation.org/nyc-green-fund](https://cityparksfoundation.org/nyc-green-fund).**

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### **About the NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund**

In May 2020, a coalition of national, family, and community foundations launched the NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund to support stewardship organizations that care for New York City's parks and open spaces. The Fund is intended to respond to the most urgent needs facing the City's parks and open spaces, while spurring policy-makers to address ongoing systemic challenges, and provide adequate funding to maintain and improve them. The Fund was launched in response to the efforts of the Parks and Open Space Partners – NYC coalition to raise awareness of the financial impacts of the pandemic on open spaces. The Fund is intended to grow, and we encourage those interested in supporting the NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund to [donate now](#) or contact [NYCGreenFund@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:NYCGreenFund@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 400 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach 300,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: thriving parks mean thriving communities.

### **For information contact:**

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