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NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund Grants \$510,000 to 10 Organizations Promoting Equity and Innovation in NYC's Parks and Open Spaces

March 23, 2023 - New York, NY - [City Parks Foundation](#) is pleased to announce that the [NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund](#) (NYC Green Fund) recently granted \$510,000 to 10 innovative projects advancing equity and community involvement in parks and open spaces. The 2023 Systems Change grants program will provide one- and two-year-long grants in order to address parks equity challenges, strengthen partnerships and increase access, and support innovative use of green infrastructure.

Grant recipients, selected based on their innovation, feasibility, and commitment to equity, include the following:

- [Brooklyn Greenway Initiative](#) will expand and strengthen the NYC Greenways Coalition. This coalition is a collective effort of more than 40 nonprofit, community, advocacy, and stewardship organizations focused on implementation and planning for the 400-mile citywide greenway network established through last year's grant support.
- [Center for an Urban Future](#) will put forward concrete, workable ideas for funding and financing an expansive vision of parks and open space in NY that is creative, innovative, and equitable, as well as politically and economically achievable.
- [Friends of the High Line](#) will bring together nonprofit leaders of NYC public spaces, parks, and their community partners for a two-year series called Workshops for Equity in Public Spaces. This series is centered on empowering practitioners with the tools to take action through their Community First Toolkit.
- [Gowanus Canal Conservancy](#) will build upon its work in building capacity for Green Infrastructure (GI) Management. Project focus will be on workforce development for GI maintenance, expanding RAIN coalition through local engagement and education, and advocating for new funding streams.
- [New Yorkers for Parks](#) will work with coalition partners to advocate for a more equitable parks system that supports climate resilience, equitable economic development, and public health.
- [Riverside Park Conservancy](#) will partner with NYC Parks and Earth Matter to launch the first onsite compost operation in an NYC park, disrupting the waste cycle. It will also train staff and community volunteers and create a sustainable model for other parks.
- [South Bronx Unite](#) will support community land trust leadership in a Participatory Greenspace Roadmap to Environmental Justice (EJ). The roadmap will organize EJ communities to advocate



for formal recognition of the multiple layers of value green space provides in City planning, as well as public funding for community management of public green space.

- [Urban Design Forum](#) will launch The Local Center to support community development organizations to renew, redesign, and reclaim public spaces to reflect the diverse experiences of New Yorkers and identities of distinct neighborhoods, in partnership with Association for Neighborhood Housing Development.
- [Waterfront Alliance](#) will identify unused, NYC-owned waterfront sites to recreation and access in areas that have historically received little to no recreational investments. The initiative will address adaptation opportunities for climate change impacts now and in the future.
- [Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice](#) will lead a bottom-up analysis of public space governance in NYC. The analysis will identify and address barriers to open space activation and increase the number of and access to open spaces for the benefit of community health, well-being, and resilience to climate change.

Funded projects will advance critical work to promote equity in NYC’s parks and green spaces. These efforts will increase the long-term viability and resilience of NYC’s essential green and open space infrastructure.

“We are honored to continue supporting organizations at the forefront of shaping a more equitable and effective environment for all New Yorkers,” said **Heather Lubov**, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation. “We are pleased to have increased our funding and organizational reach this year, and we’re eager to see their innovative projects come to life in the next several years.”

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- Libra Fund
- Lily Auchincloss Foundation
- The Monarch Foundation
- The New York Community Trust
- Prospect Hill Foundation
- The Charles H. Revson Foundation
- The Thompson Family Foundation

City Parks Foundation serves as administrator of the Fund.

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 hundreds of parks, recreation centers and public schools across New



York City – reach thousands of people each year. Our ethos is simple: thriving parks mean thriving communities.

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 for more information.