

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

URBAN PARKS GRANTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

2023

**Grants Available to
Local Governments for
Land Acquisition, Park Development
and Historic Preservation Projects**

Approved Funding Awards

ADMINISTERED BY THE
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM



Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Shawn M. LaTourette
Commissioner

Urban Parks Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is approving \$7.7 million for park development projects that will serve the residents of New Jersey's Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities (OBC). Grants were capped at \$500,000 per project and do not require a local match.

In the FY23 budget, Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature dedicated additional funding to promote urban parks. The DEP Green Acres Program, which established the Urban Parks initiative in 2021, invited local and county governments to apply for this second funding round. This year, applicants could apply for projects located in an Urban Aid municipality and within or easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. This focus advances the DEP's goal of providing additional open space and recreational opportunities to residents of those OBCs with a combined stressor total higher than the 50th percentile for total environmental and public health stressors.

While land acquisition and historic preservation projects are eligible for Urban Parks funding, all of the 16 requests received this round were for recreational park development projects. Park development projects may include games and sports, picnicking, fishing, biking, swimming, nature and historic interpretation, and similar activities.

Applicants were encouraged to consider projects that would address these important issues:

Environmental Justice: Central to the Department of Environmental Protection's mission is making New Jersey stronger and fairer for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, or income. With the passage of Executive Order 23 on April 20, 2018, Governor Murphy directed the DEP to integrate environmental justice considerations into our decision-making. The DEP prioritized Urban Parks projects that promote environmental equity, either directly or as a co-benefit, by reducing or eliminating disproportionate environmental and public health stressors or creating environmental and public health benefits in Overburdened Communities. For more information, please see www.nj.gov/dep/ej/docs/furthering-the-promise.pdf. For a list of Overburdened Communities, please visit www.nj.gov/dep/ej/communities.html.

Climate Resilience: On January 27, 2020, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 100, directing the DEP to make sweeping regulatory reforms, collectively known as Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT), to adapt to climate change. This includes incorporating climate change considerations into our grant programs. The DEP prioritized Urban Parks projects that contribute to resilience or mitigate climate change impacts, such as by protecting forested and flood-prone areas, enhancing chronically inundated wetlands, revegetating riparian areas, connecting wildlife corridors, expanding upstream flood attenuation potential, promoting wildlife, and including green infrastructure into your project. We invite you to learn more about DEP's Climate Change Efforts by visiting <https://www.nj.gov/dep/njpact/>

Urban Parks grant funding will be administered by the Green Acres Program which, since 1961, has been committed to preserving New Jersey's natural, historic, and recreational resources statewide.

PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

BERGEN COUNTY

Bergenfield Borough

PAL Field Lighting Improvements Project

Bergenfield Borough is proposing improvements to the Bergenfield PAL Field, located at 1 Rivera Way. Proposed improvements include installation of a new lighting system which will improve and expand the community's ability to host sports games and practices. The project is located in an Urban Aid Municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The Borough also is receiving a \$455,000 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round, which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

Cliffside Park Borough

Honor Park Redevelopment Project

Cliffside Park Borough is proposing improvements to Honor Park, located at the intersection of Gorge Road, Palisade Avenue and Riverview Avenue. Proposed improvements include a hardscape area, retaining walls, landscaping, lighting, seating areas, a street clock, gaming table, bicycle rack, gazebo and picnic tables. This project will improve the usefulness and aesthetics of the park, enhance the natural environment, and provide previously lacking facilities. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The Borough also is receiving a \$621,460 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round, which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Mount Holly Township

Iron Works Park Improvements

Mount Holly Township is proposing improvements to Iron Works Park, located at 155 Wollner Drive. Proposed improvements include a multi-purpose synthetic turf field and a canoe launch. Mount Holly Township also proposes lighting and aesthetic amenities at the site. These improvements will enhance recreational opportunities and meet the wide-ranging needs of their residents, in addition to creating new opportunities to host community-wide gatherings and events. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The Township also is receiving a \$900,000 Green Acres grant under

the 2023 funding round.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

CAMDEN COUNTY

Pennsauken Township
Pennsauken Pool Complex Project

Pennsauken Township has requested funding to improve the Pennsauken Pool Recreation Complex, located at 6100 River Road. Proposed improvements include pool repairs, tennis court rehabilitation, installation of a parkour-style obstacle course, hockey court refurbishing, installation of a multiuse path, and parking lot resurfacing. These improvements will play an important role in maintaining a desirable recreation space for the residents of Pennsauken and the surrounding areas. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The Township also is receiving a \$654,000 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Bridgeton City
Bridgeton City Park Improvements

Bridgeton City has requested funding to improve City Park, located at 35 Mayor Aitken Drive. Proposed improvements include the construction of walking paths along with a pavilion, parking lot, and landscaping at the site. These improvements will convert a former landfill into a public park with ADA accessible trails and scenic overlooks within a highly urbanized setting. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$497,673
Park Development

ESSEX COUNTY

Essex County
Weequahic Park Improvements

Essex County is proposing improvements to Weequahic Park, located at Elizabeth and Meeker Avenues in Newark City. Proposed improvements include rehabilitation of a jogging track and replacement of fitness equipment, benches, and park signage. These improvements will replace

deteriorated facilities and help ensure park user safety. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The County also is receiving a \$1,807,550 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round, which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

East Orange City
Memorial Park Improvements

East Orange City is proposing improvements to Memorial Park, located at 30 Lenox Avenue. Proposed improvements include reconstruction of the basketball court, relocation of a sculpture and flagpole for implementation of new stormwater management system, reconstruction of the park entrance, and a new fitness area, playground, and spray park. These improvements will enhance safety, address water-damaged infrastructure, and provide new community recreational amenities at one of the city's most heavily used parks. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

Irvington Township
Center Playground Civic Square Park

Irvington Township is proposing improvements to Center Playground and Civic Square Park, located at Civic Square between Clinton and Springfield Avenues. Proposed improvements include renovating an existing building on site for use as restrooms, storage, and concession stand; walking path around the perimeter of the park; a basketball court; upgraded playground equipment and safety surface; safety cameras and lighting; and a gazebo. These improvements will allow the Center Playground/Civic Square Park to be utilized safely by the community, and bring new recreational amenities to the area. There is currently no place to hold outdoor community events, which the gazebo would provide. The walking paths, playground, and basketball court will permit residents of all ages to enjoy active outdoor recreation. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The Township also is receiving a \$276,310 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round, which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

Nutley Township
Monsignor Owens Park Improvements

Nutley Township is proposing improvements to Monsignor Owens Park, located at 75 Park Avenue. Proposed improvements include replacement of the multi-use turf field, which has been in constant use since its creation and has degraded beyond the safe standard of use. These improvements will increase durability of the multi-use field and provide a safer, more versatile surface for community members to enjoy. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an

Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The Township also is receiving a \$528,755 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round, which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

Orange City Township
Metcalf Park Improvements

Orange City Township is proposing improvements to Metcalf Park, located at Chestnut Street and Valley Street. Proposed improvements include basketball court lighting, rehabilitation of concrete pool deck, resurfacing tennis court, installation of a passive play area, walking paths, and a dog park. These improvements will create safer, more readily usable recreational amenities through the park, and provide new opportunities for recreation. The passive play area will allow for more recreation surrounding the pool, and the dog park has been highly requested by the community. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The Township also is receiving a \$481,590 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round, which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

MERCER COUNTY

Trenton City
Taylor Street Recreational Facility

Trenton City is proposing to rehabilitate an existing building at the Taylor Street Soccer Complex, located on Taylor Street. When restored, the building, which dates back to the 1930's, will be used as community meeting space and it will house restrooms, provide storage, and serve as a support facility for the Complex's utilities. Invasive plant species along the adjacent creek will be removed and replaced with beneficial native species, and a link to the larger Assunpink Greenway trail system will be established.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$273,025
Park Development

PASSAIC COUNTY

Clifton City
Nash Park Improvements

Clifton City is proposing improvements to Nash Park, located at 700 Lexington Avenue. Proposed improvements include resurfacing the basketball courts, renovating the playground, installing a splash pad, upgrading the dog park, renovating field house restrooms, installing picnic tables and benches, upgrading the rose garden, and establishing a walking path. These improvements will

correct existing safety hazards, make the park more accessible for users of all ages and abilities, and serve Clifton's growing community. The splash pad will assist vulnerable neighborhoods that are experiencing Urban Heat Island Effect and have no water-based recreational amenities. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The City also is receiving a \$1,400,000 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

Passaic City

Third Ward Veterans Memorial Park

Passaic City is proposing improvements to Third Ward Veterans Memorial Park, located at Passaic Avenue and Van Houten Avenue. Proposed improvements include installation of rubberized track surface, safety surface at Mayor Johnson Park Playground, inclusive sensory park, and bioretention rain garden. These improvements will expand active and passive recreational opportunities at the park, as well as increasing the park's safety, accessibility, and inclusivity. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The City also is receiving a \$1,400,000 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

Paterson City

Westside Park Improvements

Paterson City, in partnership with the New Jersey Community Development Corporation and the Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. is proposing improvements to Westside Park, located at 114 Totowa Ave. Proposed improvements include installation of accessible ramp and staging area for access to the Passaic River, riparian and meadow area enhancements including rain gardens, landscaping, interpretive signage, an outdoor classroom space, a new pedestrian pathway system including a Riverwalk with permeable asphalt paving, a picnic area, children's garden and play area, and pathway amenities including lighting, security cameras, site furnishings and signage. Also proposed is the rehabilitation of existing facilities, including reconstruction of four tennis courts, a basketball court, athletic complex improvements including new fencing backstop, goal posts, scoreboards, bleachers, storage containers, irrigation hydrants and natural turf grass, permeable asphalt pavement pathways, pavilion repair and repainting, minor upgrades to existing playground, benches, landscaping and relocation of the World War 1 memorial to central location within the park. These improvements will address the current deteriorated conditions of the park's recreational amenities and will improve circulation within the park. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The City also is receiving a \$1,400,000 Green Acres grant for this project.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

SALEM COUNTY

Salem City

Salem City Pool Recreational Area

Salem City has requested funding to improve various facilities at the existing Salem City Pool Recreational Area, located at 155 Walnut Street. The proposed project includes rehabilitation of the three existing pools, ADA-lifts for two of the pools, a pump house, electrical, cameras for the pool area, improvements to the existing clubhouse, basketball court resurfacing, fencing, security lighting, replacement of the existing storage shed, and installation of a pavilion, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles and a playground. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. The City also is receiving a \$46,203 Green Acres grant under the 2023 funding round, which fully funds this project with 100% grant funding.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000
Park Development

UNION COUNTY

Plainfield City

Madison Ave Park Outdoor Fitness Area

Plainfield City is proposing improvements to Madison Avenue Park, located at West 2nd Street and Madison Avenue. Proposed improvements include the conversion of half of the basketball courts to an outdoor fitness center along with new surfacing and a shade structure. These improvements will provide residents with free, high quality exercise equipment which will contribute to the health and well-being of park users. The project is located in an Urban Aid municipality, in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community.

Non-Matching Grant Award: \$400,199
Park Development