

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

# **URBAN PARKS GRANTS**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

**2025**

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

**Funding Approvals**



**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 \$12.7 million in non-matching grants for park development projects that will serve the residents of New Jersey's Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities (OBC).

In the FY25 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 fourth funding round. Again this year, applicants could apply for projects located in an Urban Aid municipality and within or easily accessible from an Overburdened Community subject to Adverse Cumulative Stressors. This focus advances the DEP's goal of providing additional open space and recreational opportunities to residents of those neighborhoods that have a combined stressor total higher than the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for total environmental and public health stressors.

Although land acquisition and historic preservation projects are eligible for Urban Parks funding, this year, all of the 11 eligible requests received were for recreational park development projects. Park development projects may include games and sports, picnicking, fishing, biking, swimming, nature and historic interpretation, and similar conservation or outdoor recreational activities.

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

**Environmental Justice:** Central to the DEP'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 either reducing or eliminating disproportionate environmental and public health stressors, or by creating environmental and public health benefits in Overburdened Communities subject to Adverse Cumulative Stressors. For more information and a list of Overburdened Communities, please visit <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/communities/>.

**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, for park development projects, including green infrastructure into the 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**

##### **Twin Borough Park Improvement Project – Phase 3**

Bergenfield Borough is proposing a third phase of improvements to Twin Borough Park, located at 100 Twin Borough Lane. Proposed improvements for this phase include installation of three pickleball courts, a park pavilion, two volleyball courts, and fencing. The Borough also proposes a new parking lot and the installation of parking lot lighting at the site. These improvements will improve upon existing facilities and expand the recreational offerings at Twin Boro Field. Bergenfield Borough also applied for and is receiving a Green Acres grant for this project.

**Non-Matching Grant Award:     \$2,085,691**

### **Camden County**

#### **Pennsauken Township**

##### **Jordantown Enhancement Athletic Complex**

Pennsauken Township is proposing improvements to the Athletic Complex, located at 3501 Elm Avenue. Proposed improvements include a new multi-use path, LED lighting on the existing football field, restoration of baseball fields, and snack stand improvements. These improvements will increase the complex's utility, provide safer and more durable playing areas, and improve the overall experience for visitors.

**Non-Matching Grant Award:     \$530,000**

### **Cumberland County**

#### **Bridgeton City**

##### **Rehabilitation of Sunset Lake Amphitheater**

Bridgeton City has requested funding to improve the Amphitheater at Sunset Lake, which is in City Park, located at West Park Drive. Proposed improvements include restoring the Sunset Lake Amphitheater and pavilion, repaving the parking lot and walkways, and improving associated utility components and lighting. These improvements will enhance the accessibility, safety, functionality, and overall appeal of a portion of Bridgeton City Park that needs refurbishment.

**Non-Matching Grant Award:     \$633,000**

## **Essex County**

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#### **Weequahic Park Recreational Improvements**

Essex County is proposing improvements to Weequahic Park, located at Elizabeth Avenue and Meeker Avenue in Newark. Proposed improvements include basketball court refurbishing, bleachers, fencing, drainage improvements, and landscaping. These improvements will encourage healthy lifestyles for residents and provide safer recreational amenities.

**Non-Matching Grant Award:     \$579,000**

### **Nutley Township**

#### **Father Glotzbach Park Improvement Project**

Nutley Township is proposing improvements to Father Glotzbach Park, located at 80 Park Avenue. Proposed improvements include installation of a synthetic turf softball field and field appurtenances and upgrading to a LED lighting system. The Township also proposes fencing and drainage improvements at the site. These improvements will create a more inclusive and vibrant recreational space for residents.

**Non-Matching Grant Award:     \$1,211,000**

### **Orange City Township**

#### **Colgate Park Improvements Phase 3**

Orange City Township is proposing the third phase of improvements to Colgate Park, located at North Day Street and New Street. Proposed improvements include a new fitness area, lighting, and bleachers. The Township also proposes benches, picnic tables, grading, drainage system upgrades, and landscaping at the site. These improvements will provide state-of-the-art recreational facilities that are accessible and durable, increasing the park's capacity to serve its diverse users.

**Non-Matching Grant Award:     \$860,000**

## **Hudson County**

### **Bayonne City**

#### **Veterans Park Shoreline Restoration & Resiliency**

Bayonne City has requested funding to improve Veterans Park, located between 25th Street and 27th Street. Proposed improvements include shoreline stabilization through the construction of a concrete retaining wall

with stone revetment, dock/pier reconstruction, outdoor exercise equipment, walkways, lighting, benches, and a shade structure. Once completed, the project will connect to a recently constructed Green Acres-funded waterfront park that adjoins the project to the south and will enhance visual public access to the Newark Bay Waterfront. Bayonne City also applied for and is receiving a Green Acres grant for this project.

**Non-Matching Grant Award: \$2,085,691**

## **Union City**

### **Ellsworth Park Improvements**

Union City is proposing improvements to Ellsworth Park, located at the intersections of Palisade Avenue, New York Avenue, 23rd Street, and 24th Street. Proposed improvements include drainage upgrades, regrading of low-lying areas, installation of a new irrigation system, new pavers, curbing, fencing, landscaping, playground resurfacing, playground fencing, and a decorative fountain. The City also proposes site furnishings, including benches and lighting. These improvements will provide improved active play areas for visitors.

**Non-Matching Grant Award: \$500,000**

## **Middlesex County**

## **New Brunswick City**

### **Joyce Kilmer Park Renovation**

New Brunswick City has requested funding to improve Joyce Kilmer Park, located at 143 Joyce Kilmer Avenue. Proposed improvements include a perimeter walking and running loop with fitness stations, reconditioning of the existing basketball courts, a baseball field, and an all-purpose soccer field, and installation of new inclusive playground equipment. The City also proposes to install a picnic area, a sectioned community garden, and additional landscaping improvements at the site. The renovation of Joyce Kilmer Park will offer the surrounding community a park with diverse recreational opportunities.

**Non-Matching Grant Award: \$1,900,000**

## **Passaic County**

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### **Garret Mountain Reservation Basketball Court**

Passaic County has requested funding to improve Garret Mountain Reservation, located at Park Road and Mountain Avenue in Paterson. Proposed improvements include the installation of new basketball court surfacing and enhancements to court access to ensure ADA compliance. The County also proposes benches, fencing, picnic tables, signage, and landscaping at the site. These improvements will encourage greater use of the park by offering a safer and more enjoyable recreational experience for visitors of all ages.

**Non-Matching Grant Award: \$600,000**

## **Union County**

### **Hillside Township**

#### **Margaret M. Roche Memorial Swimming Pool – Phase II**

Hillside Township has requested funding to improve the Margaret M. Roche Memorial Swimming Pool at Paul F. Korlesky Park, located on Central Avenue. Proposed improvements include the reconstruction and the installation of a family pool, utility improvements, paving, fencing, landscaping and irrigation. These facilities represent Phase II of the Township's ongoing rehabilitation of the swimming pool complex and will help promote a healthy lifestyle for the surrounding community.

**Non-Matching Grant Award:     \$1,700,000**