



Minneapolis Parks Foundation  
People for Parks Fund Advisory Committee  
2021 Grantmaking Policies & Criteria

## PURPOSE

The People for Parks Fund, a dedicated fund of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, exists to advance under-supported projects and programs in Minneapolis parks and to serve as the catalyst for connecting community-driven ideas and funding that nurture stewardship, community, and enjoyment of our parks.

## POLICIES

Grant funding will be awarded to 501(c)3 organizations, 501(c)4 organizations, government entities, community groups, and others that have a fiscal agent. The Committee will only consider grants for projects and programs within the boundaries of the City of Minneapolis. Federal, state, and local tax regulations apply to all grant awards.

Grant terms are generally provided on a one-year cycle. Current and past grantees may submit a new grant application as long as they are up to date on reporting requirements. The grant period for this opportunity is May 1 to December 31, 2021. Final approval of all grants is under the authority of Minneapolis Parks Foundation Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee.

A final report is due 30 days after the grant period. The Advisory Committee welcomes images, community stories, and/or written reports. "Progress" images are also encouraged and greatly appreciated throughout the grant cycle. The Advisory Committee may ask grantees to conduct one progress check-in phone call or meeting during the grant cycle.

We understand that it is sometimes the necessary and correct course of action to make changes to a program or project after grant funds are awarded. We seek to establish relationships with grantees that encourage prompt communication about any significant changes to plans and anticipate being able to respond in a timely and flexible manner. If a grantee is unable to fulfill the funded purpose of a grant, it must seek an extension or adjustment to its proposal by contacting [give@mplsparksfoundation.org](mailto:give@mplsparksfoundation.org). The committee may ask the grantee to submit a written revised proposal and/or meet with committee members to discuss the issue. The committee may extend the grant term, approve a revised grant proposal, or request that grant funds be returned to the People for Parks Fund.

In most cases, the People for Parks Fund will disburse funds to the grantee after the grant has been approved by the Advisory Committee and confirmed by the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation.

# FUNDING GUIDELINES

## Anticipated Amount/Range of Grant Awards

The Advisory Committee will grant up to \$35,000 in funds for 2021. Most grants will be between \$1,000 and \$10,000 but will not exceed \$20,000.

Applicants must demonstrate community support through additional funding, community participation, and/or in-kind contributions.

## Allowed Uses of Grant Funds

Grant funding may be used for the following:

- Capital projects or purchase of supplies or equipment
- Ongoing established programs that advance equity in our parks
- New programs that have addressed a need in the community they serve
- One-time events that have a broader impact within the community they serve (e.g., interpreter services, topical gatherings/meetings that educate or catalyze action around MPF's priority themes)

## Funding Priorities

As the Advisory Committee evaluates grant applications, it will do so with a focus on the Guiding Themes of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation:

- Equity and cultural inclusion: When all people have access to valued parks and public space, feel welcome and see themselves reflected in those spaces, a community is healthier, safer, and happier.
- Resilience to climate change: Cities must adapt and develop new methods to protect and restore natural systems and clean water and to mitigate the economic impact of climate change.
- Community health and well-being: Parks provide healthy air, water, and soil, and places to play and exercise, on both the individual and community level. Parks also provide places where we can learn about our neighbors and form new and deeper connections.
- Connections to the natural world: In our increasingly urbanized world, maintaining places of natural beauty, respite, and awe helps us maintain our humanity.
- Economic vitality: Thriving parks and public spaces can attract investment and bring prosperity to the broader community.

## CRITERIA FOR GRANT SELECTION

In general, the Advisory Committee aims to fund projects/programs that focus on advancing equity. This standard may apply for new or existing programs or new programs that seek to increase equity within Minneapolis parks.

Applications will be reviewed using the following criteria, in order of priority:

**(1) Equity & Racial Justice:**

- How does this project advance equity and/or racial justice?
- Is the project in a neighborhood with cultural, racial, and/or economic diversity?
- Will this project be accessible to a variety of community members?

**(2) Neighborhood Involvement & Community Support:**

- Is there buy-in from the neighborhood (volunteers, matching funds, etc.)?
- Does the group supporting the project have a commitment to its neighborhood park?
- Does it engage the surrounding community?
- Who will benefit from the project or program?
- Does it advance one or more of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation's guiding themes?
- Is the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board aware of the project or program? If necessary or helpful to the success of the project or program, has the specific park or the MPRB agreed to provide in-kind or financial assistance?

**(3) Quality of the Project:**

- Does it demonstrate environmental stewardship?
- Does it significantly add to use and enjoyment of the parks?
- Is there a feasible plan and financial resources to successfully implement the project?

**(4) Impact of the Project:**

- What is the discernible and meaningful impact defined by the applicant?
- Is the project "visible?"
- How many people/users is it likely to serve?

**(5) Impact of PFP Funding:**

- What percentage of the project would PFP Funding provide?
- Will PFP grant make a significant difference in the successful implementation of this project?

**PROCESS & TIMELINE**

Action	Timeline/Deadline
Grant announcement, marketing plan and social media campaign developed to coincide with posting	March 15
Grant application made available online. Committee and MPF staff promote and share the grant opportunity throughout the community.	March 15-April 16
FAQs placed on the website.	By March 15
Zoom discussion held with potential grant applicants.	Late March
Committee reviews, discusses and recommends grants for funding.	April 27 (AC Meeting)

Action	Timeline/Deadline
Committee and staff reach out to potential grantees for brief conversation.	Week of May 3
Final grant recommendations confirmed.	Week of May 10
Grant recipients announced by Minneapolis Parks Foundation.	By May 31