

8. Funding Resources

This chapter provides detailed information on the funding sources available to municipalities looking to develop or enhance their park and recreation systems.

8.1 New York State Office Of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation

The New York State Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP), through state and federal funding sources, administers a number of grant programs. Regional Grant Officers are available to provide assistance on applications and program details.

Applications may be downloaded from the OPRHP website, or may not be filed electronically. All applications must be submitted to the OPRHP in accordance with each program's grant submittal guidelines.

8.1.1 NYS Environmental Protection Fund

PARKS PROGRAM

A matching grant program for the acquisition or development of parks and recreational facilities for projects to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures for park, recreation or conservation purposes. Funds may be awarded to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest, for indoor or outdoor projects and must reflect the priorities established in the NY Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

A matching grant program to improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places. Funds are available to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest.

HERITAGE AREA PROGRAM

A matching grant program for projects to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures, identified in a management plan approved by the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Projects must fall within a New York State Designated Heritage Area.

ACQUISITION

A matching grant program for the acquisition of a permanent easement or fee title to lands, waters or structures for use by all segments of the population for park, recreation, conservation or preservation purposes. To be used for all three program areas where acquisition is of more importance than development.

ZOOS, BOTANICAL GARDENS AND AQUARIUMS

A program for the funding of collections care or special projects at municipal or not-for-profit institutions that house, care for and interpret for the public, systematically organized collections of living things.

BARNS RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

A matching grant program for the restoration and preservation of agricultural buildings, including barns, sheds and silos, that were constructed at least fifty (50) years prior to the date of the grant application, and in need of repair. The applicant must have a significant ownership interest in the property.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GRANT PROGRAM

A grant program that allocates funds to local governments that engage in the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System. The authorization for the program is found in Article 27 of NY Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. Funding is allocated on a pro-rated basis.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

A program for recipients pre-designated by the State Legislature. For additional program information contact your local Assemblyperson or State Senator.

8.1.2 Federally Funded Programs**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM**

A matching grant program for the acquisition, development and/or rehabilitation of outdoor park and recreation facilities. Funds are available to municipal public agencies and Indian tribal governments. Funded projects must reflect the priorities established in SCORP and be available to the general public. Source of funds: The National Park Service.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

A matching grant program for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of trails and trail-related projects. Funds are available to non-profit organizations, municipal, state and federal agencies, Indian tribal governments and other public agencies and authorities. Funded projects must be identified in, or further a specific goal of, the SCORP and must be available to the general public. Source of funds: Federal Highway Administration.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

A matching grant program for the expansion and maintenance of the National Register of Historic Places and support of historic preservation activities, to include survey and inventory. Only Certified Local Governments may apply. Source of funds: The National Park Service.

8.2 New York State Department Of State**8.2.1 Quality Communities Grant Program**

This is a grant program that in 2005 awarded \$3 million for planning projects statewide. Eligible applicants are counties, cities, towns, villages, Indian-Tribes/Nations, local public authorities, public benefit corporations, and not-for-profits (under certain circumstances). These funds are designed to assist local governments with planning efforts to: encourage community growth,

improve community centers, promote inter-municipal growth, enhance mountain communities preserve open space and more.

Information and an application is available from: www.qualitycommunities.org/index.asp

8.2.2 Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program (SMSI)

The SMSI grant program may be used by two or more municipalities to cover legal and consultant services, feasibility studies, capital improvements and other necessary expenses related to costs associated with cooperative agreements, mergers, consolidations, and dissolutions. The program has defined eligible municipalities as a county, city, town, village and school district. Grant application request can be made in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Grant recipients are required to provide a ten percent match of the total approved cost.

Information and an application is available from: www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/SMSI/html

8.3 New York State Governor's Office For Small Cities

8.3.1 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

New York State's CDBG Small Cities Program is divided into three separate components: the Annual Competitive Round which includes Comprehensive Grants, the Open Round for Economic Development Grants, and the Strategic Planning Technical Assistance Grants available once each year.

Applicants applying for a competitive round grant must address and resolve specific community development needs within the following three areas: (a) Housing, (b) Public Facilities, or (c) Micro-Enterprise. Competitive round applications may consist of more than one activity under one of two conditions. First, if the additional activity is incidental to the primary activity and second, if the activity involves two or more related activities to be carried out in a coordination manner to address a substantial community development need within a defined area or areas (comprehensive application).

Through the public service facilities category, applicants can seek funding for structures to house or serve special-needs populations; senior services; child care centers; removal of architectural barriers for the disabled (lifts, automatic doors, ramps, etc.); and multi- purpose buildings housing several qualifying activities for low- and moderate-income persons. Small Cities funds can be used for construction or renovation of facilities, but cannot be used to cover the day-to-day operational costs nor can funds be used for buildings that are primarily used for the general conduct of government business (i.e. town halls).

Additional information on the CDBG Program is available from: www.nysmallcities.com

8.4 New York State Department of Transportation

8.4.1 Transportation Enhancement Program

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides funding to New York State through the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA). New York State through the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) distributes the funds to successful applicants. For a community to be considered eligible for funding, a project must fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Provision of facilities for bicycles and pedestrians, including safety and educational activities for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Scenic or historic highway programs and provision of tourist and welcome center facilities
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification
- Historic preservation
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities
- Establishment of transportation - related museums
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors, including conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycle trails
- Control and removal of outdoor advertising
- Archeological planning and research
- Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff
- Environmental mitigation to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.

The term "historic" in the context of eligibility means either in the National Registry of Historic Places or ruled as eligible for inclusion in that Registry by the State Office of Historic Preservation. TEP funding will cover 80% of the capital improvement costs for eligible projects on a reimbursement basis.

Additional information on the Transportation Enhancement Program is available from:
<http://dot.state.ny.us/programs/tep.html>

8.5 Private Foundation Grants

8.5.1 Open Space Institute

Through its Loan and Grant Programs, the Open Space Institute (OSI) acts as a broker of both capital and ideas, helping to facilitate strategic land purchases and the development of efficient

new approaches to land conservation. OSI provides interim and permanent funds to qualified land trusts for fee acquisition and easements across North America with individual loan funds in New Jersey, the Northern Forest, the Southern Appalachians, western Massachusetts, and Greater Hudson Valley and grants available in the Northern Forest.

Open Space Institute
1350 Broadway, Suite 201
New York, NY 10018-7799
Phone: (212) 290-8200
Fax: (212) 244-3441

8.5.2 Baseball Tomorrow Fund

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association that was established in 1999 through a \$10 million commitment by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association.

The mission of BTF is to promote and enhance the growth of youth participation in baseball and softball throughout the world by funding programs, fields, coaches' training, and the purchase of uniforms and equipment to encourage and maintain youth participation in the game. Grants are designed to be sufficiently flexible to enable applicants to address needs unique to their communities. The funds are intended to finance a new program, expand or improve an existing program, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment. BTF provides grants to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in both rural and urban communities. BTF awards an average of 30 grants per year totaling more than \$1.5 million. The average grant amount is \$51,000. MLB and the Players Association fund BTF annually.

Baseball Tomorrow Fund
245 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10167
Phone: (212) 931-7878

8.5.3 United States Tennis Association: Community Outreach Grant

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) administers this program, the purpose of which is to offer funding to programs that provide individuals with tennis and life skills development opportunities. Eligible applicants must have a year-round program and must have a history of conducting effective tennis programs in the underserved community.

8.5.4 United States Tennis Association: Tennis in the Parks Initiative

USTA and National Recreation and Park Association have developed the *Tennis in the Parks Community Initiative* to support local park and recreation agencies eager to increase participation by improving the quality of their community tennis programs.

Every 1st year park and recreation agency or organization is required to complete an online assessment of their programs and community needs. Agencies or organizations designated as a *Tennis in the Parks Community* are required to complete an online evaluation and renewal to retain their Tennis in the Parks Community designation.

All agencies and organizations designated as a *Tennis in the Parks Community* will be eligible to receive resource allocations to assist with improving community tennis programs. Possible resource allocations include: cash grants for instructors, advertising, equipment and/or building/renovating facilities, scholarships to training workshops, program materials, consulting sessions, promotional materials, and toolkits.

Additional information is available from: www.usta.com

8.5.5 Kaboom Playground Planner

This website provides communities with design assistance through its playground planner tool to organize, inform and build community playgrounds. Easy and comprehensive, the online tool allows communities to use Kaboom's time-tested process, which provides guidance, practical advice, cost-cutting tips, checklists and timelines.

Once the project has been established, a community can login as often as necessary to manage volunteers, donors, contacts, budgets, expenses, tasks, events and most other aspects of the community-build playground project.

The Kaboom Technical Assistance Playground Planner is available at: <http://planner.kaboom.org/>

8.5.6 The Allstate Helping Hands Program – Allstate Foundation

The Allstate Foundation awards program grants that focus on personal safety and security, neighborhood revitalization and financial planning, and education. Examples of funded projects include: softball field improvements; child safety advocacy; structured after-school programs with initiatives to safeguard against gangs and delinquency; automobile passenger safety; and anti-drinking and driving programs. The Helping Hands program organizes volunteer events not only for employees, but also for their families and friends. Volunteer activities include renovating and rehabilitating homes, working in soup kitchens, conducting food and clothing drives, tutoring children and adults and teaching disaster preparedness. Allstate targets inner-city communities with special investment programs that focus on: 1) child care facilities, 2) economic development, and 3) housing. Eligible applicants are local non-profit organizations.

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Northbrook, IL 60062-6127
800-574-3553
www.allstate.com