



Grant Information
Session
2026/2027 Cycle

Park Pride's 2030 Strategic Framework

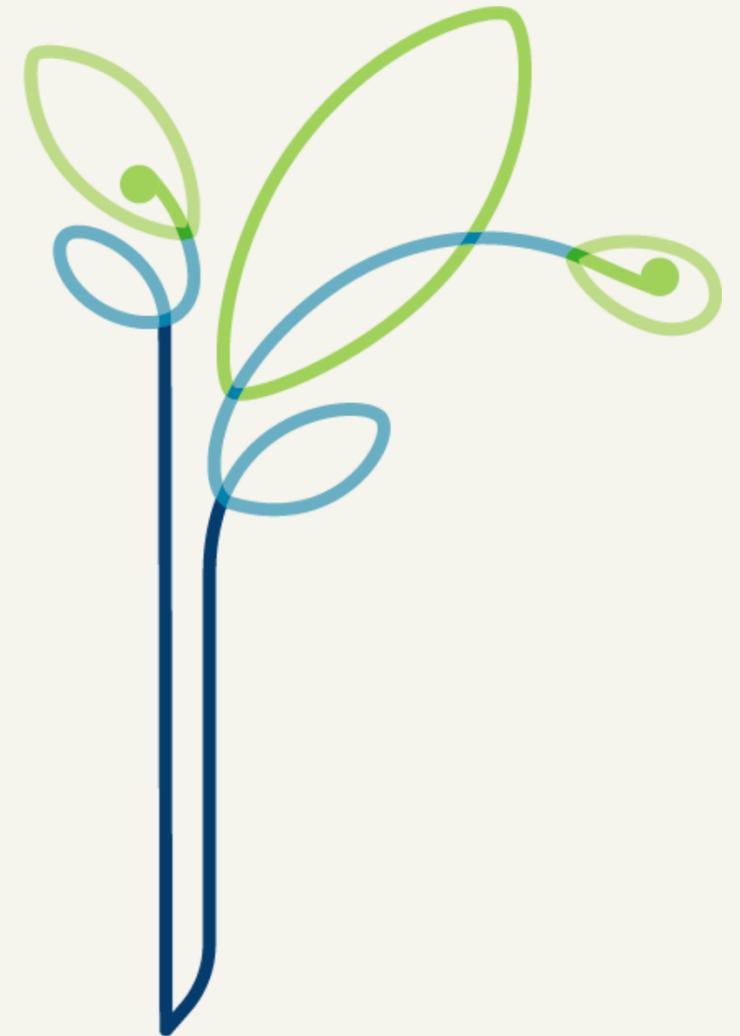
Strengthen Community Leadership and Stewardship

Catalyze Park Improvements

Influence Public Policy and Investment

Leverage Data and Stories

Enhance Organizational Resilience



Park Pride's Strategic Plan

Strengthen Community Leadership and Stewardship

We support communities as they shape, steward, and connect with parks—empowering residents to be long-term champions of their neighborhood greenspaces.

Catalyze Park Improvements

We catalyze community-driven park improvements through intentional design and strategic investments, prioritizing projects which foster healthy, resilient communities and individuals—ensuring all Atlantans can enjoy the benefits of nearby greenspace.

Park Pride's Grantmaking Goals

Support community-driven efforts and priorities

Support relationships between local government and communities

Increase park use and improve our park systems

Empower communities and build capacity

Leverage local and public investment

Park Pride's Grantmaking Program is generously funded by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, The Home Depot Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, the City of Atlanta, and others.

Grant Programs



Small Change Grants

Parks for All Grants

GRANTMAKING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Main criteria in the Interest Form that determine initial eligibility for **any** Park Pride Grant



REGISTERED FRIENDS OF THE PARK GROUP

Be sure to stay up to date with registration.

Registration:

Summer 2026



PARK PRIDE SERVICE AREA

Parks for All Grants:

City of Atlanta

Small Change:

City of Atlanta

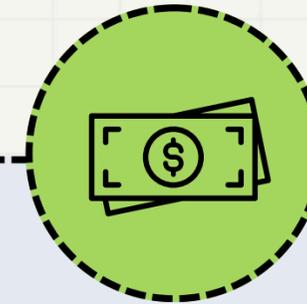
City of Brookhaven

Unincorporated DeKalb
County



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Your community has collectively determined the proposed physical improvement is a priority.



NO OTHER OPEN GRANTS WITH PARK PRIDE

Submit a Final Report & expend any remaining funds from an existing grant to be eligible by:

Parks for All Grants:
Pre- Applications – Sept. 4

Small Change Grants:
Applications – July 17



LAND OWNER APPROVAL

The Parks Department and Land Owner must approve the project.

Matching Grants

Park Pride provides matching grants to support community-driven improvements by allowing Friends of the Park groups to leverage fundraising efforts.

Matching grants ask applicants to bring resources to the project—whether donated money, materials, volunteer hours, or contributions from vendors and community partners—so that these collective efforts can unlock the matching funds.



Matching vs. Non-Matching Grants

Parks not located in Historically Disinvested Communities:

- **1:1 match (up to award of \$100,000)**
- **Higher match requirements are expected for awards over \$100,000**
- **Must match with funds/resources spent on the grant project**

Parks located in Historically Disinvested Communities:

- **May be eligible for an award that covers 100% of the project cost**
- **Matching requirements may be waived for qualified applicants, but matching support is always welcome as it can strengthen the project outcome**

Award amounts vary by project and specific match requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis depending on location, project scope, and community capacity.

***We use statistics from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to determine eligibility for non-matching grants.**

Park Pride Grant Payouts

Park Pride does not send grant funds directly to Friends of the Park groups.

Grant funds are distributed in one of two ways:

- 1. Reimbursement: Groups pay an approved expense and submit receipts for reimbursement.**
- 2. Direct Payment: Park Pride pays approved vendor invoices directly.**

This process:

- Protects Friends groups from financial risk**
- Creates clear financial documentation required by our funders**
- Ensures a fair and consistent process for all grant recipients**
- Provides an additional layer of project oversight**

Grant funds cannot be used to pay members of the Friends group or their relatives for work on the project.

Small Change Grants

Funds must support a community-led park improvement project that features a physical element to enhance the public park and is designed as a one-time improvement.

Registered Friends of the Park groups in the City of Atlanta, Brookhaven, and unincorporated DeKalb County are eligible to apply.

Projects must be completed within 12 months (by September 2027).

Awards are for matching grants up to \$2,500. Non-matching grants are available to eligible communities. Priority is given to groups who have not recently received a grant.

WHAT CAN SMALL CHANGE PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?

ECOLOGICAL



CULTURAL



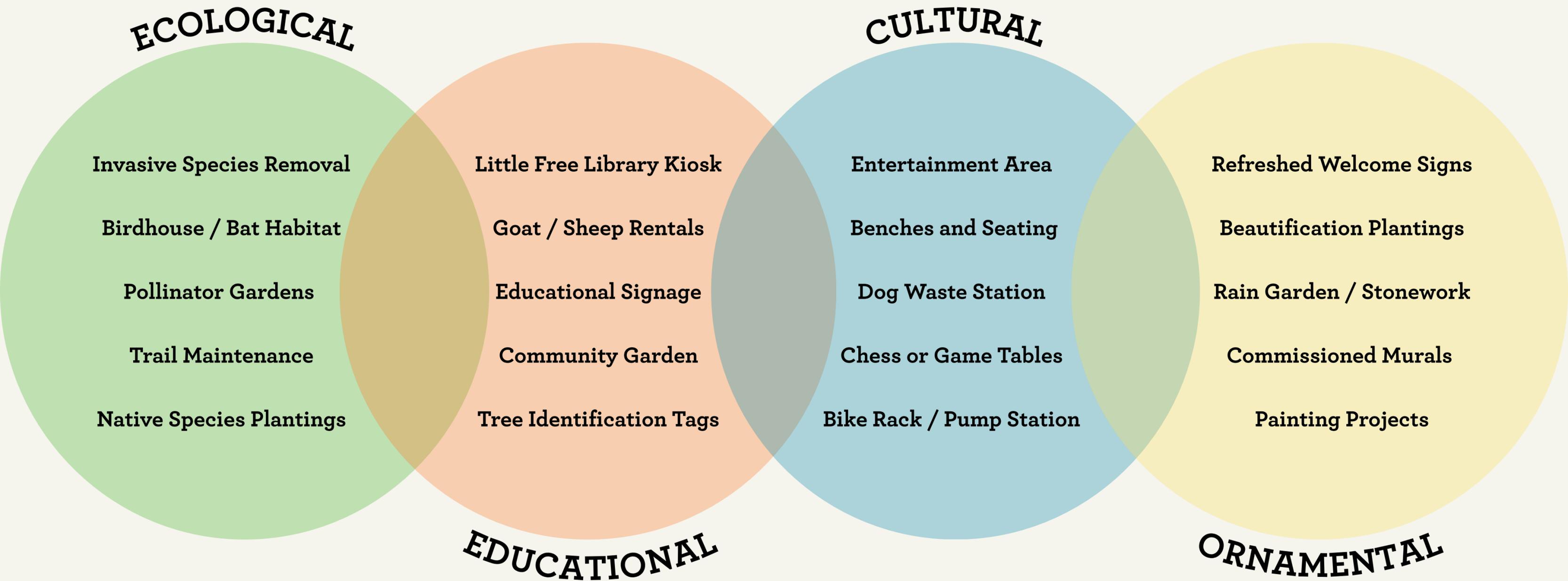
EDUCATIONAL



ORNAMENTAL



WHAT CAN SMALL CHANGE PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?



2026 - 2027

SMALL CHANGE GRANT CYCLE



Parks for All Grants

Funds must support a community-led park improvement project that features physical built or installed elements to enhance the public park.

Only registered Friends of the Park groups in the City of Atlanta are eligible to apply.

Projects must be completed within 18 months (by September 2028).

Awards range in size depending on match eligibility, public investment, previous award history, park location, and project scope.

WHAT CAN PARKS FOR ALL GRANT PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?

PLAYSCAPES



ACCESSIBILITY



GATHERING SPACES



CONSTRUCTION



WHAT CAN PARKS FOR ALL GRANT PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?

PLAYSCAPES

Play Structures

Skate Zones

Disc Golf

Splash Pads

Recreational Fields

Sports Courts

ACCESSIBILITY

ADA-accessible parking
and other elements

Wayfinding Maps and
Directional Signage

Lighting

Bike Racks and other
Infrastructure

Trails and Pathways

GATHERING SPACES

Pavilions, Gazebos, and
Shade Structures

Bridges

Amphitheaters

Outdoor Classrooms

Benches, Tables, Trash
Cans and other Site
Furnishings

CONSTRUCTION

Bioswales and Water
Runoff Mitigation

Retaining Walls and
Erosion Control

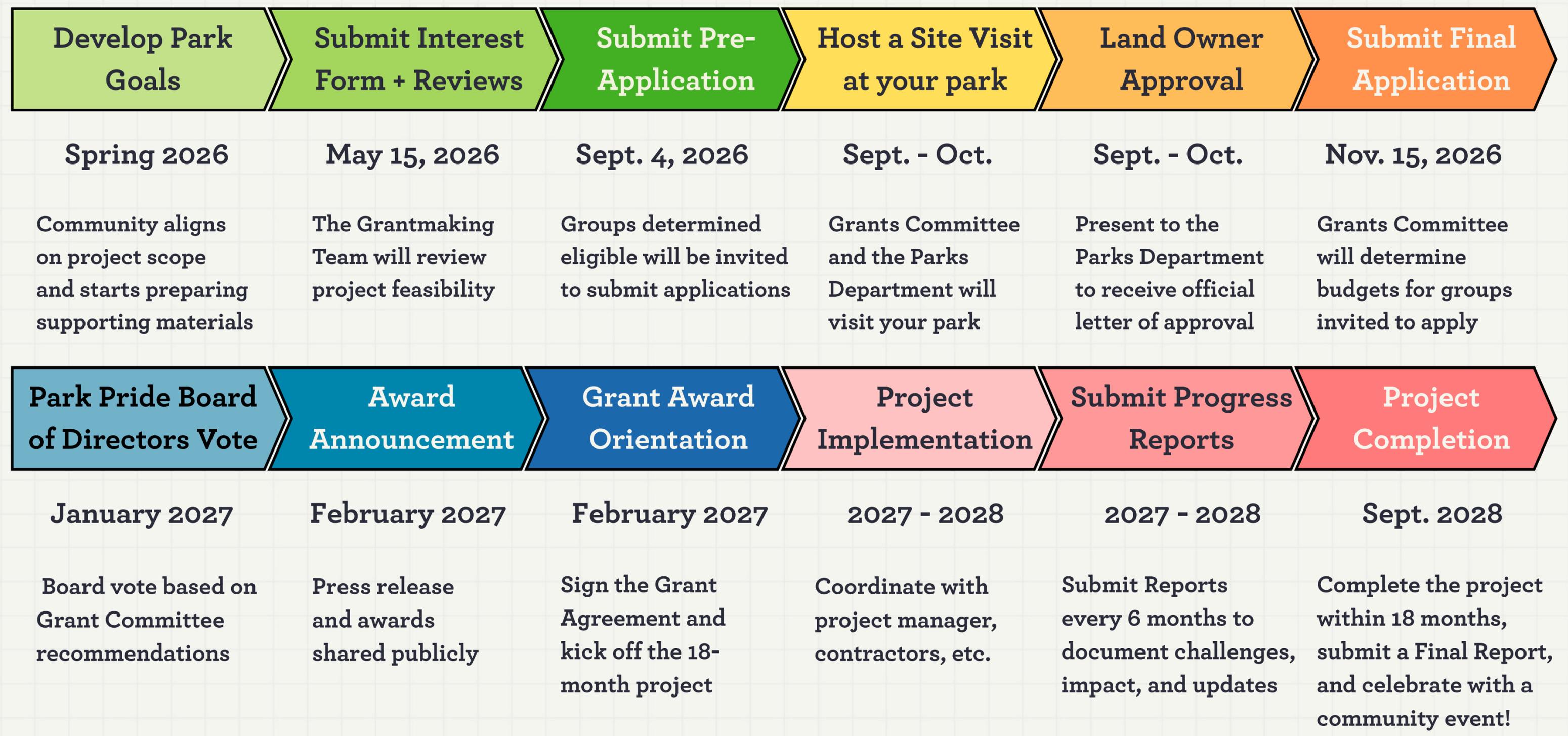
Murals and Installations

Plantings and Landscaping

Large Scale Restoration

2026 - 2028

PARKS FOR ALL GRANT CYCLE



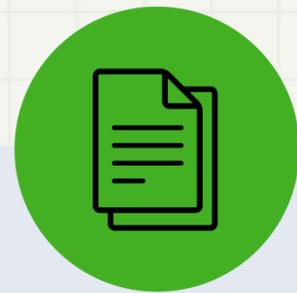
PARKS FOR ALL GRANT PRE-APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

5 main components when applying for a Parks for All Grant



BASIC PARK & APPLICANT INFORMATION

Think about who will be a point of contact and site monitor to share updates with Park Pride, the community, and communicate with the project manager and vendors as needed



DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Present a clear vision for a physical park improvement project based on community goals



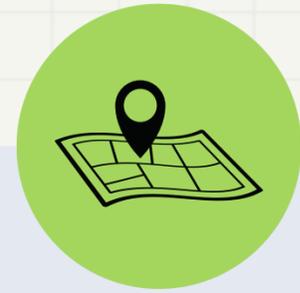
PROJECT VALUE / IMPACT

Provide information about how you worked with the community to identify this project as a priority and how it will benefit the community



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Having a core group of invested community members is key, but you'll also want to engage the broader community beyond the Friends of the Park Group, especially if a match is required



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Conceptual designs, renderings or any visual components as well as any construction documents and price estimates will need to be submitted

What's Next

Anyone interested in a Small Change or Legacy Grant will submit an Interest Form

Portal opens: Wednesday, March 11

Portal closes: Friday, May 15

The Grantmaking Team will evaluate Interest Forms and host Review Meetings in May and June with Friends Groups who submitted.

Small Change applicants with initial approval will need to get Parks Department Approval before submitting an Application in July.

Parks for All Grant applicants with initial approval will be guided on how to proceed to the Pre-Application phase from July through August.

Friends of Pittman Park

2019 - 2025 Grant Experiences



- Commemorative Friends of Pittman Park bench
- 8-seat swing set with ADA swing
- 5 picnic tables (including wheelchair-accessible option)
- 3 deluxe barbecue grills
- Basketball/volleyball court with spectator benches
- Children's mural around exterior of utility building
- Resurfaced & repainted exterior of recreation center
- Installation of "Pittsburgh Days in History" mural
- Sarah K. Lowrie Memorial Garden, plaque, and lighting
- Community pool mural and new pool furniture





**Any questions for
the Grantmaking and
Implementation Team?**