



Daniel P. McCoy, Albany County Executive
Alexandra Robert, Acting Commissioner

May 3, 2024

To: *Municipal Leaders*

RE: Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Initiative Grant Opportunity

The Albany County Legislature, in partnership with the Albany County Parks & Recreation Department (ACPR) and the Albany County Executive's Office, has announced the availability of one hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$150,000) through Resolution No. 448 of the Albany County Improvement Initiative. This county-wide initiative is for the enhancement and development of city, town and village-owned parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities throughout the County. Individual grant awards will range up to \$19,000 based on the scope and quality of proposals submitted.

Applications must be submitted to the Albany County Parks & Recreation (ACPR) via email to Recreation@albanycountyny.gov. There is no guarantee that applications selected by Albany County Parks & Recreation will ultimately be approved.

Submission Timeline:

- General Notice of Funding Opportunity issued Friday, May 3, 2024
- Applications to be accepted starting Monday, May 6, 2024
- Application acceptance ends Close of Business (COB) Friday, May 31, 2024
- Notification of grant award recipients by Friday, June 7, 2024

Application Process

The application process for ACPR is multi-step:

- 1) Albany County Parks & Recreation solicits proposal applications from eligible project sponsors and submits them to the Commissioner for Albany County Parks & Recreation.
 - Applications will include:
 1. An executive summary detailing the project.
 2. A chart that breaks down anticipated project expenses.
 3. A benefits statement as to how the project will add public value, including projected impact
 4. An overview highlighting the need for assistance and any deficits that exist
 5. Whether or not matching funds are available
 6. Two (2) letters of support
 7. Appendices that consist of any renderings, drawings, project plans, or construction documents.

2) Each proposal is reviewed and scored by staff of Albany County Parks & Recreation, Albany County Legislature and the Albany County Executive's Office.

3) Based on the reviews of the designated graders, the Commissioner of Albany County Parks & Recreation will make recommendations on which projects should be funded.

Eligible Applicants

Project sponsors must be an incorporated city, town, or village within Albany County.

Although private individuals, not-for-profit organizations, for-profit corporations, planning and engineering firms and other non-public entities are not eligible, they are strongly encouraged to partner with eligible public entities to plan and submit proposals to boost the impact of county grant funds.

Project Criteria

The purpose of the Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Initiative is to either upgrade current parks and playgrounds, or develop new recreational facilities throughout the County, to the extent possible under General Municipal Law § 119-o, to help improve the lives of the residents and visitors of the County of Albany.

- Must be located within an incorporated city, town, or village within Albany County.
- Must focus on physical, permanent structures that enhance Parks or Recreation Facilities.
- Can be funded fully by Albany County Park Improvement Initiative or partially.
- Must provide direct impact to county residents.
- Must be accessible to the general public.

Additional benefits beyond the above may assist a project in standing apart from other projects, but they cannot be used as a replacement for the stated priority. Additional benefits may include, but are not limited to, projects that:

- Expand public-private partnerships to leverage matching share resources (e.g. money or donated lands, supplies or services);
- Provide economic benefits to the local community (e.g. short or long-term jobs or stimulation to local business near the park);
- Use of sustainable design/materials;
- Include site features that consider the needs of all demographics, and/or;
- Involve the redevelopment of a blighted or distressed property.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Robert
Acting Commissioner
Albany County Parks & Recreation

