



LOWELL PARKS & CONSERVATION TRUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 19, 2023

LOWELL PARKS & CONSERVATION TRUST CHOSEN BY NATIONAL PARK TRUST AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AS A 2023 CHALLENGE COST SHARE AWARDEE

\$375,100 awarded to 18 projects across the country that promote stewardship, access to outdoor recreation and connect people to the outdoors

LOWELL, MA, (June 19, 2023) – The National Park Trust, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), announced recently \$375,100 to fund 18 education and outdoor recreation projects through the 2023 NPS Challenge Cost Share Program. Each project connects a local community to a nearby national park, national trail, or wild and scenic river. This year’s group of awardees will engage more than 8,600 participants in active, healthy outdoor recreation and in education initiatives that increase knowledge about our nation’s natural and cultural heritage.

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust received a \$21,000 award to support our work to engage Lowell teens in partnership with Lowell National Historical Park through the Environmental Youth Task Force (EYTF). The EYTF is an action-oriented, youth-led group, born of a desire to contribute to positive change in environmental justice. This group of 20 youth will engage peers and their community via stewardship projects, education, and events. Under the auspices of Lowell National Historical Park, Tsongas Industrial History Center (a partnership between Lowell National Historical Park and UMass Lowell), Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, and Mass Audubon, students will accomplish these projects, expand their impact, and continue to grow as young leaders of stewardship.

“The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust is honored to receive this grant award to continue to work with these youth that are making a positive, visible impact on Lowell’s landscape, as well as the opportunity to work with our wonderful partners in amplifying this group’s work,” said Jane Calvin, Executive Director.

Mass Audubon’s Scott McCue, Regional Director, shared “Mass Audubon and Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust are thrilled to have National Park Trust’s continued financial support of the Environmental Youth Task Force (EYTF) in 2023. The partnership allows Lowell teens to tackle environmental challenges, make notable improvements in their community, and mobilize with others to fight climate change.”

“National Park Trust is thrilled to once again partner with the National Park Service and community partners across the country to connect people of all backgrounds and abilities to national parks while engaging the newest generation of outdoor enthusiasts and stewards,” said Grace Lee, executive director of National Park Trust. “The Challenge Cost Share program is a terrific example of an initiative that leverages public and private funds to invest in communities to create sustainable partnerships that benefit parks and people.”

“We appreciate the work of local partner organizations across the nation, who are using their resources and skills to support conservation, recreation and education projects that are meaningful and impactful to their communities,” said Lauren S. Imgrund, NPS associate director for Partnerships and Civic Engagement.

ABOUT LOWELL PARKS AND CONSERVATION TRUST

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust (LP&CT) is a private, non-profit land trust located in Lowell, Massachusetts. LP&CT was founded in 1990 by residents with a vision to protect the natural resources upon which the city of Lowell was built. LP&CT provides conservation leadership and programs which focus on four major areas: land protection, stewardship, environmental education, and special places. Some of their work includes:

- Creating connections through land protection
- After-school environmental education programs for urban youth
- Creating and enhancing neighborhood parks, streetscapes, and special places
- Tree planting for wildlife, air quality and shade

ABOUT NATIONAL PARK TRUST

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2023, National Park Trust's mission is to preserve parks today and create park stewards for tomorrow. Since 1983, the Park Trust has acquired many of the missing pieces of our national parks, benefiting 52 national park sites. Our national youth education and family initiatives, including our Buddy Bison Programs and National Kids to Parks Day, serve hundreds of Title I schools annually and cultivate future park stewards. We believe that our public parks, lands and waters should be cared for, enjoyed by, and preserved by all for current and future generations. Find out more at parktrust.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 424 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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