



NEW HAVEN PARKS
720 Edgewood Avenue
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Maxwell Webster, Director
www.newhavenct.gov



Justin Elicker
Mayor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GRANT NAME: DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

DEPARTMENT: Parks

DATE: July 20, 2026

Funding request: \$250,000 / 1 year

The recent DCRF-funded *GNHWPCA Westville Flood Resilience Study* indicates the need to leverage the greenspace in Edgewood Park to mitigate chronic flooding issues in the surrounding neighborhoods. This opportunity aligns with the New Haven Parks Department's strategic goal of managing localized flooding and improving the resilience of the West River's channel within the park. The proposed study will: evaluate current and predicted future climate condition vulnerabilities within the park; analyze ecosystem resilience including the river channel; and assess existing park amenities and infrastructure. The Edgewood Park Resilience Action Plan will further characterize climate-related vulnerabilities in the park and develop an action plan capitalizing on the park as a whole working as natural infrastructure providing risk mitigation, both for the park itself and the surrounding neighborhoods identifying priority areas of vulnerability as well as a roadmap for resilience action.

The ongoing climate-related challenges are a drain on limited staff resources and without proactive intervention, the anticipated increase in extreme storm events will push the impacts of repeat flooding on this park past the City's management capacity and render park amenities unusable. The proposed study will substantiate and deepen the City's understanding of Edgewood Park's vulnerability to current and predicted climate risks. This nuanced, science-based understanding of the risks will inform a Resilience Action Plan identifying proactive interventions across the park that will mitigate climate impacts within the park. The plan will center on a neighborhood-focused approach to analyze current and future climate hazards and vulnerabilities, and deliver a prioritized, community-driven and science-informed roadmap of actionable strategies across infrastructure, social, environmental, and economic/operational resilience categories for the park.

Stakeholder engagement will be conducted throughout the planning process to get the community invested in the future of the park and gather feedback and involve community members. The Edgewood Park Resilience Action Plan will recommend appropriate actions and strategies and where they could be considered throughout the park through a visual resilience masterplan. While addressing flooding in the park and neighborhood, the project will also enhance the park's ability to act as natural infrastructure combating



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extreme heat for its users. Some possible interventions may include: expanding/reconnecting the floodplain of the West River; creating bioretention areas to store and filter stormwater before it enters the river; relocating amenities away from the most flood-prone areas of the park; and enhancing the stream-bank design to withstand future flows.

The plan will conclude with an actionable implementation plan highlighting next steps, priorities, and funding opportunities and strategies for the park. Finally, Edgewood Park Resilience Action Plan will include a grant application to fund the next immediate actions from the plan.