



2024 Park & Garden Friends Network Registration Requirements

Registered Friends groups are recognized by Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and supported in partnership with the Fairmount Park Conservancy. Friends groups may be organized around unstaffed neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and watershed parks that are part of the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation system. Certain groups, particularly those who represent leased properties within the PPR system, may also register as members of the Park Friends Network, but may not be eligible to receive all benefits stated below. Groups wishing to represent PPR Rec Centers must organize through the Philadelphia Recreation Advisory Council. To learn more about Advisory Councils, please contact the Rec Leader at your local Rec Center.

Registered Friends Groups are seen as the community voice for their parks. Therefore, these requirements exist to uphold the integrity and transparency expected of a representative community group.

Requirements

A Friends group must:

- consist of at least three members
- be organized for the sole purpose of supporting, activating, and advocating for a park
- be an open, public group accessible to all community members
- be dedicated to a single park or park space
- register with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation annually
- host at least one annual community meeting that is advertised and open to the public
- have a clearly stated and publicly accessible path to becoming a member and/or joining the group, including access to leadership positions

The leaders and/or primary contacts of a Friends group:

- must be community members
- may not be members of the same household
- may not be the primary contacts or leaders of more than one Friends group

Groups that apply but do not meet these requirements will be offered a provisional status and the opportunity to work with the PPR & FPC Stewardship Team to meet the requirements.

Benefits

Registered Friends groups are eligible to:

- Apply for the subsidized and simplified Friends & Community Groups Permits to host events in their park
- Receive full liability insurance for all permitted community events
- Apply for Fairmount Park Conservancy grants
- Participate in Park Friends Network events, including quarterly meetings, educational workshops and trainings, networking events, etc.
- Participate in biannual Love Your Park events and receive tools, materials, supplies, and event support from PPR and FPC, including:
 - T-shirts
 - Trees, bulbs, and other plants
 - Mulch and compost delivery
 - Trash and leaf/organics pick-up
- Work with an assigned Stewardship Coordinator who serves as a liaison and provides support to your Friends group