



Partnerships and Development

How does DPR define partnerships?

Program partners

DPR seeks to partner with organizations offering world class recreation, arts and cultural, life skills, and personal enrichment opportunities to participants in neighborhoods around the District.

Park partners

DPR looks for community groups to act as stewards of park spaces around the District.

Q: Where can I find information about which partnership category is best for my program?

A: There are five different ways to partner with DPR.

Programmatic Partners: Individuals or organizations that can help expand and host programs at DPR locations. Programmatic partners are required to be 501c3 nonprofit organizations and offer programs at no cost to DPR or participants.

Friends of Parks: Individuals or organizations that wish to take on an active role in fundraising, promoting events, and recruiting volunteers to for DPR's 900 plus acres of park space throughout the District.

Adopt a Park Partners: Individuals or organizations that would like to support our efforts to keep DPR properties beautiful and provide general clean-up and maintenance services.

Community Garden Manager: Individuals or organizations with a passion for urban gardening and the ability to manage and maintain a DPR plot.

Dog Park Partners: Individuals or organizations with a love for dogs and the ability to manage and maintain a DPR dog park.

Additional partnership information can be found on the DPR website by visiting <https://dpr.dc.gov/page/partnerships-and-development-division>
For general questions, send an email to dpr.partnerships@dc.gov



Q: What is the difference between an 'Adopt-a-Park' Partner and a 'Friends of' Park Partner?

A: 'Adopt-a-Park' Partners can be an individual, association, corporation, neighborhood or civic group, or a non-profit or religious group. 'Adopt-a-Park' Partners commit to a regular clean-up schedule for the park they adopt and may also beautify the park by planting and caring for flowers, trees or shrubs. 'Friends of' Park Partners must be 501c3 non-profit organizations or have a 501c3 non-profit fiscal sponsor.

'Friends of' groups fundraise to make improvements to their park or recreation center, advocate on behalf of their community for the park or recreation center, help to maintain the site through clean-up and beautification efforts and are engaged in planning or site improvement processes. We rely on our 'Adopt-a-Park' and 'Friends of' Park Partners to be the eyes and ears at our sites and to report any hazardous conditions, damaged equipment or other needed repairs. All official Park Partners have a signed Cooperative Agreement with DPR which outlines the roles and responsibilities of each party.

Q: How do I know what agency is responsible for a park or greenspace in my neighborhood?

A: Parkland and 'Triangle Parks' in DC are typically managed by one of three government agencies: DC Department of Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service or in some instances the DC Department of Transportation.

Q: What is the advantage of becoming an official Park Partner? Does DPR provide funding or materials for park improvement projects?

A: Partnering with DPR to help care for your park or recreation center is a great way to build community in your neighborhood and ensure that our parks and recreation centers are clean, safe and ready for use! Although DPR does not provide funding to Park Partners, we can help your efforts by lending tools for clean-up and beautification events. Official Park Partners who would like to host public events at their site are eligible for permit fee waivers in support of their efforts. Additionally, Park Partners can take advantage of workshops and special events hosted by the Office of Partnerships and Development.

Q: I do not have a 501 c3 organization structure, can I partner with DPR without being a 501 c3?

A: You must be a 501c3 nonprofit organization with mission and programs that support mission of DPR and add value to recreational programs for DC residents. If you do not meet this requirement, DPR welcomes other ways to get involved such as volunteering. Please visit the DPR website to find out more about our volunteer program.



Q: I am seeking funding for my program, does DPR provide help with that?

A: DPR does not provide funding for programs or events. Approved Program and Park Partners receive in-kind support for programs and events offered at DPR locations. However, you can subscribe to our Partnerships and Development newsletter to find out about funding opportunities across the District.

Q: I'd like to host an event at a DPR site, is this categorized as a partnership or should I apply for a permit?

A: You should apply for a permit if you are planning a meeting, practice, game or public event and need a great location to host your family, friends, associates or co-workers. Someone from DPR's permitting team will be happy to assist you by calling (202) 671-2597 or emailing DPRpermits@dc.gov. A permit is required for any organized picnic or activity of 10 or more participants.

You should apply to be a programmatic partner if you have an established nonprofit organization or represent a government agency and desire to support specific enrichment agendas at DPR locations, such as after school youth development, senior health and wellness, youth athletics, specialty summer camps, or creative and performing arts.

Sponsorships

Q: Can DPR accept sponsorship from corporations and businesses?

A: Yes, DPR may contract for advertisements and sponsorships for programs, events, recreation centers, fields, pools, play courts, and other Department facilities within the Department's inventory. DPR accepts donations of in-kind or financial support in exchange for advertising (banners, promotional logo, shared media)

Sponsors may support:

- Athletic fields or recreation facilities
- Sports teams and leagues
- Recreational programs for youth or seniors
- Parks, pools or playgrounds
- DPR Signature Events

DPR Donations

Q: What are the two ways I can donate directly to DPR?

A: DPR Drop-Off Donations are contributions that are valued at \$500.00 or less in



estimated or actual value. DPR Drop-Off Form allows DPR to accept unsolicited donations on the spot at the Recreation Center. The Drop-Off Form must be completed, signed, and sent to the Donations Manager.

DPR General Donations are contributions that exceed \$500.00 in estimated or actual value. A DPR General Donation Form must be submitted to the Donations Manager. The Mayor's Office on Legal Counsel ("MOLC") must review the submitted form and certify its Legal Sufficiency. DPR and the donor must enter into a Donation Agreement approved by the Director of Mayor's Office of Partnerships and Grant Services. After the Donation Agreement has been fully executed by all parties, DPR will be authorized to accept the donation.

Q: Are my donations to DPR tax-deductible?

A: In accordance to section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, gifts to the District of Columbia for use in carrying out its governmental functions are deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. The amount of the deduction is subject to the same rules as are generally applicable to charitable contributions. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

Q: Can I donate cash to a DPR Program or Activity?

A: No, donated funds may only be received in the form of a money order, wire transfer, or securities, cash donations will not be accepted. Checks should be made payable to the DC Treasurer.

Q: What qualifies as a Drop-Off Donation?

A: Donations that are given or done voluntarily, Donation up to \$500.00 (both in-kind and financial).

Q: How long does it take for DPR accept my donation if it exceeds \$500.00?

A: After the donation agreement has been signed by both the donor and the authorize representative of the agency and submitted to OPGS, we will be authorized to accept the donation immediately. The process generally takes up to 3 weeks depending on the item(s) donated.

Q: Does DPR apply for or accept grant funding from outside organizations?

A: Yes, DPR is eligible to receive grant funds from federal and local government sources as well as some private and corporate foundations.



In some cases, DPR will collaborate with DC based nonprofit or government agencies to receive funding for program support.