



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Rebecca L. Tepper, Secretary
Grant Announcement

BID ENV 26 DCS 08

Dated: June 3, 2025

Greening the Gateway Cities Program Implementation Grant
FY 26

BID #: BD-25-1042-ENV-ENV01-117501

I. GRANT OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY:

A. PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR: Financial assistance to Gateway City municipalities, non-profit 501(c) organizations, and federally recognized tribes to conduct tree care, maintenance, impervious surface removal, tree planting, and related activities in support of the Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP) objectives of enhancing urban tree canopy.

B. OVERVIEW AND GOALS: The program is part of the Commonwealth's commitment to land conservation, tree planting and parks. The GGCP is designed to bring the environmental, public health, and energy efficiency benefits of expanded tree canopy to Gateway Cities. So far, over 40,000 trees have been planted in 23 Gateway Cities. GGCP is a partnership between the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Urban & Community Forestry Program, the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities (EOHLC), and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), along with Gateway Cities and local grassroots organizations. This grant program provides support for Gateway City municipalities and not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations to pursue projects which include young tree care, impervious surface removal to facilitate tree planting, and community outreach in support of the GGCP objectives. This is a reimbursement grant.

C. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Projects must achieve young tree care (i.e. tree watering, tree pruning & maintenance), impervious surface removal, green infrastructure projects and/or tree planting that will have a measurable impact on the present and future urban canopy in Gateway Cities. Projects should focus tree planting on locations with limited tree canopy, particularly within areas experiencing documented urban heat island effects. **In Gateway City communities where DCR has active planting crews, tree planting projects should occur within residential areas outside the areas that DCR crews are actively planting in.** Impervious surface removal & tree pit creation may be executed within GGCP planting areas, in coordination with DCR Foresters and/or outside of the GGCP tree planting areas to facilitate additional tree planting by the municipality or non-profit organization. Costs of projects related to tree watering and maintenance of trees planted by the DCR GGCP program or planted through a past EEA Implementation grant are also eligible. Applicants are encouraged to contact the EEA Tree Planting Program Manager to discuss opportunities.

D. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: This grant program is open to Gateway City municipalities and non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, federally recognized tribes with demonstrated experience with young tree care and tree planting projects. Applicants are encouraged to consider opportunities to partner, leveraging the unique abilities of each to achieve the greatest impact and ensure the watering and care of trees planted.

E. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, July 1st 2025 at 4 pm. See further detail on deadlines and grant program calendar in Section 4.

F. INFORMATION SESSION: A virtual grant information session will be held on Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 at 12pm. To receive a Teams invitation, please RSVP to hilary.m.dimino@mass.gov by Monday, June 9th. While not required, it is recommended that applicants attend the workshop. Questions received during the information session will be posted to Commbuys and the DCR website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/greening-the-gateway-cities-program>.

G. FUNDING AVAILABILITY: Maximum reimbursement for a single project is \$100,000. The minimum eligible project budget is \$30,000. Exceptions may be made at the Secretary's discretion. See further detail on funding availability in Section 2C.

H. BUDGET REQUIREMENT: This is a reimbursement grant. Applicants selected to receive grant funding must be prepared to incur costs detailed in the scope of their applications and then seek reimbursement. Only approved project costs incurred within the contract period will be eligible for reimbursement. See further detail on budget requirements in Section 2C.

I. TOTAL ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACT(S): The contract period will begin on the date that EEA signs the contract. Contracts issued pursuant to this Bid must expend all approved project costs associated with the approved project on or before June 30, 2026, to be eligible for reimbursement. See further detail on anticipated duration of contract(s) in Section 2E.

J. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Hilary Dimino, Tree Planting Program Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(857) 207-1912
Hilary.M.Dimino@mass.gov

2. Performance and Contract Specifications

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: This Bid is open to Gateway City municipalities, qualified 501(c)(3) organizations and federally recognized tribes with demonstrated experience with young tree care and tree planting. Applicants are encouraged to partner to achieve the greatest impact and ensure watering and care of trees planted. Non-profit applicants must secure a letter of endorsement from the Gateway City municipality in which they have proposed project work.

B. ELIGIBLE PROJECT(S)/SCOPE(S) OF WORK: EEA and DCR seek high-impact projects that will achieve young tree care, impervious surface removal, and community tree planting projects that will advance the public health, environmental, and energy efficiency goals of the EEA and DCR GGCP.

Projects should aim to strengthen community engagement surrounding tree care and tree planting and achieve plantings that align with the **right tree in the right place** concept. Project applications must include:

- A tree watering plan: include equipment, frequency of watering, amount of water per tree, and staff capacity.
- A list of locations or map for proposed tree pits or areas where impervious surface will be removed, as well as the size of the tree pit proposed.
- A planting plan (using ArcGIS or Google 'My Maps') and identify measurable goals and/or deliverables (e.g. number of trees planted, locations for proposed tree pits or impervious surface removal, type and number of informational materials for distribution, etc.).
- When determining tree species for a planting plan, site conditions should be considered, including environmental and streetscape factors (salt tolerance, air pollution tolerance, flood tolerance, etc.)

- A map identifying the specific locations of trees to be planted, as well as a list of species, and sizes proposed for planting and/or a map specifying locations where impervious surfaces will be removed and the corresponding tree that will be planted in the location. The map **must** identify:
 1. Proposed streets for planting and cross streets.
 2. Location of any overhead or underground utilities; applicants are required to contact DigSafe to ensure underground utilities are identified appropriately if excavation is proposed, and to certify notification of gas, electrical, water, sewer, and communication utilities as necessary.
 3. Municipal properties or other land with locations currently available for tree planting (parks, schools etc.); applicants are encouraged to coordinate with non-profit or municipal partners to identify and secure permission for tree planting on partner properties. If a non-profit applicant is proposing tree planting opportunities on municipal lands, letters of endorsement are required from an authorized representative of the city, as well as the municipal Tree Warden.
 4. Residential addresses identified and/or confirmed for tree planting.
 5. If the community has a designated DCR planting area, the plan should ensure that proposed tree planting does not overlap with DCR planting zones.

Additionally, planting projects must follow the restrictions below to adhere to ‘**right tree, right place**’ policies:

- **Planting large canopy tree species should be prioritized whenever appropriate.**
- Underwire species with a mature height less than 30 feet, should be planted in proximity to over-head utility lines or infrastructure.
- A list of suggested tree species for different settings is provided in Attachment D. When selecting tree species to plant, biodiversity of tree species within a community should be considered.
- No more than 30% of total trees planted utilizing EEA/GGCP grant funds should have a mature height less than 30 feet.
- Tree species planted should be diverse and avoid monoculture planting.
- Due to emerald ash borer, grant funds may not be used to plant any species of Ash (*Fraxinus*) or fringetree (*Chionanthus*).
- Due to Beech leaf disease, grant funds may not be used to plant any species of Beech (*Fagus*).
- In the Asian long horned beetle regulated region of Worcester County, grant funds may not be used to plant host species. For the list of host tree species see: <http://massnrc.org/pests/albdocs/ALBtreeguide.pdf>
- Please be aware that the following species (and all cultivars) are prohibited for purchase in Massachusetts, and therefore ineligible for purchase with grant funds: Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Sycamore Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Amur Corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*), and Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). For current information on prohibited plants, please see <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/farm-products/plants/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list.html>
- Due to its invasive tendencies, grant funds may not be used to plant any varieties of Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) or Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*).
- Tree planting activities should focus on areas of limited tree canopy within residential settings. Applicants are encouraged to contact the EEA Tree Planting Program Manager to discuss opportunities for collaboration and/or project proposals in advance. Municipalities should coordinate review of proposed tree planting plans with their Planning Department.

Planting work should take place during favorable weather conditions as described in Attachment C, from April – June and September - November.

The scope of work may include:

1. Purchase of trees and associated materials, including clean loam, mulch, biochar/compost, irrigation bags, stakes etc. Costs must reflect volumes estimated to be utilized directly in planting activities. Trees purchased must be greater than 1" and less than or equal to 2.5" caliper to be eligible for reimbursement. **Tree planting must occur outside of designated DCR planting zones, and should target neighborhood walking routes, gathering areas and heat islands.**
2. Tree pit creation, excavation, and/or restoration. Tree pits must conform to ADA requirements for sidewalk clearance. **Preferred tree pit width is 5 feet and preferred length is 10 feet or larger to provide adequate soil volume to support tree growth and health.** Where possible, existing tree pits should be connected to form a continuous planting strip. Please reference DCR Urban Tree Siting Guide.
3. Concrete, asphalt, compacted soil or other impervious material removal and disposal to facilitate tree planting and/or improve the health of trees.
4. Cost associated with the installation of micro forests within identified urban heat islands or 'hotspots.' [Hot Spots | Hot Spots | ResilientMass Climate Hub \(arcgis.com\)](#)
5. Vacant lot restoration conducted with tree planting on city-owned vacant lots, such as debris removal, removal of impervious surfaces, and planting costs must be approved in advance by the EEA Tree Planting Program Manager. A site plan establishing the number of trees and location proposed on the lot(s) shall be developed and approved in advance. The site plan must identify buffer areas to protect trees from potential impacts from site development, such as the perimeter of the lot, that will be agreed to and recorded, in writing, by the city to ensure new trees are permanently protected from potential impacts of site development.
6. Costs for watering trees through contract period, including purchase of equipment (water tank, pump, hoses, irrigation bags) and labor needed to water trees. Watering equipment purchases should be made immediately after contract execution.
7. Tree maintenance, including watering of trees planted through the GGCP. Tree watering should reflect the cost of weekly watering of a minimum 15-gallons per tree. Adequate soil/mulch berms must be established prior to watering and maintained to ensure water is percolating to prevent runoff and soil loss.
8. Purchase & installation of green infrastructure that accompanies tree planting. Projects must include green infrastructure that allows for larger soil volume, alleviates soil compaction and/or facilitates water permeability. Structural soils, silva cell structures, flex pavement, permeable pavement are all potentially eligible for funding.
9. Costs for the use of heavy equipment necessary to assist GGCP tree planting crews.
10. Full stump removal only if necessitated by planting site preparation. **Full stump removal will be funded only if necessary to increase tree canopy within an area and must be approved by EEA Tree Planting Program Manager prior to removal.**
11. Community outreach materials, events and educational programming to promote GGCP tree planting efforts, such as direct mailers and utility bill inserts to residents in designated planting zones. **Outreach materials and events must be approved by EEA Tree Planting Program Manager.**

Applicants may elect to sub-contract planting or other work with private contractors including local non-profit organizations. All sub-contractors responsible for tree planting or tree care must have a Massachusetts Certified Arborist (MCA) or International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist on staff to provide oversight and direction for tree planting and care. Provide resumes for contractors hired for projects. Please see Attachment C for additional contractor requirements to ensure exceptional planting is achieved and tree survival is maximized.

Ineligible project costs include, but are not limited to:

1. Costs associated with the preparation and submission of an application in response to this bid.
2. Staff salaries, equipment and goods not related to tree planting support.
3. Purchase of food or drink.
4. Stump grinding.
5. Purchase of equipment over \$10,000.
6. Purchase of motor vehicles.

C. FUNDING AVAILABILITY, BUDGETING GUIDELINES & ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES:

The maximum award under this grant program is \$100,000. The minimum budget for eligible projects is \$30,000. Exceptions may be made at EEA's discretion. Applicants must submit an itemized project budget and specific grant request. Applicants may sub-contract to a qualified contractor, with EEA approval.

The GGC Implementation grant program is a **reimbursement** program. Only eligible expenses incurred by applicant during the grant recipient's contract period will be reimbursed. Expenses incurred before the execution of a contract with EEA will not be reimbursed. Project costs are subject to approval by EEA. Only project costs approved by EEA will be reimbursed.

All contracts shall be subject to available funding, whether through the appropriation and authorization of sufficient funds or the receipt of sufficient revenues. If available funding ceases for any reason, a contract shall be deemed under suspension and contract performance must halt. A contractor will not be entitled to compensation for any performance provided during the period of contract suspension. EEA may lift the suspension if available funding is received. In the absence of foreseeable available funding, EEA may terminate the contract.

D. DELIVERABLES, OWNERSHIP AND CREDIT DUE:

Trees resulting from this grant program on public lands shall be public property but may be privately maintained. All materials, reports and other products produced through the grant program shall be considered in the public domain and thus available at the cost of production. EEA and DCR representatives must be invited to any public events sponsored by the applicant in celebration of a GGCP grant award. Receipt of funding from EEA must be acknowledged in any press issued by the applicant or its partners.

E. PROJECT TERMS:

If awarded, all projects will be required to abide by the Standard Commonwealth of Massachusetts Terms and Conditions. All final contracts are subject to successful negotiation of a Final Scope of Services. EEA does not guarantee that any contracts may result from this Bid, or that any funding amount will be awarded.

F. ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACTS:

Contracts will begin on the date of execution of the contract by EEA and will end on June 30, 2026. Contractor may request a grant extension, with a 30-day notice prior to the end of the contract. Extension of the contract is at the sole discretion of EEA and will not affect the amount awarded.

G. REPORTING:

Grant recipients will be required to submit quarterly work reports and participate in check in meetings with the Regional DCR Forester and EEA Tree Planting Manager, throughout the fiscal year. A final project report will be required with the final reimbursement request to indicate project deliverables identified in the project proposal achieved. At the end of the project, the DCR urban forester and/or EEA Tree Planting Manager will meet with the project manager to inspect the completed work. Items not passing inspection will not be reimbursed.

H. INVOICING:

Applicants selected to receive grant funding will be required to provide the following documentation when filing for reimbursement:

- ☐ Reimbursement Billing Form (forms will be provided after contract has been executed). These will be submitted to and approved by the Tree Planting Program Manager in coordination with the DCR urban forester assigned.
- ☐ Cancelled checks from the Applicant (both sides), paid invoices, or other proof of payment that reflects the unit cost, total payment, date paid, and method of payment.
- ☐ Identified project deliverables

3. Instructions for Application Submission

A. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Applications must be received electronically by **Tuesday, July 1st at 4pm.** Applications may be submitted to Hilary Dimino via email to: Hilary.M.Dimino@mass.gov. Any application received after the deadline will be rejected. Applications should be submitted in PDF format, with the email heading “GGCP Implementation Bid [applicant name]”. The application should not exceed 20 MB.

Please note that all responses and information submitted in response to this Bid are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, s. 10, and to c. 4, s. 7, ss. 26. Any statements in submitted responses that are inconsistent with these statutes, including marking of information as confidential, shall be disregarded. Please do not submit any information that the Applicant may not wish to disclose publicly, such as home addresses or personal telephone numbers, social security numbers, or other similar information.

B. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: A complete application package includes the completed Application Form and applicable supporting documentation as follows:

1. Letter from CEO authorizing the application and identifying project manager
2. Project narrative and budget (section H of Application Form)
3. Tree planting plan (section I of Application Form)
4. Estimated locations for tree pit creation/impervious surface removal/stump removal
5. Estimated trees to be watered, including schedule and locations
6. Letter of Endorsement from non-profit partner(s) if municipal applicant proposes planting on non-municipal, partner-held lands OR from an authorized representative of the municipality if applicant is a non-profit proposing planting on City land
7. Letter of support from Municipal Tree Warden or appropriate Commission
8. Planning Board meeting minutes that reflect planting plan approval

C. EVALUATION PROCESS: A project selection committee comprised of EEA and DCR staff will score and rank all applications using the measures below. The EEA Tree Planting Program Manager may contact applicant for a site visit and/or to solicit additional information, or necessary revisions to the proposal. After rating, the Selection Committee will make funding recommendations to the Secretary based on the rating system below. A detailed distribution of these points is included as Attachment B: Response Review Rating System.

Applicant Capacity (25%)

- Applicant has demonstrated capacity to carry out the proposed project.
- Applicant has experience planting trees and projects or programs related to the goals of the GGCP and/or urban canopy enhancement.
- Applicant has the resources and has shown capacity to steward newly planted trees for a minimum of 2 years.

Community Engagement & Support (10%)

- Project includes both municipal participation and community partners.

- Project effectively communicates project goals and benefits to the community in which tree planting will take place. Education includes discussions surrounding the public health impacts of urban heat islands and the importance of tree planting to mitigate these impacts.
- Project communicates using diverse communication channels (e.g. mailings, events, web-based outreach)

Environmental Justice (15%)

- Project targets tree watering & maintenance and/or removal of impervious surfaces in Environmental Justice designated population areas.
- Applicant has staff that will be directly engaged in the project fluent in the applicable language(s) and/or demonstrated experience providing outreach in languages other than English.

Overall Project Quality (50%)

- Project achieves strategic tree planting, young tree care, or impervious surface removal, that will demonstrably increase and/or enhance canopy cover in residential areas that currently have minimal canopy.
- Project achieves plantings within urban heat islands and locations identified as ‘hotspots’.
- Project compliments the work of the DCR GGCP team working within the same community.
- Project has a realistic and achievable timeline with strong project deliverables.
- Project provides training and/or employment opportunities to community members.
- Budget demonstrates that in-kind contributions or other funding sources will be used to leverage a GGCP grant award and maximize impact.
- Overall quality and importance of the proposed project.

D. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

If selected, the following forms will be required to execute a contract. They are available from the Commonwealth’s Operational Services Division website (<https://www.mass.gov/lists/osd-forms>) and Respondents are encouraged to review these forms prior to submission of a Bid.

- Commonwealth Standard Contract Form
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form
- Authorization for Electronic Funds Payment

4. Deadlines and Procurement Calendar

A. RELEASE OF BID: Monday, June 3, 2025

B. Bid Closes: Monday, June 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm

INFORMATION SESSION: A virtual grant information session will be held on Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 at 12 pm. To receive a Teams invitation, please RSVP to Hilary.M.Dimino@mass.gov by Monday, June 9th. While not required, it is recommended that applicants attend the workshop. Questions received during the information session will be posted to Commbuys and the DCR website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/greening-the-gateway-cities-program>.

C. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, July 1st, 2025 at 4pm.

D. ESTIMATED AWARD DATE: Awards are estimated to be announced on or about 90 days after grant application deadline, with contract negotiations to begin immediately thereafter. Please note this is an

estimated timeframe, subject to change based on availability of funds and other factors.

- E. ESTIMATED CONTRACT START DATE:** Notwithstanding any verbal representations by the parties, or an earlier start date listed in the Standard Contract Form, the effective start date of a contract shall be the latest of the following dates: the date the Standard Contract Form has been executed by an authorized signatory of the contractor; the date of secretariat or other approval(s) required by law or regulation; or a later date specified in the Standard Contract Form. Contracts resulting from this Bid are estimated to start in July 2025.

5. Miscellaneous

- A. TYPE OF PROCUREMENT:** Grant

- B. USE OF THIS PROCUREMENT BY SINGLE OR MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS:** This Bid is single department procurement. All contracts awarded under this Bid will be utilized by EEA & DCR.

- C. REQUEST FOR SINGLE OR MULTIPLE CONTRACTORS:** This Bid may result in multiple contracts.

- D. BID DISTRIBUTION METHOD:** This Bid has been distributed electronically using the Commbuys system. It is the responsibility of every applicant to check Commbuys for any addenda or modifications to a Bid to which they intend to respond. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its subdivisions accept no liability and will provide no accommodations to Applicants who fail to check for amended Bids and submit inadequate or incorrect responses. Potential Respondents are advised to check the “last change” field on the summary page of Bids for which they intend to submit a response to ensure they have the most recent Bid files.

E. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Application Form
- B. FY 26 GGCP Implementation Grant Program – Response Review Rating System
- C. Recommended specifications for contractual tree planting and care
- D. DCR’s Recommended Tree List: Selecting Trees for Your Urban Forest

Attachment A

APPLICATION FORM

**FY 26 GGCP IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

SUBMIT: Applications must be received by Tuesday, July 1st, 2025 at 4pm. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Submit one electronic copy of the application via email or file share service to Hilary.M.Dimino@mass.gov, with the subject line “GGCP Implementation Bid [applicant name]”.

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Project Location (Municipality): _____

Requested grant amount: \$ _____

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____

C. MUNICIPAL/ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1.) Has your municipality or organization conducted prior urban forest improvement projects? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

2.) Has your municipality or organization previously received GGCP funding or other grants to complete urban forestry work?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe.

3.) Does your municipality or organization have a qualified urban forestry program manager on staff, available to provide oversight? **This person should not be a DCR forestry staff member.** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the staff name, resume including arborist certification type (ISA, MCA, MQTW) and number (if applicable):

4.) Do you intend to contract out this work?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe.

5.) Does your municipality or organization have equipment and staff to conduct proposed work?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe.

6.) Please identify the division and staff positions that will be dedicated to the proposed work for your municipality or organization.

D. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

1.) Does your project propose to conduct any community engagement?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

E. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1.) Does the project propose work within an Environmental Justice community (defined in Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what percentage of the project will occur within an EJ community?

2.) Does your project anticipate providing translational services in language(s) spoken by residents of the local community, if applicable? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which language(s)? _____

3.) Does your municipality or organization have experience providing translational services in this community?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

4.) Do staff that will be directly engaged in the project have fluency in any of the above languages? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which language(s)? _____

F. PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please provide a 1–3-page description of the proposed project. The description should provide:

- a. The scope of work and deliverables. Please identify any in-kind contributions or other sources of funding the applicant is prepared to contribute to the project. If this is a joint application between a Municipality and non-profit organization, identify the components of the project the Municipality will be responsible for, as well as the role and responsibilities of the partner;
- b. How the project will communicate program benefits, and enhance resident understanding of urban forestry;
- c. Whether the proposed project is located within a ‘hotspot’ (as designated in the map layer provided [here](#). [To search by address, open in ‘Map Viewer Classic’ view.] Please incorporate this data layer in maps of tree planting or submit separately if necessary.
- d. The Environmental Justice communities that will be served, as applicable;
- e. If translational services will be required/provided for communications or outreach to communities with limited English proficiency;

- f. Whether the project provides training and/or employment opportunities to community members;
- g. How follow-up tree care, particularly watering, will be addressed in the first two years. If the applicant is seeking these costs in the first year, this should be reflected in the budget.

G. WORK PLAN & TIMELINE

Provide a Work Plan that includes a map that includes the following: proposed locations where impervious surfaces will be removed, specific planting locations with a list of the species to be planted, list of locations where tree stewardship or watering will occur, and/or green infrastructure locations. Maps must identify:

- Proposed streets and cross streets of project (s);
- Location of any overhead or underground utilities; applicants are encouraged to contact DigSafe to
 - ensure underground utilities are identified appropriately if excavation is proposed.
- Municipal properties or land with locations currently available for tree planting (parks, schools etc.)
- If the plan abuts a designated DCR planting zone, please identify the zone on the map.
- EJ population data (available at: <https://maps.massgis.digital.mass.gov/MassMapper/MassMapper.html>)
 - -Whether the project is located within the 'hot spots' boundary in the data layer provided in Section F (available via link embedded).

Applicants are encouraged to incorporate additional data or submit additional maps that illustrate heat vulnerability, or other socio-demographic data to underscore the proposals contribution to reducing heat impacts of climate change, reducing energy consumption, and improving other public health criteria.

The following links may provide additional useful information:

American Forest's Tree Equity Score: <https://www.treeequityscore.org/>

i-Tree Landscape: <https://landscape.itreetools.org/>

[ArcGIS - Urban heat island severity for U.S. cities](#)

If vacant lot restoration activities are proposed, include a diagram, map or survey showing lot boundaries, location of trees proposed. The city will be required to enter into agreements with EEA to ensure long-term protection for trees planted.

Please note that all plantings should adhere to '**right tree, right place**' principles as described in this Bid document.

H. PROJECT BUDGET

1.) Provide a project budget that reflects the estimated total project cost and grant request, as well as any in-kind contributions or other sources of funding. Costs should be itemized where appropriate.

2.) Is your organization positioned to incur up-front project costs pending re-imbursement? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I. CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

This application was prepared by:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

To the best of my knowledge, the information and data which has been submitted to qualify for the FY26 GGCP Implementation Grant are true and correct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

L. ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST

Please include the following supporting documentation with your application:

- ☐ **Attachment 1:** Letter from CEO authorizing application and identifying project manager
- ☐ **Attachment 2:** Project narrative
- ☐ **Attachment 3:** Work Plan & Timeline
- ☐ **Attachment 4:** Project budget
- ☐ **Attachment 5:** Letter(s) of endorsement from Municipality and/or other partners (if proposal includes plantings on partner held property).
- ☐ **Attachment 6:** Letters of support from Municipal Tree Warden or appropriate commission
- ☐ **Attachment 7:** Planning Board meeting minutes, or documentation that reflects planting plan approval
- ☐ **Attachment 8:** Articles of Incorporation and IRS 501(c)(3) letter (non-profit applicants)

Additional Forms required **if selected for funding:**

The following forms are available at the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division website at <http://www.mass.gov/osd>

- ☐ Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- ☐ Commonwealth Standard Contract
- ☐ Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form
- ☐ Authorization for Electronic Funds Payment (*Note: this form must be completed online.*)

Attachment B
FY 26 GGCP IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM - RESPONSE REVIEW RATING SYSTEM
100 TOTAL POINTS

1. Applicant Capacity (25 points maximum)

2.)

1. Program Manager has demonstrated experience with projects or programs related to the goals of the GGCP and/or urban canopy enhancement:
7+ years = 6 pts
3-6 years = 3 pts
1-2 years = 1 pts
No experience = 0 pts
2. Program Manager has MCA, ISA or MQTW certification:
Yes = 7 pts
No = 0 pts
3. Applicant has demonstrated capacity to achieve proposed project goals:
Significant capacity = 6 pts
(e.g. 2+ FTE staff to support tree stewardship and/or project; well-developed volunteer network; knowledge of urban forestry practices; access to necessary equipment etc.)
Moderate capacity = 4 pts
(e.g. 1 FTE staff such as a forester, or community engagement specialist; experience recruiting volunteers; capacity to engage partners for project support; prior tree planting experience)
Minimal capacity = 2 pts
(e.g. <1 FTE staff to support project, limited experience within the community, etc.)
No relevant experience = 0 pts
4. Applicant has capacity, equipment, and resources to steward newly planted trees for a minimum of 2 years:
Yes = 6
No = 0

2. Community Engagement & Support (10 points maximum)

1.)

1. Project includes outreach to effectively communicate project goals and benefits to the community:
Yes = 5
No = 0
2. Project communicates using diverse communication channels (e.g. mailings, events, digital outreach):
3+ communication channels = 5 pts
2 channels = 2 pts
1 channel = 1 pt

3. Environmental Justice (15 points maximum)

1. Project targets designated Environmental Justice designated population areas:
Yes, 75%-100% located within EJ community = 8 pts

Yes, 50-74% located within EJ community = 6 pts
Yes, 25-49% located within EJ community = 4 pts
Yes, 1-24%, located within EJ community = 2 pts
No = 0 pts

2. Applicant has identified services to ensure outreach to non-English speaking residents as needed:

Yes = 4 pts
No = 0 pts

3. Applicant has staff that are fluent in non-English languages spoken in the neighborhood (as applicable):

Yes = 3
No=0

4. Overall Project Quality (50 points)

- 1.) Project achieves strategic tree planting, young tree care, or impervious surface removal, that will demonstrably increase and/or enhance canopy cover in residential areas that currently have minimal canopy:

Yes, urban forestry strategies are entirely within residential neighborhoods with low canopy = 10
Yes, urban forestry strategies target low canopy areas and includes residential neighborhoods = 5
Yes, urban forestry strategies target a low canopy area, but not within a residential neighborhood = 2
No, urban forestry strategies do not target a low canopy area = 0

- 2.) Project achieves tree plantings, young tree care and/or impervious surface removal within surface temperature 'hotspots' (see Section F):

Yes, all tree planting is within a delineated 'hotspot' or identified urban heat island = 10
Yes, some tree planting is within a delineated 'hotspot' or identified urban heat island = 5
No, tree planting is not within a delineated 'hotspot' or identified urban heat island = 0

- 3.) Proposed project compliments the work of the DCR GGCP team working within the same community (i.e. watering trees planted by GGCP, removing impervious surfaces to facilitate tree planting by GGCP, tree planting outside of GGCP planting zone).

Yes = 10
No = 0

- 4.) Project has a realistic and achievable timeline with strong project deliverables:

Yes = 5 pts
No = 0 pts

- 4.) Project provides for training and/or employment opportunities:

Yes = 5
No =0

- 5.) Project budget reflects in-kind contributions and/or leverages additional sources of funding to maximize GGCP funding:

Yes = 5
No =0

- 6.) Overall quality and importance of the proposed project?

High = 5 pts
Medium = 3 pts
Low = 1 pts

Attachment C

REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONTRACTUAL TREE PLANTING AND CARE

DCR and EEA want to ensure that tree planting work completed creates an opportunity for trees to thrive, not just survive, in urban areas. The guidelines articulated below reflect DCR's standards for planting, watering, and protection for new trees. Grant recipients will be required to adhere to these guidelines and incorporate them in any sub-contract agreements for tree planting.

Additionally, a two-year period of tree after-care is expected, including watering, staking, protective measures and mulching as needed. A DCR urban forester is available to meet with the City periodically during the 2 year after-care to review and confirm ongoing care and maintenance performed.

- All tree planting will adhere to the current American National Standards Institute (ANSI): Standard A300 Part 6: Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Management – Standard Practices (Tree Planting)
- Planting locations must be provided to Dig-Safe to review for utility conflicts before excavation or pavement removal is started and to certify notification of gas, electrical, water, sewer, and communication utilities as necessary. Any other affected utilities should be contacted in accordance with requirements of Massachusetts law.
- A Massachusetts Certified Arborist (MCA) or International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist is available on-site to supervise tree planting work performed.
- Tree planting work is guaranteed for two years after completion. If within this period, replacement trees, replacement protection methods or other materials are required to address any defect in planting or installation, the grantee should be prepared to ensure replacement materials, as well as labor to address any defect that may have occurred during planting without additional cost to DCR or EEA.
- Certification statements and/or analytical results for materials such as topsoil, mulch or other fill materials used on-site must be available and provided as requested to demonstrate materials are not excessively acid or alkaline nor contain toxic substances or contaminants.
- Tree planting protection is recommended in high trafficked areas. Tree protection includes tree stakes, trunk guards, protective fencing
- Plantings should be protected by a barrier raised at tree installation and maintained for two-years.
- Trees used for plantings should be nursery grown under climatic conditions similar to those in Massachusetts; trees should be healthy and free from injuries such as disfiguring knots, girdling roots, sun scald, and injuries or abrasions of the bark; as well as free of plant diseases, pests, scale, etc..
- Planting takes place from April through June and September through November.
- Planting should not occur if temperatures exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Planting should not occur if the planting region is experiencing significant drought (Level 2+) as identified in the Massachusetts Drought Status Map ([Drought Status | Mass.gov](#)) .
- Drip irrigation bags are installed at the time of planting and water provided twice a week for a minimum of 30 days from the date of planting. Trees are watered during the 2-year after-care period once per week or as needed from when the ground thaws (or no later than May 1) and until the ground freezes (or no later than November.)