



# FY25 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

---

Information Session: February 28th, 2024

Greening the Gateway Cities Program is a collaborative program between the Executive Office of Environment & Energy Affairs (EEA) and the Department of Conservation & Recreation Urban & Community Forestry Program (DCR).

MA Executive Office of Energy &  
Environmental Affairs

Department of Conservation &  
Recreation

Urban & Community  
Forestry Program

GGCP



dcr  
*Massachusetts*



# EEA GGCP Tree Planting Grants

Collaborative grant programs focused on increasing urban tree canopy and community outreach to bolster the GGCP and promote urban forestry.



Grant Administrator: Hilary Dimino,  
EEA Tree Planting Program Manager



Field & Grant Oversight: DCR  
Regional & Local Foresters

## Goals of EEA Implementation Grants

- Urban Tree Planting Projects
- Urban Heat Mitigation
- Siting trees= Right Tree, Right Place
- Increase tree canopy, focusing on planting shade trees when appropriate
- Increase biodiversity in the urban forest
- Creation of wildlife habitat
- Proper tree care and maintenance—this is imperative!
- Impervious surface removal, to accelerate tree planting
- Community engagement & outreach focusing on the importance of urban trees within communities and promoting GGCP

# Funding Availability

- Maximum grant award is \$150,000.
- Municipal Partnership grant eliminated, combined with Implementation Grant
- Reimbursement grant program; applicant must be prepared to incur costs up front.
- Costs incurred prior to award contract are not eligible for reimbursement.

# Eligible Applicants

- Gateway City municipalities and non-profit 501 (c)(3) organizations with demonstrated experience in tree planting and stewardship.
- Municipalities & non-profits are encouraged to explore partnership opportunities where it will achieve greater impact.

# Eligible Project Costs

High visibility **tree plantings** where climate resilience, environmental justice goals and energy efficiency benefits will be advanced.

- Purchase of trees (>1.5" dbh) and planting materials (clean loam, mulch)
- Excavating and planting trees
- Impervious surface removal & soil remediation to facilitate tree planting projects throughout municipality [*Coordinate with DCR Forestry staff!!*]  
\*Please note, tree pits created should be a minimum of 5'x 10'
- Tree maintenance & tree watering for trees planted with EEA grant funding or from DCR GGCP
- Planning & Implementation of Microforests
- City-owned vacant lot restoration with tree planting in coordination with DCR and with a site plan approved by EEA.

Outreach activities that strengthen **community engagement** with tree care and tree planting.

- Community outreach events
- Training or educational programs that will empower residents to participate in tree planting and stewardship
- Costs to distribute information (mailers, staff calls to residents)
- Adopt a Tree Pit Program, Community Watering Programs



# Additional Eligibility Considerations

- Follow “**Right tree, right place**” principles
- Sub-contracts for planting or other work is acceptable. An MCA or ISA certified arborist is required to manage day-to-day tree plantings. Please see **Attachment C in Bid Document** for additional contractual specifications for tree planting & care
- Connect with your local & regional DCR Foresters to discuss project ideas and eligibility!!

**PLEASE READ BID DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS.**

# EXPANSION OF GGCP

---







EEA & DCR staff have determined that a revised approach to the GGCP, which includes shifting focus on the public health benefits of urban trees would be able to provide benefits to almost **three times** as many residents and would significantly increase tree planting throughout the Commonwealth.

The expansion will increase the eligible planting zones, to encompass **all** environmental justice neighborhoods within each gateway city.

# Emphasizing Urban Tree Benefits In Gateway Cities

- GGCP messaging will shift to incorporate additional strategies to promote urban tree benefits:
- The human health impacts that a healthy urban tree canopy provides, including lower risk of asthma, cardiac disease, strokes, and obesity;
- The role of urban trees in mitigating extreme urban heat, as well as reducing energy usage;
- The reduction of air pollution and filtration of particulate matter that trees can achieve;
- The impacts urban trees have related to flood mitigation and capture of stormwater run-off, related to extreme climate related weather events;
- The growing need for absorption of carbon dioxide and other harmful greenhouse gases;
- How urban trees can enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat and create wildlife corridors to facilitate wildlife movement made necessary by climate change; and
- The mental health benefits associated with proximity to trees and the impacts trees have in neighborhoods (reduction of speeding, more welcoming environments for pedestrians).

# Application Requirements

- Application form
- Project description (see application form for details)
  - Goals, project deliverables & timeline
  - Strategy for watering and tree stewardship in the first 2 years
- Planting plan/Impervious surface removal plan (see application form for details )
  - Identify planting locations and species to be planted. All trees must be >1.5" dbh and/or identify locations where impervious surfaces will be removed to facilitate tree planting.
  - Plan should be reviewed with municipal Planning Department
  - Coordinate with DCR Forester as appropriate.
- Project Budget
  - Total estimated costs, itemized where possible
  - Project costs contributed in-kind or other funding matches

# Additional Required Documents

## Cities:

- Letter from CEO authorizing application and identifying the project manager
- Letter of support from Tree Warden or appropriate commission
- Documentation that planting plan has been reviewed by planning board
- Letters of endorsement from any partners if tree planting is proposed on lands that are not owned by applicant

## Non-profits:

- Letter of endorsement from the City
- Articles of Incorporation and IRS 501(c)(3) letter

# Application Evaluation

Overall project quality (40%)

Applicant capacity (30%)

Environmental Justice (15%)

Community Engagement & Support  
(15%)

*See Grant Document for full scoring  
criteria.*



# Grant Timeline

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, April 4th at 4:00pm**

*Submit PDF application via email – do not exceed 20 MB*

- **April:** EEA & DCR conduct application review.
- **May/June:** Awards announced.
- **July 1, 2024:** Intended contract effective date
- **Fall, 2023 & Spring, 2025:** Projects executed

DCR Forester will meet with project manager to inspect trees and confirm plantings are acceptable.

- **June 30, 2025:** Deadline for grant reimbursement requests and final project report.



Thank you!

Contact Information:

Hilary Dimino

857-207-1912

[Hilary.M.Dimino@mass.gov](mailto:Hilary.M.Dimino@mass.gov)