



FY₂₆ IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Information Session: June 10th, 2025

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
***Please reach out if you are unaware of the foresters
working in your region***

Changes to FY 26 GGCP Implementation Grant

- Decrease in maximum grant award = \$100,000
- Shift in grant focus- Seeking projects that promote DCR GGCP tree planting.
 - Tree stewardship- Municipal watering or contract watering of trees planted by GGCP or trees planted with EEA grant funds; tree maintenance.
 - Impervious surface removal- Creation of tree pits, tree belts, vacant lot restoration, soil remediation
 - Installation of green infrastructure: silva cells, stormwater tree pits, flexi-pave, bioswales, structure soils, etc.
 - Purchase and distribution of outreach materials to promote GGCP
- Proposed tree planting projects within active GGCP communities, must be located ***outside of the GGCP planting zone.***
- Tree planting projects should target areas with low tree canopy and are located within identified hot spots.



Goals of GGCP Implementation Grant

- Facilitate DCR GGCP tree planting activities
- Tree stewardship
- Urban Heat Mitigation
- Siting trees = Right Tree, Right place
- Increasing tree canopy, planting shade trees
- Impervious surface removal, to accelerate tree planting
- Community Engagement and Outreach
- Biodiversity
- Public Health Benefits
- Energy Efficiency

Funding Availability

- Maximum grant award is **\$100,000**.
- 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 projects where climate resilience, public health and energy efficiency benefits will be advanced.

- 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 stewardship (watering/maintenance) for trees planted with EEA grant funding or by DCR GGCP teams.
- Installation of green infrastructure: silva cells, stormwater tree pits, flexi-pave, bioswales.
- City-owned vacant lot restoration with tree planting in coordination with DCR and with a site plan approved by EEA.
- Outreach activities that promote GGCP (Costs to distribute outreach materials)
- Costs associated with tree planting projects (trees, materials, labor)

Additional Eligibility Considerations

- Coordination with DCR GGCP staff is imperative!! Connect with foresters for project ideas and locations.
- Tree watering services can be contracted out or executed by grantee staff.
- Green infrastructure should be installed with the goal of planting large canopy trees.
- 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

PLEASE READ BID DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS.

Application Requirements

- Application form
- Project Narrative (see application form for details)
 - Goals, project deliverables & timeline
 - Strategy for watering and tree stewardship in the first 2 years
- Project Plan (see application form for details)
 - Identify locations of projects, specific addresses where impervious surfaces will be removed, trees will be watered, green infrastructure will installed or trees will be planted. 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 (50%)

Applicant capacity (25%)

Environmental Justice (15%)

Community Engagement & Support
(10%)

*See Grant Document for full scoring
criteria.*

Grant Timeline

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, July 1st at 4:00pm

Submit PDF application via email – do not exceed 20 MB

- **July:** EEA & DCR conduct application review.
- **Late August/September:** Awards announced.
- **September 2025:** Intended contract effective date
- **Fall 2025 & Spring 2026:** Projects executed
- **June 30, 2026:** Deadline for projects to be completed.
- **July 10, 2026:** Deadline for submission of reimbursement requests and final reports.



Thank you!

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