

**GGCP Implementation Grant  
Information Session Q & A  
(February 28, 2024)**

**Q: For partnership grants, will we be able to get the new zone maps before we write the partnership grant?**

A: Yes. All zone maps will be available on the GGCP website within the next several weeks. New zones can be found at [Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com). All EJ census blocks within Gateway Cities will now be eligible for tree planting. EEA & DCR will be in touch regarding next steps with the GGCP Expansion.

**Q: Who is the DCR forester for the city of Peabody?**

A: Since GGCP isn't active in Peabody at this time, there is no local DCR Forester. Mark Ghen, the DCR Regional Forester can serve as your contact for now.

**Q: How do we find out who the Regional Forester is for each location?**

A: Contact information for DCR Foresters will be provided after this information session.

**Q: When is the planting zone expansion you discussed effective?**

A: The planting zone expansion will be effective this Spring. We will be providing new zone maps, that reflect that any qualified planting work conducted in a census block that is identified on MA Mapper as an EJ Community is eligible for planting.

**Q: If the planting zone expansion expands the footprint of the zone significantly, we anticipate that this will impact the approach to outreach proposed for partnership grant. How do you envision facilitating that?**

A: DCR & GGCP envisions taking it slowly, enable GGCP crews to expand outreach efforts with partners this spring, and then as we contract for next fiscal year we will address any specific challenges that arise with this expansion.

**Q: Can a local school, or student group in a school be a partner with the City and/or DCR?**

A: Yes. The applicant must be a municipality or nonprofit organization, but students are welcome and encouraged to participate in planting work with their municipality.

**Q: Can a municipality subcontract with a non-profit that is not located in Massachusetts? For example, a non-profit based in RI that is active in MA?**

A: Our grants reimburse the eligible municipality awarded the funding. Please follow-up with your procurement officer to ensure that you may subcontract with an entity outside MA, but if that has been successfully accomplished in the past, we do not foresee a conflict with the grant requirements.

**Q: Can the DCR forester work with the municipality to provide trees for planting if the municipality is seeking to secure grant funding to do impervious surface removal?**

A: Absolutely. We encourage municipalities to coordinate with DCR Foresters to identify ways in which the City can pursue planting projects in partnership with GGCP efforts.

**Q: If we use a subcontractor to provide watering, but need watering services to extend past June, is that something the grant can cover? Or would a watering subcontract end June 30<sup>th</sup>?**

A: We want to ensure that if trees are planted in FY25 that watering doesn't just end June 30<sup>th</sup>. However, we do not have the flexibility to reimburse for costs after June 30, 2025 for a FY25 grant. Therefore, while watering costs are eligible for grant funding in FY26, we can't necessarily guarantee you will have a contract by July 1, 2025 for FY26. Therefore, the applicant must demonstrate that they have plans to ensure that watering can continue beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>, if a FY25 grant is awarded independent of GGCP funding in FY26.

**Q: Can you clarify where we find the newly updated Environmental Justice Maps and/or GGCP planting zone maps?**

A: The most current Environmental Justice data is available on MassMapper, under the Census data. All census blocks designated Environmental Justice in the Gateway Cities are eligible for tree planting work under this round of the Implementation Grant. We are working to provide maps that more specifically show these eligible census blocks and the planting zone expansion.

**Q: We are a public university planning to apply for a grant. Just clarifying that we have to go with a contractor? We'd prefer to have DCR plant but just clarifying that this is not possible?**

If the area that you are planning to plant in, is within a designated Environmental Justice neighborhood, the DCR team would be able to assist your team with planting. If the area you are planning to plant in is NOT within an Environmental Justice neighborhood, you could hire a contractor to plant trees, or plant trees with your staff if they have the training and know-how to plant trees correctly.