

CONNECTICUT URBAN FOREST COUNCIL

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Guidelines

The Connecticut Urban Forest Council wishes to support applicants in urban and community forestry activities. The Council invites applicants to submit a proposal (limited to 5 pages) for funding ranging from \$500 - \$3,000. Proposals should address at least one of the Council's goals described in the guidelines below. Proposals are accepted on an on-going basis, and will be reviewed during the September Council meetings.

Grant funds may be disbursed directly as payment to vendors, where appropriate, or as reimbursement to grantees for expenses incurred.

Goal 1: Public Awareness: Education and Communication

Continue developing public responsibility and government responsiveness by promoting an understanding of the social, economic and environmental values of trees, forests and related natural resources in communities.

Suggested Considerations:

Expand knowledge of the benefits of trees, forests and green space in urban areas and communities. Encourage green linkages within and between communities and public open space. Encourage owners of private residents and commercial properties to maintain trees and expand forest cover on their properties. Expand the knowledge of the ecological relationships and benefits of trees and related resources in urban environments.

Improve the understanding of forest riparian buffers and their role to protect, and improve water quality, quantity, habitat, reduction of sediments and pollutants. Set up demonstration projects that monitor water quality before, during and after the project. Increase public awareness and participation in the process incorporating activities they can do to protect their urban forest and related natural resources that impact water issues as mentioned above.

Goal 2: Natural Resource Management and Policy

Support an ecological approach that monitors and integrates the biophysical, social and economic attributes of urban forestry.

Suggested Considerations:

Research projects that increase understanding of the biophysical and socioeconomic issues of urban forestry management and policy.

Tree planting on public property for public benefit. Tree planting in open spaces, greenbelts, roadside, screens, parks, woodlands, curb areas and residential

developments within urban areas are permitted. Tree maintenance and protection projects are also permitted and encouraged. Tree planting on private land is permitted as part of a demonstration project where a clear public benefit exists.

The inventory of trees in urban areas and communities.

The removal of exotic invasive plant species.

Goal 3: Organizational Capacity

Expand the capacity to address emerging issues and opportunities that support healthy, sustainable communities.

Suggested Considerations:

Training that focuses on the planting, care and maintenance of trees. Those receiving training should give back their time to maintain their community's tree resources (this give back may be used as an in-kind match within the grant period).

Neighborhood planning activities and community organizing activities for urban forests and related natural resources is permitted. Planning activities that describe products or measurable urban forest and related natural resource outcomes are encouraged. Products and/or measurable urban forest and related natural resource outcomes are to be identified in the grant narrative.

Goal 4: Outreach and Environmental Equity

Expand program participation to better engage all community members in all aspects of urban forestry.

Suggested Considerations:

Organizing, hosting and/or co-hosting a community forums or planning/visioning processes. The process should increase public understanding of the energy conservation, economic, social, environmental and psychological values of trees and open space in urban and community environments. It should also expand the knowledge of the ecological relationships and benefits and proper management of trees, forests and related natural resources in these environments.

Establish demonstration projects including trees, shrubs, perennials, native annuals, and ground covers in communities, for the purpose of improving public understanding of the benefits and importance of establishing and maintaining trees, open space and green infrastructure in urban areas. Demonstration projects should be a one-time event for a particular subject area that educates and trains the rest of the community.

Additional Notes: For planting projects, applicants should provide proposed tree and plant lists. The planting of invasive exotic plant species will not be funded. Planting project applicants should refer to the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group's exotic

invasive species list (<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/>). Priority will be given to projects that emphasize the planting of trees over those that emphasize the use of other types of plant materials.

The planting of complementary ground cover for soil stabilization and erosion control is permissible. Ground covers may include noninvasive, native grasses or spreading, low, native vegetation as part of an urban forestry activity. Establishment, re-establishment and restoration of natural and “constructed” wetland vegetation, as it relates to a forest setting, threatened and endangered native plant species, and natural grasslands/meadows as it relates to an overall forestry project. The analysis or enhancement of soils necessary to enable trees and associated vegetation to thrive is also permissible, if done in a way that is responsible and is carefully monitored.