

CONNECTICUT URBAN FOREST COUNCIL

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Overview

Funds are available through the Connecticut Urban Forest Council (Council) for small grants. These grants are for the purpose of promoting and encouraging urban forestry in Connecticut, helping small non-profits and other entities develop the capacity and experience to practice urban forestry, and in order to see on-the-ground results regarding the urban forest. Please see the Small Grant Program Guidelines for further details as to the types of projects that the Council will likely fund.

While the specific focus of the Council's small grants are non-profits and municipalities, any organization that has a project that they feel falls within the above stated purposes of the small grant program should apply. Applications will be assessed based upon availability of funds, quality of the project, perceived need for the project, credentials of the organization that is applying, and feasibility of the project being completed as described. Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee of Council members.

Grant applications and proposals are accepted on an on-going basis, and will be reviewed during the September Council meetings.

Completed application packages should include:

- a cover letter addressed to the Council
- a completed Application Cover Sheet
- A narrative, maximum of 5 pages, that includes the following information:
 - a description of the purpose of the project
 - a description of the intended results of the project
 - project location
 - a description of the steps involved in the completion of the project (a timetable approach is preferred but not required)
 - a list of the project participants
 - the projected budget for the project, including an indication of what the grant funds will be spent on, additional financial requirements and additional sources of funds
 - the start date and completion date of the project

Grant funds may be disbursed directly as payment to vendors, where appropriate, or as reimbursement to grantees for expenses incurred. Grant recipients should make a strong effort to keep the Council informed as to the project's progress, and the Council may withhold final payment on the grant until the project has been completed.

Any questions regarding this small grant program should be addressed to the Council Officers.

Thank You and Good Luck!

**Connecticut Urban Forest Council
Application Cover Sheet - Small Grants Program**

Title of Project: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____ _____
Is this organization an incorporated non-profit? _____ Organization's FEIN: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____ _____
Contact Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Short description of Organization's Mission:

One paragraph summary of project:

Anticipated Initiation and Completion Dates:

Amount Requested:

Please return this form along with a Cover Letter and the Grant Narrative (not to exceed 5 pages), to:

Mary Ludwig
Secretary – CUFC
28 South Street
Milford, CT 06460

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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 emphasis 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.