



CUFC Announces 2nd Round Recipients of Urban Forestry Climate Change Grants

The Connecticut Urban Forest Council (CUFC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, recently announced the second round recipients of Urban Forestry Climate Change grants to 7 organizations across the state, for awards totaling \$182,446. Recipients are:

- The Town of Bloomfield
- The City of Bristol
- The Town of Enfield
- Knox, Inc. (Hartford)
- Riverfront Recapture (Hartford)
- The City of Meriden
- The Garden Club of Windham, Inc.

These awards are made possible by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Division of Forestry with funds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. More information is available via <https://cturbanforestcouncil.org/grants/climate-change-grants/>.

The Urban Forestry Climate Change Grants support projects that: 1) improve urban forests, 2) increase tree canopy cover, 3) mitigate the local impacts of climate change, and 4) address concerns relating to social equity and environmental justice.

Heather Dionne, Chair of the CUFC and Hartford's City Forester stated "This is major! Trees mean so much to a community when they are chosen well and planted right. This is especially true in those parts of our cities and towns where, in so many ways, the opportunities are just not the same as they are elsewhere. The municipalities and non-profits receiving these awards are willing to address these issues. They just need the resources and maybe some technical advice to go along with it. We are glad for this chance to contribute."

Summaries of the projects funded through this grants program follow:

The **Town of Bloomfield** (\$16,660 grant) will present 80 trees to town residents, to be planted by those residents in those town districts most in need for the trees. This effort is part of the **Trees for Bloomfield Initiative**, led by Bloomfield's Public Works Department. To receive a tree, each recipient must sign an agreement specifying his or her role in helping to plant and maintain that tree.

The **City of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services** program (\$37,000 grant) will remove one-half acre of hardscape and convert that area into an 'urban garden'. 23 trees and 51 shrubs will be planted as a part of this initiative. This project is adjacent to the Pequabuck River. It was developed with neighborhood input and will occur in an Environmental Justice section of town.

The **Town of Enfield** (\$18,972 grant) will plant 21 trees on town property in the Thompsonville section of town. This identified environmental justice community has also been identified as an area with an excessive amount of hardscape and a deficiency of tree canopy. This project will benefit those living in a nearby elderly/disabled housing complex, will improve the appearance and attractiveness of the commercial area within Thompsonville and provide additional public space in a part of town where it is needed. Local support for this project was also a key to its selection.

Knox, Inc. (\$29,398 grant) will undertake an outreach project in Hartford to educate homeowners, businesses and property developers about the value of trees. The project will also include the planting of 25 trees in the center campus of the Hartford Magnet Middle School/Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts/Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy buildings. Youth involvement is central to both aspects of this project.

Riverfront Recapture (\$30,277 grant) in partnership with **the Keney Park Sustainability Project** will work with the City of Hartford to plant over 100 trees in two parks alongside of the Connecticut River, 20 of which are supported through the grant. A major focus is on engaging youth and workforce training and development, as the project will also involve the use of Hartford's Youth Services Corps.

The **City of Meriden** (\$22,800 grant) will plant 62 trees within the city right-of-way, at locations selected based on the need for trees and their contribution to climate change mitigation and for improving the local environment in neighborhoods most in need of tree equity. Plantings and young tree care will be done through the Meriden Parks and Recreation Department.

The **Windham Garden Club** (\$27,339 grant) will create an urban corridor through Willimantic, leading to Jillson Park, a focal area for large community events. The project will include the planting of some 24 trees in Jillson Park and additional herb, tree and shrub plantings along the Airline Trail, which runs along the Willimantic River.

The Connecticut Urban Forest Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Its membership includes individuals from throughout the state of Connecticut who are engaged in urban forestry in a variety of ways. Among its ranks are arborists, landscape architects, tree wardens, state and local public officials, representatives of various non-profit organizations, researchers, educators and general tree enthusiasts.

For further details regarding the Council or the Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant program, please visit the CUFC website at <https://cturbanforestcouncil.org>. Council Chair Heather Dionne may also be contacted for further information either on the Council or the grant program via Heather.Dionne@hartford.gov.