



CUFC Announces 3rd Round Recipients of Urban Forestry Climate Change Grants

The Connecticut Urban Forest Council (CUFC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, recently announced the third round of recipients for Urban Forestry Climate Change grants to four (4) organizations across the state, for awards totaling \$84,296. Recipients are:

- The Friends of Ansonia Nature Center
- The Town of Glastonbury
- The City of New Haven
- The Friends of Norwalk River Valley Trail

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

The Urban Forestry Climate change Grants support projects that 1) improve urban forestry, 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 former City Forester for Hartford, 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 **Friends of Ansonia Nature Center** (\$10,534) will plant at least 10 sugar maples to create a legacy sugarbush. Both staff and volunteers will contribute to planting and caring for the sugar maples. Eventually, the Nature Center will offer classes on Sugaring. They also contracted a mural for one of the internal walls of the Center.

The Town of Glastonbury (\$14,322.56) partnered with the Glastonbury Housing Authority to build a trail to allow low-income elderly and disabled residents to walk around the neighborhood. This included building a trail, removal of invasive species, mitigating erosion control, and planting new plants.

The City of New Haven (\$37,000) will remove roughly 75 tree stumps and hazardous trees to allow for new trees to be planted in existing tree wells. The City partners with New Haven's Urban Resource

Initiative (URI), who conducts the city's planting. URI conducted an inventory of plantable area, and much of the land in low-canopy Environmental Justice neighborhoods were occupied with stumps or hazardous trees. This project enables the city to move forward in their tree planting goals.

The Friends of Norwalk River Valley Trail (\$22,440) aims to contribute to building a 30mile stretch of trail from Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk and terminating at Rogers Park in Danbury. This project will complete a three mile stretch between a currently existing eight miles stretch and three miles being built in 2021-2022. The trail will be planted with native species and enable more mobility for all community members.