

Applying for the Trees Across Georgia (TAG) and ReLeaf Grant Programs

June 6th, 2024

Urban and
Community Forestry
Program

GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION



Community Forestry Assistance Programs

Trees Across Georgia (TAG) Grant Program

Urban forestry program support, tree planting, advocacy development, urban wood utilization

Georgia ReLeaf Grant Program

In partnership with the Georgia Tree Council for tree plantings and tree giveaways



<https://gatrees.org/urban-community-forestry/community-forestry-assistance/>

Technical Assistance Program

Canopy mapping, code & policy audits, budgeting, planning assistance for communities with populations < 50,000

Community Assistance

We help protect and promote Georgia's urban forests in your downtowns, parks, greenspaces, and neighborhoods... for FREE!

Programs are funded in whole or partly through an Urban and Community Forestry Grant awarded by the Southern Region, State, and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, and administered by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

GFC Community Foresters

<https://gatrees.org/gfc-contacts/county-contacts/>

We are here to help. Find the contact information for your county below.

[Program Contacts for the Georgia Forestry Commission on a Map.](#)

Appling



Appling

<u>County Contact</u>	COMMUNITY FORESTRY NAME Robert Seamans	COMMUNITY FORESTRY PHONE 478-342-2364
<u>Forester</u>		
<u>Regional Forester</u>		
<u>Area Fire Management Officer</u>		
<u>Forest Health</u>		
<u>Forest Inventory and Analysis</u>	COMMUNITY FORESTRY EMAIL rseamans@gfc.state.ga.us	
<u>Stewardship</u>	UCF COORDINATOR NAME Seth Hawkins	UCF COORDINATOR PHONE 478-951-8286
Urban and Community Forestry		
<u>Water Quality</u>		
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		

Partnerships

- Funded by federal dollars allocated from the USDA Forest Service
- Major priority is underserved, under-resourced, nature deprived communities
- Federal Requirements (2 CFR 200)

URBAN & COMMUNITY
FORESTRY
PROGRAM

GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION



Georgia Tree
COUNCIL

Trees Across Georgia (TAG) Grant Program

TAG is designed to encourage projects that plant trees and increase the benefits of our **tree canopy**, create and support long-term and sustained **urban and community forestry programs**, and promote the **proper care of trees** with an emphasis on Georgia communities that need it the most.

Trees Across Georgia (TAG) Guidelines

Trees Across Georgia (TAG) Guidelines can be found:

On GFC's website @

gatrees.org/urban-community-forestry/trees-across-georgia-tag-grant-program/

and

On our grant platform @

gatrees.submittable.com/submit

Eligible Applicants

- Located in Georgia
- Local Governments – cities, counties, towns, other agencies (excluding federal)
- Nonprofit organizations – 501(c)3 (must provide IRS Letter of Determination)
- Educational Institutions
- Tree boards/Community or civic groups [non 501(c)3] have to be in partnership with local government or non-profit organization

All applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and FEIN (Federal Employer Identifier Number)

- [Sam.gov](https://sam.gov)
- Do not need to register, just obtain UEI
- Simple process if already had a DUNS number

Two sources of Funding

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

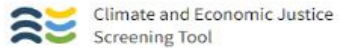
- 80-100% of project benefits a CEJST qualified community
- Match Waiver
- Minimum Award = \$10,000, Maximum Award = \$150,000/yr (Max over 3 years = \$450k)
- Can apply for multi-year project (up to three years)

Farm Bill – Cooperative Forestry (Non-IRA)

- Any community, but under-resourced/nature deprived still a priority
- 50/50 (dollar-for-dollar) match
- Minimum Award = \$10,000, Maximum Award = \$50,000
- Must be completed in one year

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>



Explore the map

Census tracts that are overburdened and underserved are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.

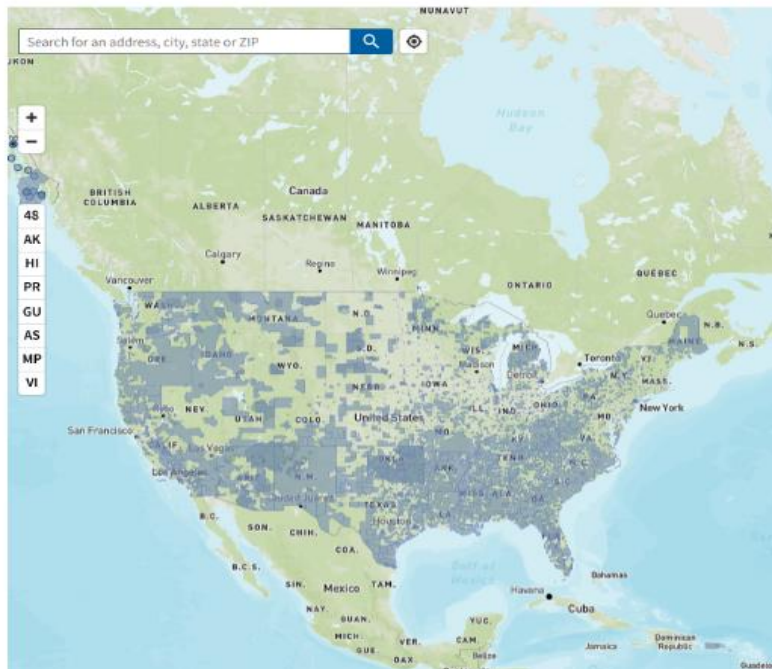
Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

Explore the map Methodology & data About Contact

Share data sources with CEJST

Get the data

Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the [downloads](#) page.



How to use the map:

Zoom in +, search, or locate yourself and select to see information about any census tract.

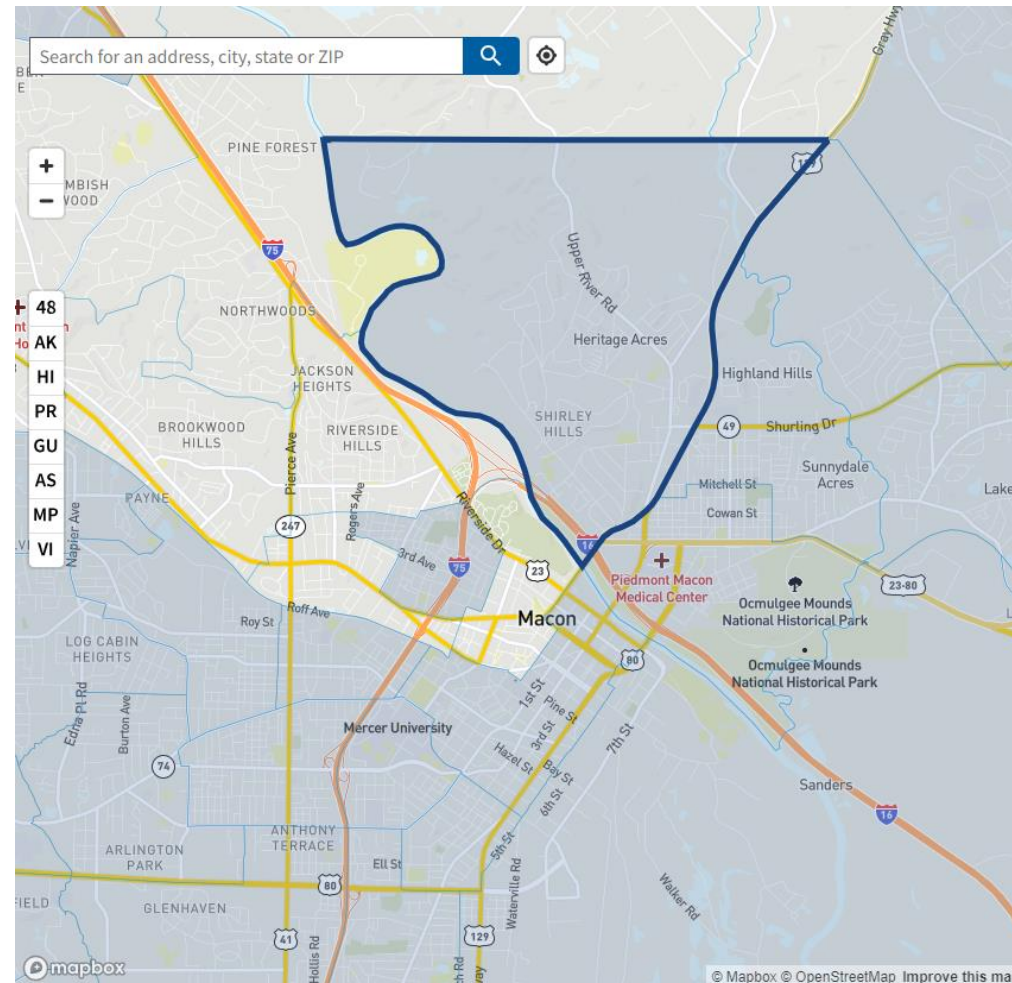
Things to know:

The tool uses census tracts. Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.

Communities that are disadvantaged live in tracts that experience burdens. These tracts are highlighted on the map.

The tool ranks most of the burdens using percentiles. Percentiles show how much burden each tract experiences when compared to other tracts.

Thresholds, or cutoffs, are used to determine if communities in a tract are disadvantaged. Certain burdens use percentages or a simple yes/no.



Tract information
Number: 13021011000
County: Bibb County
State: Georgia
Population: 4,301

Tract demographics
Race / Ethnicity (Show)
Age (Show)

Identified as disadvantaged?
YES

This tract is considered disadvantaged because it meets 1 burden threshold AND the associated socioeconomic threshold.

Send feedback

Climate change +

Energy +

Health +

Housing +

Legacy pollution +

Transportation +

Eligible Projects



- *New projects and initiatives*
- **Project Categories**
 - Urban Forestry Program Support
 - Tree Planting
 - Tree Advocacy Group Development and Support
 - Urban Wood Utilization

Eligible Projects

Urban Forestry Program Support for improved management of community forest resources

- Staffing
- Workforce Development
- Technical Assistance
- Ordinances
- Storm Readiness & Resiliency
- Invasive species removal



Eligible Projects

Tree Planting

- Must be for tree equity, mitigating extreme heat, storm damage, creating greenspaces, or other environmental benefits
- Can request funding for removal of trees or impervious surface to create planting space (must follow soil reconditioning specs)
- Food forest eligible – must use species from provided list
- Public property only (no federal property)
- Include planting and maintenance plan
- Letters of endorsement from property owner
- Liability waiver
- If selected, planting plan needs approval from GFC Community Forester



Eligible Projects

Tree Advocacy Group Development and Support



- Tree Board Creation/Development
- Non-profit program development – projects that support tree care, planting, or tree education
 - Tree planting program
 - Staffing to conduct tree planting or education projects
 - Training programs
 - Outreach position to engage with underserved communities

Photo Credit: St. Marys Tree Board

Eligible Projects

Urban Wood Utilization

- Increase knowledge, awareness and visibility of urban wood utilization
- Education programs
- Establishing wood utilization program in community/creating a business plan
- Demo of specialized equipment and techniques
- Feasibility assessments
- Only for public entities or non-profits/no private businesses



Photo Credit: Trees Columbus

Project Examples

EcoAddendum, Inc./Boat Rock Legacy Garden, Inc. - \$250k, 4 year - Tree Stewardship and Invasive Removal Training Programs

City of Cedartown - \$200k, 4 year - Tree program development in phases: tree inventory, storm readiness, ordinance revision, development of Tree Program Plan document. Also includes 4 years of tree planting

Food Well Alliance - \$167k, 3 year - Tree canopy restoration/native food forest at undeveloped site

Athens-Clarke County - \$30,000, Non-IRA - Invasive species removal along Rights of Way for risk mitigation. Hiring a consultant company to carry out the work

City of Decatur - \$30,000, Non-IRA - Storm Mitigation Plan development with prepositioned contracts, tree inventories and health assessments, and protocol creation

Ineligible Projects

- Beautification projects
- Landscaping for new/recent construction projects
- Trail construction/maintenance
- Equipment purchase
- Construction/capital improvements
- Community orchards (food forests are allowed)

Match Funds

- Non-IRA projects must include a dollar-for-dollar match
 - \$10,000 grant award requires \$10,000 match. Total project cost = \$20,000
- Match can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions
- Cannot be from Federal funds, GFC/Fed staff time or funds allocated to another project
- Must include letters of support in application from any organization providing part of match

Match

- **Cash match must be used for project expenses**
 - Submit receipts with reimbursement request or final report
- **In-kind contributions**
 - Value of donated goods or services
 - Value of equipment used
 - Value of staff or volunteer time
 - Wage rate for paid staff
 - Independent Sector rate for adult volunteers, minimum wage for children
 - Have sign-in sheets that collect volunteer name and contact info
 - Submit sign-in sheets, receipts, or other documentation with reimbursement request or final report

Budget

- This is a reimbursement grant. Must provide documentation before reimbursement
- Multi-year IRA projects must detail each year of expenses
- Round to the nearest whole dollar
- Up to 15% of total funds requested can be used for Indirect Costs. Increased from the current 10% rate in the Code of Federal Regulations effective in October

Budget

IRA Qualified – 2 budget parts

- Spreadsheet with details of expenditures for grant funding
- Financial detail form – categorize and total all expenses

Non-IRA – 4 budget parts

- Spreadsheet with details of expenditures for grant funding
- Financial detail form – categorize and total all expenses
- Spreadsheet showing details of match (include source of match)
- Letters of support from orgs providing match

Budget

Ineligible expenses

- Food and beverages
- Purchase of equipment
- Entertainment
- Construction
- Replacing existing funding
- Marketing materials

TAG Timeline

- **July 31st, 2024 at 11:59pm – Application Deadline**
- October 2024 – Applicants notified
- Projects can only incur expenses after signed agreement and other paperwork is returned to GFC
- Non-IRA and 1-yr IRA projects must be completed within one year of finalized agreement
- Approved multi-year IRA projects will have one year agreement that can be renewed each year based on successful completion of milestones, but projects need to be completed by December 31, 2027

Georgia ReLeaf Grant Program

In partnership with



- Purpose: Tree planting and/or tree giveaways
- \$15,000 maximum funding request
- Match waived for IRA (based on CEJST) or dollar-for-dollar match if not IRA-funded
- Public property plantings
- Environmental benefits/storm recovery/heat island mitigation, etc. Not beautification
- **Focused on tree equity**
- Eligible applicants: local governments (city, town, county), non-profit organizations or educational institutions in Georgia. Civic groups [non 501(c)3] must apply in partnership with local government or non-profit organization

Photo Credit: City of Brunswick

Georgia ReLeaf Grant Program

Program Objectives

- 1) Contribute to tree equity in disadvantaged communities
- 2) Improve the environmental, economic, and social health of Georgia communities
- 3) Help sustain health and diversity in Georgia's community forests
- 4) Improve planning efforts of city administrators, municipal tree departments and tree boards
- 5) Increase environmental and health benefits to combat the effects of climate change

Funding can be used to purchase:

- Trees
- Staking supplies
- Mulch
- Watering aids
- Tree installation costs

Georgia ReLeaf Grant Program

Timeline

- Application open now until July 15th, 2024
- Recipients notified in August 2024
- Projects must be completed by March 31, 2025
- Approved projects can only begin once agreement is signed
- Plantings should take place between November - March

Grant Guidelines

gatreecouncil.org/what-we-do/georgia-releaf.html

Georgia ReLeaf Grant Program

Georgia ReLeaf questions?



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[Click Here](#) to sign up for our email updates to keep up with grant opportunities in urban forestry
(<https://gatreecouncil.org/emailsignup/>)

Apply through Submittable.com

Link to the application forms can be found at the end of the grant guidelines:

- TAG guidelines on Georgia Forestry Commission's webpage
gatrees.org/urban-community-forestry/trees-across-georgia-tag-grant-program/
- Georgia ReLeaf guidelines on Georgia Tree Council's webpage
<https://gatreecouncil.org/what-we-do/georgia-releaf.html>
- On Submittable
<https://gatrees.submittable.com/submit>

Click here to **Submit**

Powered by Submittable 

- All applications are submitted through Submittable.com
- A Submittable.com account is required (email address is the only requirement)
- Submittable.com is used for all communications and reporting with grant recipients

Submittable Grant Platform

 [Manage Collaborators](#)

Please read [grant guidelines](#) thoroughly before completing this application.

Important: If you do not plan on completing your application in one sitting, save your work by clicking "Save Draft" at the bottom of the application.

Organization Name *

Limit: 300 characters

Please enter the name of the organization that is applying for TAG grant funds.

Organization Mailing Address *

Country

Address

Address Line 2 (optional)

Collaborators can contribute to the TAG application, but only the "owner" of the project can submit the application or any report forms if the project is funded.

Recap

All information is in the grant guidelines for each program

Georgia ReLeaf Grant Program

(In partnership with the Georgia Tree Council)

- Tree plantings/tree giveaways
- \$15,000 max grant funding
- Match waived if IRA-funded, dollar-for-dollar match if not.
- Application open until July 15, 2024

Trees Across Georgia (TAG) Grant Program

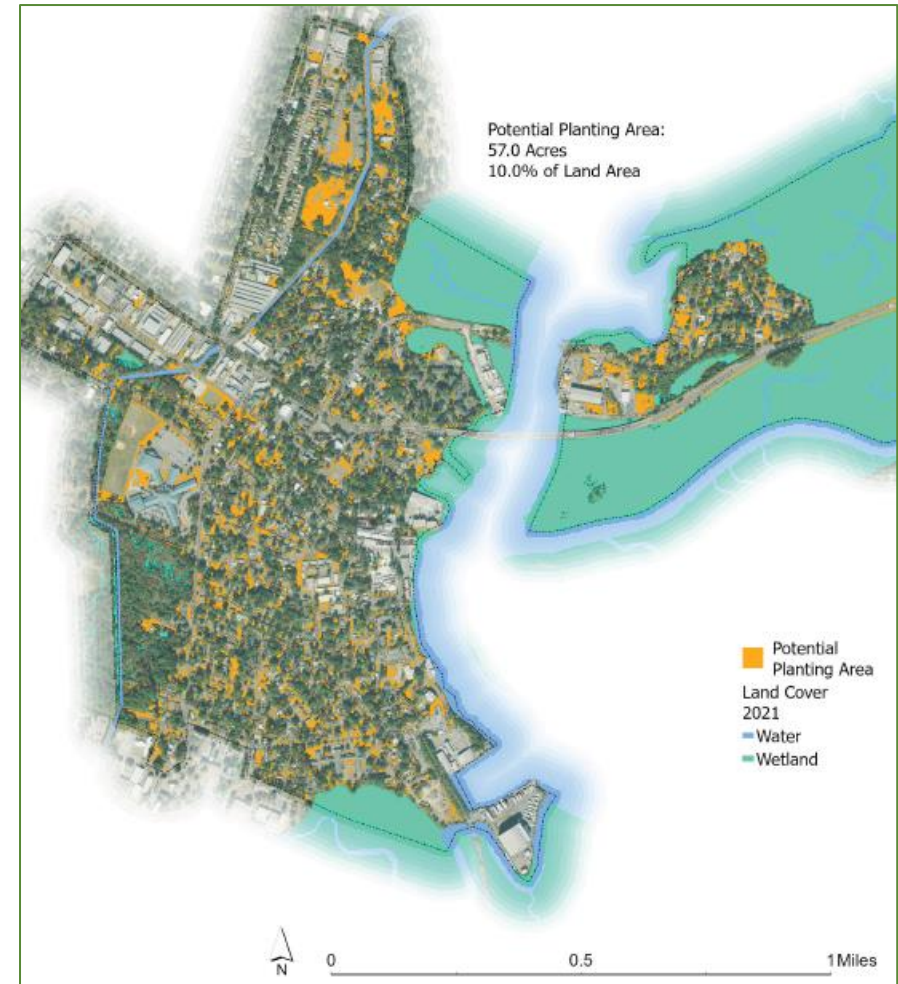
- Urban forestry program support, tree planting, advocacy development, urban wood utilization
- \$10,000 min; up to \$150,000 max per year for 3 years *(max amount based on funding source)*
- Match waived if IRA-funded, dollar-for-dollar match if not.
- Application open until July 31, 2024

Can you apply for a ReLeaf and a TAG grant? YES!

GIC Technical Assistance Program

Trees are green infrastructure!

- Partnership with Green Infrastructure Center (GIC)
- Currently IRA funding only
- Population 50,000 and under
- Technical assistance such as canopy mapping, codes audit, plantable spaces, budgeting, etc.
- Communities receive services, not funding
- Needs determined by survey of current U&CF program
- Survey/Application out in fall 2024



Making cities cooler, cleaner, and more resilient!

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