



Trees Across Georgia (TAG)

Request for Proposals

Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

**Administered by the
Georgia Forestry Commission**



INTRODUCTION

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) announces the Trees Across Georgia (TAG) Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant Program. The program is designed to encourage projects that increase the benefits of tree canopy and promote the care of trees in communities throughout Georgia identified as in need of community forestry resources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Legislative Authority and Source of Funding

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, under the authority of 16 USC 2105 and Public Law 117-169, Subtitle D, Sec. 23003(a) State and Private Forestry Conservation Program, has allocated funding to the Georgia Forestry Commission for statewide distribution.

Subtitle D, Sec. 23003 (a). State and Private Forestry Conservation Programs via the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) appropriated \$1,500,000,000 to provide multiyear, programmatic, competitive grants. Of this total allocation \$2,000,000 was allocated to Georgia to be distributed statewide over a five-year period.

FUNDING SOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The source of funding requires 100% of funds be utilized in communities in the State of Georgia that have been identified as in need of community forestry resources as determined by the [Georgia Match Waiver Mapping Tool](#). This geospatial mapping tool identifies census tracts that are overburdened by projected natural disaster risk, pollution, canopy health and other factors. Other government sanctioned data sources may be considered for identifying communities in need of community forestry resources, but priority will be given to those applications that use the Georgia Match Waiver Mapping Tool.

If 100% of the project is serving qualified communities via the map linked below, the project may be eligible for grant funding with no matching requirements. To justify qualification and the match waiver, verification of the project's location(s) must be provided along with a written explanation of how the project benefits the community.

To determine if your community or project location would qualify, please review this website: [GA Match Waiver Mapping Tool](#). Select the drop-down arrow in the upper right corner to access the search tool. Qualified communities will be in areas shaded in blue and noted as being Match Waiver Qualified.

Projects or programs of work completed 100% in communities identified as in need of community forestry resources by the Georgia Match Waiver Mapping Tool may qualify for match-free funding. Qualified projects will be eligible for funding for a minimum of \$350,000 and up to \$610,000 per year for up to three years based on need and completed milestones.

Federal Program Objectives

The objectives of the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program are to:

- 1) Integrate Urban and Community Forestry into all scales of planning
- 2) Promote the role of Urban and Community Forestry in human health and wellness
- 3) Strengthen Urban and Community Forest health and biodiversity for long-term resilience
- 4) Improve Urban and Community Forest management, maintenance and stewardship
- 5) Diversify, leverage and increase funding for Urban and Community Forestry
- 6) Increase public awareness and environmental education to promote stewardship
- 7) Prioritize projects focusing work on extreme heat mitigation, community wood utilization, community food forests and workforce development

State Program Goals

In Georgia's Statewide Forest Resources Strategy 2020, the goals for the Urban and Community Program are described as:

- 1) Foster strong partnerships with various organizations, city and county governments and the Georgia Tree Council
- 2) Improve community forestry knowledge
- 3) Increase the number of communities participating in the Tree City USA program
- 4) Increase participation of communities in priority areas in community forest management through comprehensive planning strategies
- 5) Encourage communities to recognize the public health benefits of trees
- 6) Increase community preparedness by encouraging communities to develop storm mitigation plans

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

Funds may be awarded to units of local governments (city, town, county), non-profit 501(c)3 organizations, or public educational institutions located in the state of Georgia. Other organizations, such as community tree volunteer groups, neighborhood associations or civic groups which are not 501(c)3 are eligible but must apply in partnership with a non-profit organization or with their local government.

Non-profit organizations will need to upload a copy of their IRS 501(c)3 Letter of Determination.

Applicants currently funded through a Georgia Forestry Commission grant are eligible to apply for additional funding.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Eligible projects must meet Federal and State Program Objectives. The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program is intended to support new initiatives, programs, projects, staff positions or activities not currently being funded through other sources.

Examples of eligible categories depending on your approved narrative are described in detail below.

A. COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM SUPPORT – Projects that encourage improved management of community forest resources.

1. **Technical Assistance** – Projects that develop or collect data needed for efficient management of community forestry resources. Examples: Canopy mapping/assessments, tree inventories, tree management plans, greenspace master plans, and/or heat island mapping.
2. **Storm Readiness & Resiliency** – Projects that develop a cohesive strategy to help communities prepare for storms. Example: Tree risk assessments and removal in communities in need of community forestry resources.
3. **High-Risk Tree Removal** – Projects that reduce public and residential risk by removal of defective or high-risk trees on public or private property. Replanting or replacement of tree canopy required after tree removals.

B. COMMUNITY WOOD UTILIZATION - Projects that increase municipal or community capacity to utilize community wood resources and promote “full-circle management” of community forests.

1. **Contracting** – Projects that provide consulting for municipalities to engage with local community wood processors.
2. **Marketing** – Projects that support market creation for community wood resources.
3. **Training** – Projects that provide training and resource development for communities and municipal staff to increase utilization of community wood resources.
4. **Plan Development** – Projects that support development of municipal plans to create new or enhance existing community wood utilization programs.

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS/COSTS

Ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- beautification projects
- research
- trail design, construction or maintenance
- property acquisition and related costs
- construction projects
- equipment purchases
- gift cards

STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS

If awarded, applicants agree to comply with the federal cost and administrative regulations found in the OMB Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards ([2 CFR 200](#)).

All applicants applying for a federal award must have BOTH a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) and a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Information on obtaining a UEI can be found at [SAM.gov](#). Full SAM.gov registration is not required to obtain a UEI.

GRANT TIMEFRAME

All applications must be submitted online by 11:59PM EDT on August 31st, 2025. Applicants will be notified of proposal status in October 2025. Approved projects can begin only after a grant agreement and Federal Assurances are signed by the grantee. Agreements and required documentation must be signed and submitted by December 31, 2025.

Projects may be eligible for multi-year funding. Applications for multi-year funding must justify the need for an extended project term and define activities, timeline, and deliverables for each year of the project term. Multi-year projects may be renewed each year based on successful completion of project milestones. All projects, including grant administrative closeout, must be completed by June 1, 2029.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. Funding is for programs, projects, or activities not otherwise currently funded, and cannot be used to substitute for existing funds. **Funding is not available for entertainment, food and beverages, purchase of equipment, or construction.** The Georgia Forestry Commission reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to approve partial funding for any and all proposals.

Qualified projects: There is \$1,830,000 in available funding for this cycle of this sub-award program. Applicants can apply for a minimum of \$350,000 and up to \$610,000 per year. Multi-year projects may apply for a maximum amount of \$610,000 per year for up to three (3) years. The maximum total award for multi-year projects is \$1,830,000.

A match is not required for qualified projects; however, if match is documented, all matching funds must be specifically related to the proposed project. The source of the match, cash and in-kind, must be identified and quantified in the application by enclosing letters of intended support. If the match comes from several sources, you must have a letter from each source including the applicant organization. All letters of support must include the amount and source of the intended match including, if applicable, a breakdown of the value of personnel time (wage rate, number of hours). Funds expended prior to the date of the grant agreement cannot be used as match. **Funds expended for entertainment, food and beverages, equipment purchase, or construction cannot be used as match.** Documentation of all matching funds must be provided before reimbursement of the grant award will be issued.

REPORTS

Periodic Quarterly Progress Reports and a Final Report are required of the grantee. The schedule

and content of final and periodic reports will be set in advance of initiating the project. Final Reports must be submitted within 30 days of project completion. Records must be maintained for at least 3 years following final payment.

PAYMENT PROCESS

The funds awarded under the grant are available on a reimbursement basis according to a payment schedule agreed to in advance. Grant recipients must submit a *Request for Reimbursement* and include records of expenditures along with documentation of all costs in accordance with the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200). The Georgia Forestry Commission reserves the right to make partial payments subject to completion of scheduled milestones and proper documentation of grant expenses and match. The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program administrator will evaluate the progress of the project to determine eligibility for full payment.

PROJECT EVALUATION

Only applications that meet all requirements will be reviewed. Applications will be evaluated on whether the information provided indicates that the project:

- Provides benefits to communities most in need of community forestry services
- Meets a demonstrated community forestry need
- Meets Federal and State Program Objectives
- Helps strengthen and develop local community forestry capacity
- Has a realistic time frame for completion
- Is cost effective
- Has continued effect after completion
- Uses innovation or involves research and new technology related to community forestry
- Reflects local community values
- Enhances volunteer involvement
- Involves various partnerships
- Utilizes personnel that have qualifications to complete activities
- Generates local visibility, incorporates public relations and awareness
- Can be duplicated and/or used as a model in other Georgia cities
- Enhances environmental, social, cultural, historical, psychological and economical values
- Shows demonstrated ability of the applicant to follow through on project completion
- Accomplishes one or more goals in the community's comprehensive plan

Applicants considered for funding will be subject to a pre-award risk evaluation.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Potential applicants can contact the Georgia Forestry Commission or other resources as appropriate to obtain additional assistance or information.

Resources for TAG projects: gatrees.org/urban-community-forestry/trees-across-georgia-tag-grant-program/

Georgia Forestry Commission: gatrees.org

To find your local GFC Community Forester: gatrees.org/about/county-contacts/

Georgia Tree Council: www.gatreecouncil.org

International Society of Arboriculture: www.isa-arbor.com

Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Program: www.ArborDay.org

USDA Forest Service: fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application cycle for the 2025 Trees Across Georgia (TAG) grant cycle opens July 18, 2025.

All applications must be submitted by **11:59PM EDT on August 31st, 2025** through the online grant portal on Submittable.com. No paper applications will be accepted.

To complete and submit your application: [**CLICK HERE**](#)

For Questions or Assistance, contact:

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