



Spring 2024 NYS Urban Forestry Council Quick Start Grant Notice

The **NYS Urban Forestry Council** is pleased to announce available funding for communities to hold a tree planting event in the spring of 2024 celebrating Arbor Day and to establish a community-based forestry program. Communities can apply for up to \$1,000. Funding has been provided by the USDA Forest Service.

Grant Goals:

The intent of this grant is to help municipalities establish a community forestry program and to move toward becoming a Tree City USA Community, which is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation.

Eligibility:

Communities are eligible if they intend to work toward Tree City status but are lacking any of the components of the Tree City USA program. The four components include having a tree ordinance, a tree board, at least \$2/capita budgeted for trees, and an annual Arbor Day celebration with proclamation. Definitions and details of those components and application instructions can be found on the Arbor Day Foundation's [Tree City USA](#) website.

Communities that are currently a Tree City USA or are a recipient of a previous NYS Urban Forestry Council Quick Start Grant are **ineligible**.

Projects must include:

- planting trees (see the recommended resources listed in this notice to facilitate tree species selections). **Planting must be done in the spring of 2024.**
- holding an Arbor Day ceremony in the spring of 2024 (*does not have to be on the official Arbor Day*).

Eligible expenses may include but are not limited to trees, mulch, soil, printing of a program, advertising to publicize the event.

Selection Process and Award:

Applications will be scored competitively and awarded from highest to lowest until the funding is exhausted. 50% of the amount awarded will be paid to the awardees upon return of a signed grant acceptance form.

The remainder of the grant will be paid once a final report is submitted. The final report should include a summary of event, photos, receipts for expenditures, copies of materials related to the event and/or establishment and goals of a tree committee or board.



NYS UFC Quick Start Grant Committee Members

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Resource Websites

- NYS Urban Forestry Council (*questions, contacts, references*) <https://nysufc.org/>
- Tree Planting resources: (*tree species selections, planting suggestions*)
<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/recurbtree/>
- Cornell University, Urban Horticulture Institute website (*tree species info, planting suggestions*)
<https://blogs.cornell.edu/urbanhort/>
- Arbor Day Foundation (*tree species info, starting tree boards, Arbor Day programs*)
<https://www.arborday.org/>
- NYS DEC (*Regional offices, local DEC Foresters in the Division of Lands and Forests can provide urban forestry guidance, etc.*) <https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html>
- National Grid's "10,000 Trees...and Growing" program (*tree species, planting suggestions*)
https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/safety/cm4494_treesafety.pdf



Quick Start Grant Application

Up to \$1,000 in funding is provided to hold a tree planting celebrating Arbor Day and to establish a community-based forestry program.

Name of Municipality: _____

Project Contact: _____

Address: _____

Email & Phone: _____

Municipal fiscal contact, if different than above: _____

Address: _____

Email & Phone: _____

Municipal Chief or Elected official: _____

Signature of official: _____

PLEASE PROVIDE: *(Note that your application is scored based upon this information)*

Date of Event: _____ *(Please note that your Arbor Day event date must be held in the spring of 2024)*

Participants: List potential participants and how you will involve the public in your event. *Participation by elected officials will help achieve a higher application score and ensure a successful event and future support of a local program.*

Description of Project: Include a brief description of your proposed project and how this project will help you achieve Tree City Status. Address all the scoring criteria and include a list of trees to be planted. For optimum scoring, you are encouraged to contact a Grant Committee member, NYS DEC urban forester or ISA Certified Arborist for assistance. *Be sure to mention the consultant in your application.*

Photos: Please include 1-4 pictures representative of the site(s) where you will be planting.

Budget: Describe how you will spend the grant funds by listing estimated costs (purchase of trees, necessary supplies, etc.)

[Send completed applications by March 7, 2024 to:](#)

NYS Urban Forestry Council, 136 Everett Road, Albany, NY 12205
or via email to admin@nysufc.org *(please put all information into one attachment).*