



## **2024 NYS Urban Forestry Council Tree City USA Reward Grant Notice**

The **NYS Urban Forestry Council** is pleased to announce available funding for communities to plant large specimen trees or a grove of trees in a prominent location within the community. Communities in New York State that have been a Tree City USA for at least the past five consecutive years can apply for up to \$1,000. Funding has been provided by the New York State Urban Forestry Council and the USDA Forest Service.

### **Grant Goals:**

The intent of this grant is to encourage municipalities to sustain their community forestry program and maintain their status as a Tree City USA Community. The grant will reward communities for consistent participation in the Tree City USA program through a celebratory tree planting event.

### **Eligibility:**

Communities are eligible if they have attained Tree City USA status and have maintained it for at least the past five consecutive years (2019-2023). Communities that received this grant last year (2023) are not eligible in 2024.

Eligible projects include:

- Tree planting
  - planting a large (at maturity) specimen tree(s) in a prominent site within the community, accessible to the public; **or**
  - planting a grove of trees in a prominent site within the community, accessible to the public
- a tree planting as stated above with an event to celebrate the community's Tree City USA status and ongoing community forestry program.

Eligible expenses may include but are not limited to trees, mulch, soil, event related costs like advertising. Please note that we cannot fund benches, plaques, or food. We encourage your creativity in sharing your public celebration via social media, local publications, websites, etc.

**Planting projects must be scheduled for the Fall of 2024.**

### **Selection Process:**

Applications will be scored competitively and awarded from highest to lowest until the funding is depleted.



**Please note:** This is a reimbursement grant. Funds will be paid once a final report is submitted. The final report should include a summary of event, photos, receipts for expenditures, and copies of materials or links to postings related to the event/planting. **Final reports must be submitted by December 31, 2024.**

**Applications will be scored by the following criteria:**

- All paperwork received
- DEC urban forester, grant committee member or ISA-certified arborist consulted (please specify in your application)
- Clear site photos included
- Establishment plan in place for care of tree(s)
- Date of event given
- Community to publicize event
- Clear budget developed
- Tree selections appropriate
- Consideration of “Right Tree Right Place”

**Deadlines and how to apply:**

Applications are due (postmarked if mailing) by **August 30, 2024** (see attached application).

Send completed applications to: **NYS Urban Forestry Council, 121 State Street, Albany, NY 12207** or via email to **admin@nysufc.org** (please put all information into one attachment).

Award recipients will be notified by mid-September 2024.

If you have questions about your project or this grant opportunity, please contact a grant committee member listed in this notice. Also, we would like to join in your celebration by having a grant committee member and/or other Council member attend your event.

Thank you for your interest in trees and improving the environment within your community!

Sincerely,

Karen Emmerich, Grants Committee Chair

*New York State Urban Forestry Council*  
NYS Urban Forestry Council, 121 State Street, Albany, NY 12207  
admin@nysufc.org

[Tree City USA](#) is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation. Please note that this grant is not associated with the Arbor Day Foundation, nor is it part of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program funded by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.



## NYS UFC Grant Committee Members

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## Resource Websites

- NYS Urban Forestry Council (*questions, contacts, references*) <http://nysufc.org>
- Tree Planting resources: (*tree species selections, planting suggestions*)  
<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/recurbtrees/pdfs/~recurbtrees.pdf>
- Cornell University, Urban Horticulture Institute website (*tree species info, planting suggestions*)  
<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/>
- Arbor Day Foundation (*tree species info, starting tree boards, Arbor Day programs*)  
<http://www.arborday.org/>
- NYS DEC (*Regional offices, contacts, etc.*) <https://dec.ny.gov/about/contact-us/statewide-office-information>
- National Grid's "10,000 Trees...and Growing" program (*tree species, planting suggestions*)  
[https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/safety/cm4494\\_treesafety.pdf](https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/safety/cm4494_treesafety.pdf)

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*20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



## 2024 Tree City USA Reward Grant Application

*Funding is available for qualified Tree City communities to plant large specimen trees or a grove of trees in a prominent location within the community.*

Name of Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipal contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and Title** of municipal official: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** of municipal official: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE PROVIDE:

- **Date of Planting Event:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Participants:** List potential participants and how you will involve the public in your event and/or how you will share news of the event.
- **Description of Project:** Include a brief description of your proposed project and why you should receive this grant. Include genus, species, and size of tree(s) to be planted. You are encouraged to contact a Grant Committee member, NYS DEC forester or ISA-Certified Arborist for assistance. Let us know in your application if you do this. Points are given for it.
- **Photos:** Please include 1-4 pictures representative of the site(s) where you will be planting and describe the location.
- **Budget:** Describe how you will spend the grant funds by listing estimated costs (purchase of tree, necessary supplies, etc.)
- **Establishment Plan:** THIS IS CRITICAL! Include a detailed plan for successful establishment of the tree(s) indicating who will be responsible for watering, weeding, mulching, and any other measures that will lead to successful establishment and a thriving tree(s).

Send completed applications by August 30, 2024 to:

**NYS Urban Forestry Council, 121 State Street, Albany, NY 12207**

**or via email to [admin@nysufc.org](mailto:admin@nysufc.org)** (please put all information into one attachment if possible).