



Spring 2025 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 2025 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 NYS Urban Forestry Council and the USDA Forest Service.

Grant Goals:

The intent of this grant is to help municipalities establish a community forestry program and to work towards 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 2025.**
- holding an Arbor Day ceremony in the spring of 2025 (*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. 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.

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.

Applications will be scored by the following criteria:

- All paperwork received
- Grant committee member, DEC urban forester, or certified arborist consulted (please specify in your application)
- Clear site photos included
- Date of tree planting
- Clear budget developed
- Tree selections appropriate. Species listed on the NYS List of Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Plants will not be funded https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/islist.pdf.
- Describe how your tree selection conforms with “Right Tree Right Place” criteria <https://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/>
- Substitutions must be approved by grant committee prior to planting

Deadlines and how to apply:

Applications are due (postmarked) by **5pm on March 6, 2025** (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 March 17, 2025. Awarded grant projects must be completed in the spring of 2025 with final reports submitted within 45 days of your event.

If you have questions about your project or this grant opportunity, please contact a grant committee member listed in this notice. Thank you for your interest in trees and improving the environment within your community!

Sincerely,
Karen Emmerich, Grant Committee Chair
New York State Urban Forestry Council
121 State Street, Albany, NY 12207
admin@nysufc.org

Please note that this Quick Start 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.

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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://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/islist.pdf.
- National Grid's "10,000 Trees...and Growing" program (*tree species, planting suggestions*)
https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/safety/cm4494_treesafety.pdf



2025 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 2025)*

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 6, 2025 to:](#)

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