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Arkansas Urban & Community Forestry Grants Open for Proposals through August 28th

STATEWIDE, AR – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division is now accepting applications for the 2020 Urban & Community Forestry Grant program through August 28, 2020. Grants are available to fund community projects that develop, improve, and/or promote urban and community trees and forests. Complete grant details and an online application are available [here](#) or by emailing kristine.thomason@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

The Forestry Division and the Grant Review Committee of the [Arkansas Urban Forestry Council](#) will rank grant proposals and award funds based on criteria that include: improvements to a community’s tree management program; proposed implementation plan for the project; level of community involvement; educational components; and tree care and long-term maintenance planning. Communities that participate in the Tree City USA, Tree Campus, and Tree Line programs will receive additional ranking points.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Community tree inventories and management plans
- Parking lot improvements for stormwater runoff
- Tree-friendly streets (allowing for root space and canopy growth, adding tree grates, etc.)
- Park improvements to help reduce sun exposure and cool the air
- Improving tree health with tree maintenance and protection plans, soil amendments, mulching, professional pruning and restoration, watering bags and/or irrigation, etc.
- Greenway development planning and urban stream restoration (including demonstration areas, feasibility studies, maps, etc.)
- Communication materials that increase public awareness of the benefits of urban forests
- Education and training for tree care workers, volunteers, and the public

Urban & Community Forestry Grants are funded through a \$40,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. The maximum federal cost share of any project is 50% of the total project expenditures and cannot exceed \$12,000. The nonfederal match may be cash, services, or in-kind contributions. Projects must be completed by August 15, 2022. For more information about the grant, contact Krissy Kimbro Thomason at kristine.thomason@agriculture.arkansas.gov or 479-228-7929.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov.