

Project Information Packet

2019



Green Macomb

US Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant¹

Project Overview

Macomb County has received a grant from the US Forest Service and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to reduce stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution impacts through targeted increases in tree canopy as green infrastructure.

A total of 1,200 trees will be planted in 2018 and 2019 in urbanized areas in the 12 communities along and south of the Clinton River in Macomb County. Approximately 200 trees will be installed through 4 volunteer planting events managed by the nonprofit ReLeaf Michigan, with the other trees planted by local municipalities.

Project Structure

In order to best support local community needs, goals, and program development, this project is designed to pass-through funding for trees to local communities, who decide where and how to plant the trees.

This grant-funded project will be completed by the spring of 2020. Any community receiving trees agrees to participate in joint Arbor Day events coordinated by Macomb County.

Subawards

Communities are encouraged to apply for funding for trees through the subaward process. This grant project is focused on the 12 Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership Communities, but other Macomb County municipalities and public land owning agencies² *may be eligible* if a high quality project is requested. The goal is to engage each of the 12 communities with tree plantings, but the ultimate allocation of trees is dependent on the number of communities that make requests, the number of requested trees per community, and quality of the requests made.

Subaward Priority Areas:

- Locations below 20% existing tree canopy.
- High use or impact areas such as DDAs, parks, schools, pedestrian routes, etc.
- Subwatersheds and drainage areas already identified by federal, state, regional, or other local efforts as high-needs areas.
 - i.e. Red Run, 8 ½ Mile Drain, and others with supportive documentation.
- Priority to distribute awards across all 12 Green Macomb partnership communities.

¹ *Communities participating in this grant project must comply with civil rights requirements. Information on the USDA Forest Service requirements are available at <https://www.fs.fed.us/cr/poster/grants-greenhigh.pdf>.*

² *Contact Amanda Oparka or Gerard Santoro from Macomb County Dept. of Planning & Economic Development to see if your agency is eligible to participate in this grant project.*

Tree Plantings and Maintenance

In order to support local goals and priorities, local communities determine how trees will be planted and maintained. The options for planting and early maintenance are very flexible, and may include municipal staff and equipment, contractors, volunteers, partnerships, crowdfunding, and other creative solutions to utilize local opportunities. Limited funding is available for ReLeaf Michigan coordinated volunteer events. Please see ReLeaf Michigan section below for additional details.

At a minimum, **all trees MUST be:**

- Planted in accordance with [Michigan DNR Tree Planting Guide](#).
 - 1"-2" caliper³ balled and burlap or containerized trees.
 - Proper depth.
 - Mulch 2-4 inches deep, no mulch within 3-4 inches of tree base.
- Maintained until established.
 - Receive and maintain trees prior to planting.
 - Watered at planting.
 - Watered weekly through first growing season.
 - Watered once every two weeks (rainfall dependent) during second growing season.
 - Water needs monitored and provided as necessary during third year.
- Communities agree to plant a replacement tree if any tree does not survive the first year.

ReLeaf Michigan Volunteer Planting Events

[ReLeaf Michigan](#) is a statewide nonprofit tree organization which has been working with communities throughout Michigan since 1988. Communities interested in developing volunteer programs, establishing outreach and communication strategies, or in need of assistance to physically plant trees will benefit from this partnership with ReLeaf Michigan. Distribution of volunteer planting events is intended to be across all communities, but will be dependent on number of communities that make requests, the total number of requested volunteer plantings, the applicability of those projects for volunteer events, and identification of potential volunteers to be leveraged for the planting events.

Four (4) volunteer planting events managed by ReLeaf Michigan are available for funding through this grant.

Approximately 50 trees will be planted per event. ReLeaf Michigan will coordinate the purchasing and planting of the trees using local volunteers. It is the responsibility of each community to identify and secure volunteers for the planting events, as well as provide topsoil, mulch, and pre-dig holes for planting. *The goal is to have volunteers signed up in advance at a ratio of 1 to 2 volunteers for every tree to be planted.*

Application Review and Selection Process

- Rolling acceptance of project proposals. First come first served. Please reach out and we will work with you to discuss your project and complete standard application form.
- Please ensure applications are complete. Incomplete forms will score lower and may not be eligible for funding.

³ Exceptions may be made for special circumstances where appropriate, but tree size must be sufficient to limit vulnerability and ensure high survival rates while also keeping project costs to a minimum. **Tree costs are reimbursable up to \$135/tree.**

Guidance for Subaward Application Form

Below is additional guidance for preparing an application for tree funding and ReLeaf Michigan volunteer planting events.

- Specify number of trees desired for plantings. **Tree costs are reimbursable up to \$150 per tree.**
- Must identify specific planting areas⁴.
 - Public/institutional property, ROW, and schools.
 - Name/map of street sections, name of park, parcel information.
 - Indicate strategy to avoid utility/infrastructure conflicts.
 - Include planting plan/map of tree plantings sites if possible.
- Indicate preferred tree species (Macomb County will assist in species selection if requested).
 - Tree species should be appropriate for space planted (open park, ROW, parking lot, etc.).
 - Diversity of species towards 10-20-30 rule.
 - Taking into account species to be planted as well as those in general vicinity of planting, work towards goal to increase tree diversity so that overall urban forest is no more than 10% of one species, 20% of one genus, 30% of one family.
- Preferred planting season (fall 2019 or spring 2020).
- Applicants must briefly describe **project plan**. Provide description of:
 - Tree purchasing and selection:
 - Who will purchase trees, when, and how?
 - Recommended that those who have not purchased large orders of trees partner with another agency with experience such as ReLeaf Michigan, a contractor/consultant, or other group.
 - Logistics
 - Show ability to hold and maintain trees after delivery and before plantings to insure survival and long-term tree health.
 - Strategy for staging trees at planting location(s).
 - Planting
 - How trees will be planted and who manages planting (in-house, contractor, other).
 - Planted in accordance with [Michigan DNR Tree Planting Guide](#).
 - Identify source of water, mulch, and topsoil (site dependent).
 - Two-year Maintenance Plan:
 - How trees are to be planted and maintained for first two years. An example from the US Forestry Service is [available here](#).
- ***If requesting a ReLeaf Michigan coordinated volunteer planting event, additional information is required:***
 - Identify source of volunteers for the planting event. Should be ~1-2 volunteers per tree.
 - Local communities provide water, mulch, topsoil and pre-dig holes for the planting.
 - ReLeaf Michigan planting events **must be geographically limited** in order to manage volunteers and ensure quality of plantings.

⁴ Utilize impervious hot spot map, priority planting locations map, and urban tree canopy map to help guide site selection. Maps available at green.macombgov.org.

Tree Purchasing

ReLeaf Michigan will coordinate the purchasing of trees for the volunteer planting events. Communities must be able to receive and maintain trees prior to planting events.

Local municipalities are responsible for purchasing trees not planted through a ReLeaf Michigan planting event. Those communities who have not purchased large orders of trees in the past are encouraged to partner with another agency with experience such as ReLeaf Michigan, a contractor/consultant, or other group in order to familiarize themselves with this process.

Please refer to the Green Macomb Recommended Tree Species List for guidance on appropriate trees to our region and different planting sites. This list and other resources are available at green.macombgov.org.

Questions and Contact

Please direct any questions or comments to Amanda Oparka or Gerard Santoro at the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

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