



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant Program

January 9, 2025



**Develop, expand, and
restore forested natural
areas in or near urban
communities across NYS**

PROGRAM BASICS

- More than 85% of New York State's population lives in or near an urban community
- \$15 million made available via Governor's 25 Million Trees Initiative
- Resilient reforestation and forests in urban communities that will bear the brunt of climate change impacts, particularly extreme heat
- Projects...
 - afforestation and reforestation
 - restore forest stands and control competing vegetation
 - prevent deer browse
 - [no street and park trees, no land acquisition]

KEY EVENTS

2.25.25

Question and Answer Period Ends

3.12.25

Bid (Application) Period Ends

7.1.25

Anticipated Awards Announcement

GRANT FUNDING

How much can we apply for?

- Minimum: \$150,000
- Maximum: \$3,000,000

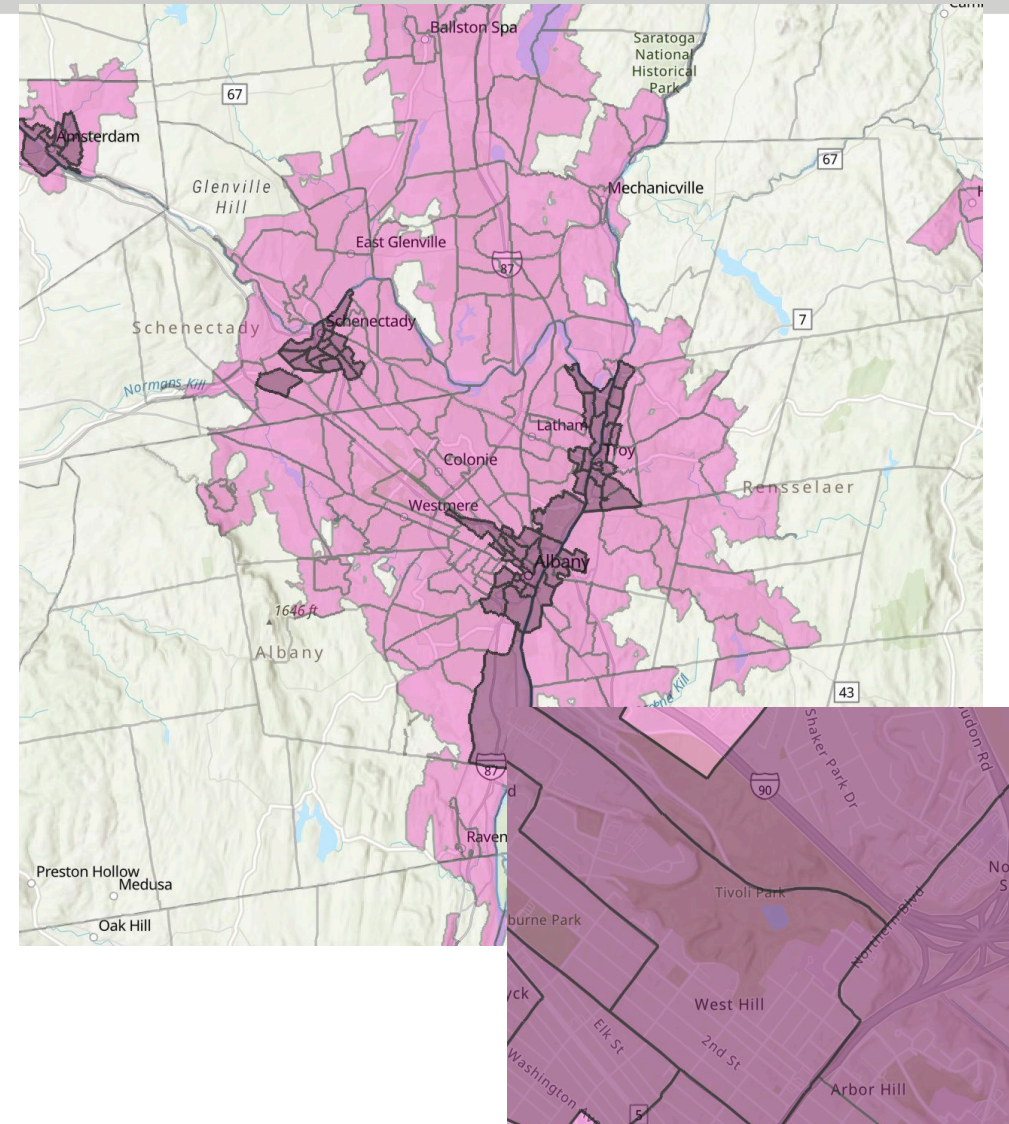
- No Match Requirement
- Reimbursement Grant
- \$3M allotment for small projects (\$150k to \$500k)
- \$3M allotment for State Agencies

ELIGIBILITY

PROJECT LOCATIONS

Eligible projects must:

- Be on non-federal public properties (i.e. state, county, municipal), privately owned land that is open to the public (i.e. preserves, land trusts, cemeteries); AND
- Be within the boundaries identified by the [CoRe Grant eligibility map](#).



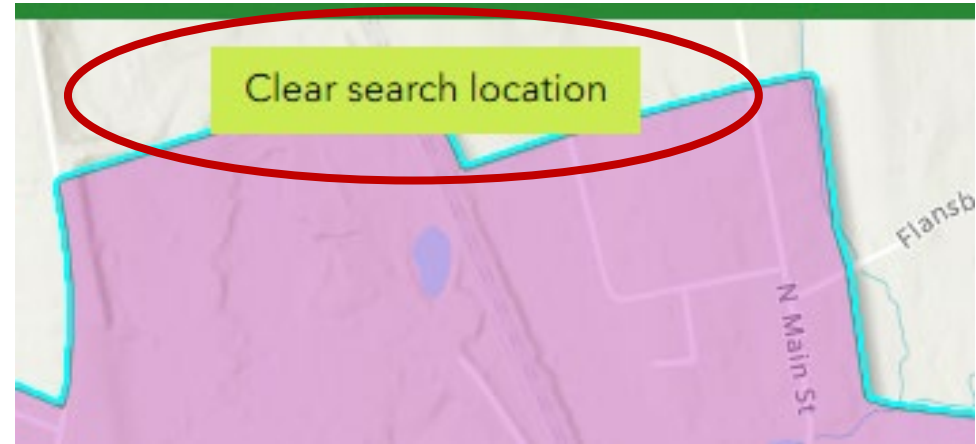
GRANT ELIGIBILITY MAP

CoRe Grant Qualification

Find address or place

Check whether a location qualifies for the CoRe Grant.

1. Search by address above, or click a location on the map. Click and drag to move the map window and explore different areas of the state.
2. To change locations after a selection has been made, click "Clear search location" at the top of the map, then



- Clicking on the map will zoom in on a parcel and note if it qualifies (left column).

About this Location

Qualifies for the CoRe Grant.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- MUNICIPALITIES
 - New York State municipalities, and quasi-governmental entities including, but not limited to counties, cities, towns, villages, public benefit corporations, public authorities, municipal corporations, and soil and water conservation districts.
- INDIAN NATIONS
 - Indian nations or tribes recognized by the State or the United States with a reservation wholly or partly within the boundaries of New York State, or any combination thereof.
- NONPROFITS
 - 501(c)(3) not-for-profit (NFP) corporations whose projects are located within the eligible geographic boundaries defined in this document.
- STATE AGENCIES (\$3M ALLOTMENT)
 - NYS Agencies (NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; State University of New York (including individual campuses); etc.).

PROJECT TYPES AND FUNDING

AFFORESTATION / REFORESTATION

Establish **new forests** or supplement seedling regeneration in existing forest stands after a natural disturbance or treatment through **planting trees**

- Establishing new forest areas where the previous land use was non-forest.
- Reforestation of a previously forested area after treatment or natural disturbance (wind, fire, etc.), or canopy dieback where natural regeneration is not being utilized.
- Supplement areas where natural regeneration is present, but not currently adequate in an existing forest after a harvest, natural disturbances (wind, fire, etc.), or dieback.

PROJECT TYPES AND FUNDING

FOREST STAND RESTORATION / COMPETING VEGETATION CONTROL

To restore **forests impacted by pests and disease, invasive vegetation**, or other issues for the purpose of increasing overall forest health and resilience

Approved treatments may include **silvicultural sound methods** to help eradicate or **limit the spread of native or exotic invasive plant species** in forested environments which interfere with natural regeneration and designed to renew degraded forest stands.

Funding can support **mechanical removal or chemical control** using herbicide registered in New York for targeted species and planting.

PROJECT TYPES AND FUNDING

DEER EXCLOSURE

To protect recently established and planned regeneration of tree seedlings from herbivory by white-tailed deer by preventing access to tree seedlings and saplings. Practice authorizes the use of **tree tubes and/or deer fencing** as effective methods for protecting tree seedlings from deer.

PRACTICE PLAN TEMPLATE

Section 1. General Information

Bidder/Organization Name:	Classified By	Date
Property Address	Department Use Only	
City, State Zip Code	Checked By	Date
Rare, threatened, or endangered species are <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent on the CoRe project site.		
If "Present" selected, identify the species present and the mitigation measures for protection below.		

Section 2. Current Forest Stand Conditions

Stand/Field #	Size (acres)	Forest Type	Diameter Class (Seed Sap, PT, ST)	Site Class (1, 2, 3)	Basal Area	# of Trees / Acre (All stems >1")	Species Composition	Competing Vegetation/ Deer Browse Issues	CoRe Practice(s) Proposed

Section 3. Afforestation/Reforestation Practice

Current Site Conditions for Natural Area to be Planted							Light Conditions (Check One)			Site Preparation Needed (Estimated Acreage)		
Stand/Field #	Size (acres)	Total Acreage to be Planted	Soil Type	Slope %	Aspect	Drainage	Full Sun	Partial Sun	Shade	Herbicide	Mowing	Disking

Species Composition of NEW area planting / afforestation				Species Composition of SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING/ reforestation area			
Stand/Field #	Species	# of Trees Planted	Bare Root/ Containerized	Stand/Field #	Species	# of Trees Planted	Bare Root/ Containerized

Please describe planned measures for tree protection and enhancement (tree tubes, stakes, fence, mats, etc.).

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PRACTICE PLAN TEMPLATE

Section 4. Forest Stand Restoration/ Competing Vegetation Control Practice

		Acres Treated by Method						
Stand/Field #	Size (acres)	Mechanical	Chemical	Target Vegetation	Type of Mechanical Treatment	Type of Chemical Treatment	Season Timing	# of Follow Up Treatments Anticipated

Narrative Description of Treatments (optional)

Section 5. Deer Exclosure Practice

Stand/Field #	Type of Exclosure	Perimeter of Exclosure (ft)	Planned Area for Protection (acres)	Fence Height (ft)

FIELD INSPECTION

A DEC Forester will visit the project location as part of the bid evaluation

USE OF FORESTER

Project needs to utilize a Forester, Certified Arborist or a Natural Resource Professionals

SCORED QUESTIONS

Project description, planning, and timeline

- Thoroughly plan out and detail project, timeline, and long-term maintenance, including:
 - WHAT: Project goals and practices, tree planting stem count
 - WHO: Who is implementing project, who is involved in planning
 - WHERE: Project area size, location and condition of site, including photos and map
 - WHEN: 5-year grant period timeline
 - HOW: How the project will be implemented

Number of trees to be planted

During the 2024 State of the State address, Governor Hochul established tree planting in New York's urban communities as a priority of the 25 Million Trees Initiative.

Points will be awarded to projects that demonstrate a significant amount of tree planting.

Containerized Stock	Bare Root Stock	Points Awarded
1001+	5001+	12
501-1000	2501-5000	9
100-500	500-2500	6
1-99	1-499	3

Community Outreach & Engagement

- Communities and residents affected by this project should be engaged prior to and during implementation and given an opportunity to be involved when possible and/or appropriate.
- Describe how the residents and community affected will be notified of this project and what opportunities there will be for engagement.
- Large projects should have a groundbreaking ceremony announcing the start of the project.

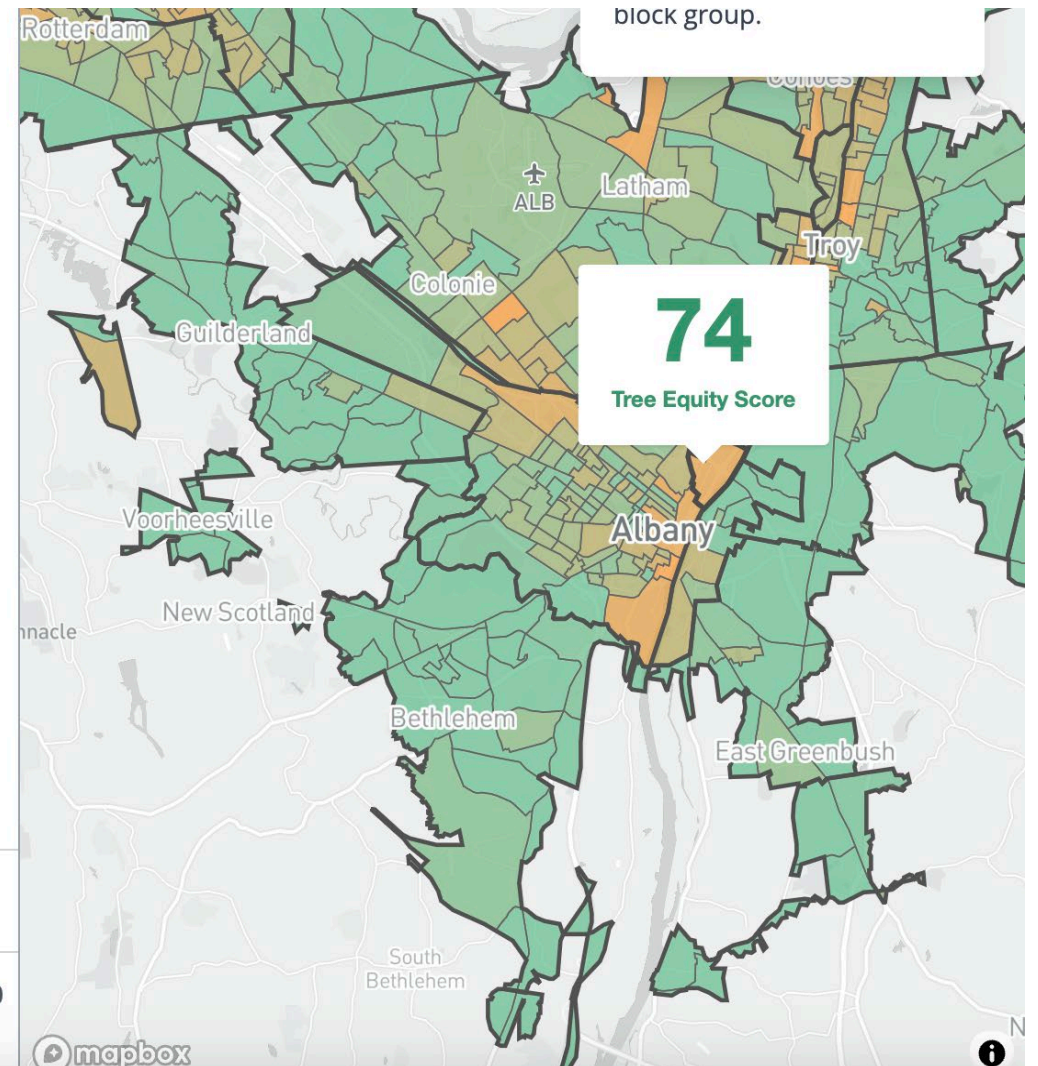
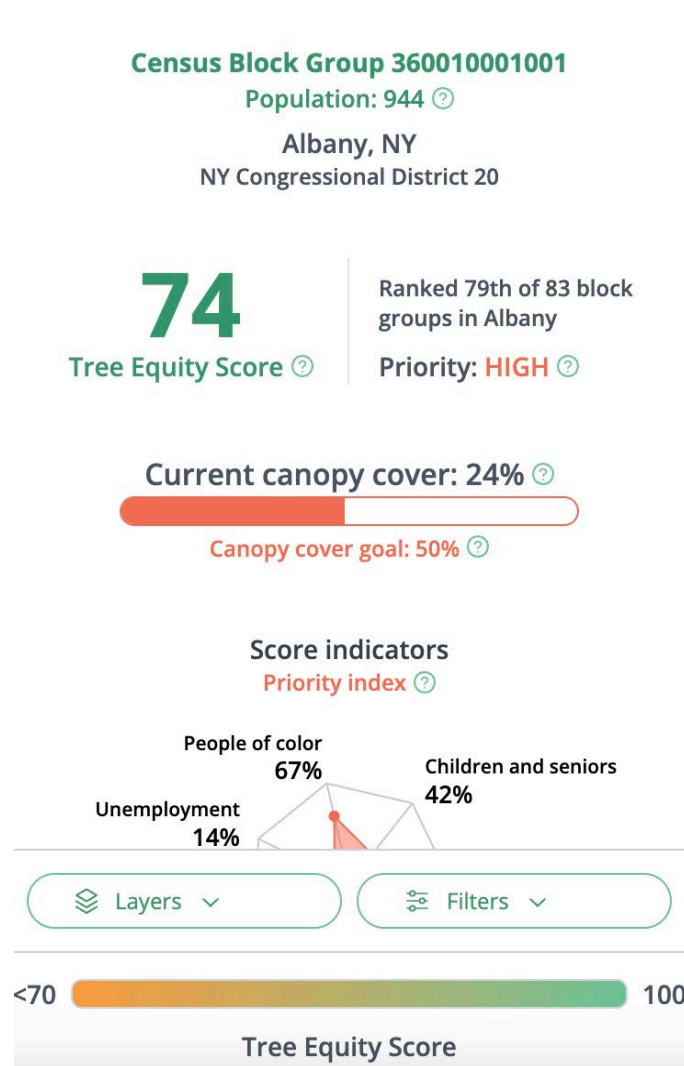
Long-Term Planning

- Projects are expected to be maintained and supported for at least 10 years after the grant is completed. Points will be awarded to projects that demonstrate long-term maintenance planning, protection, sustainability and durability.

Tree Equity Score

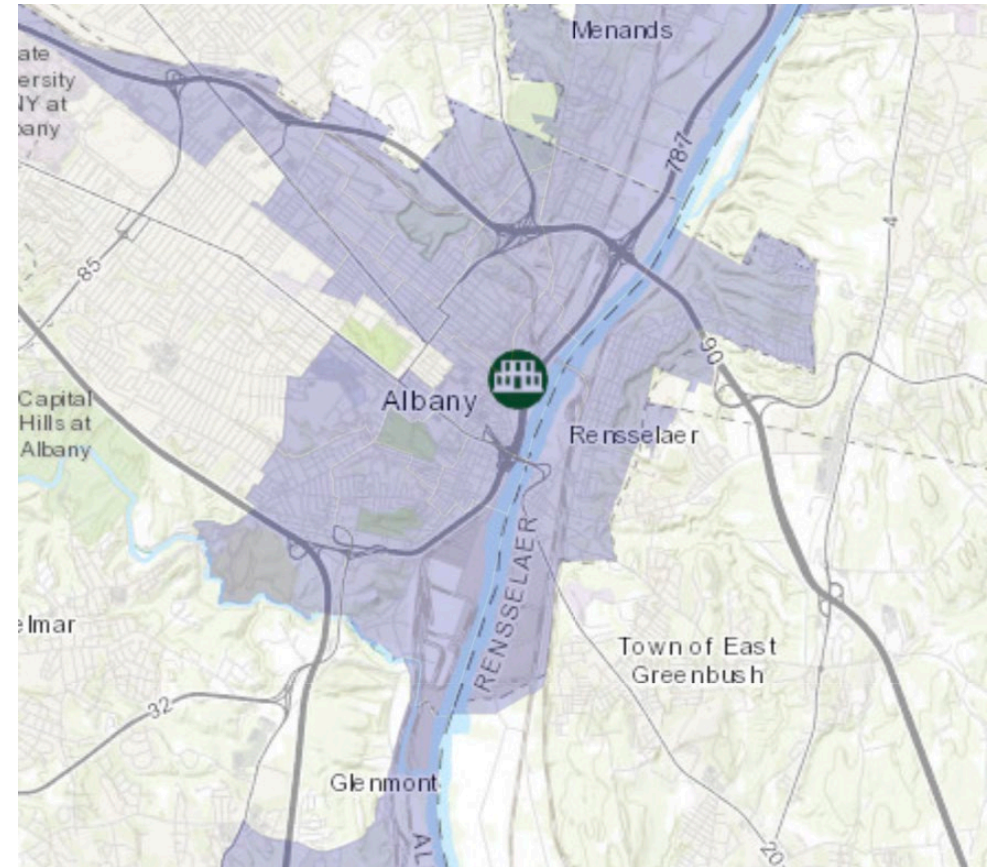
The Tree Equity Score accounts multiple factors including tree canopy cover and gap, poverty, unemployment, health burden, and heat disparity.

higher priority index rating = more likely to be disproportionately affected by extreme heat, pollution, and other environmental hazards



Disadvantaged Communities

The 2019 Climate Act's Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) identified Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) to ensure that frontline and otherwise underserved communities benefit from the state's historic transition to cleaner, greener sources of energy, reduced pollution and cleaner air, and economic opportunities.



Work Plan

- Bidders must complete a work plan in the SFS Grant Management System that provides a clear overview of the project.
- The workplan contains 3 sections, which are all required:
 - Project Summary
 - Organizational Capacity
 - Project Details- Objectives, tasks and performance measures

Project Summary

This section becomes part of the awardee contract. Details that should be included are listed below:

- the overall goals and desired outcomes
- scope of work (ex: personnel working on the project, contractors, volunteers, etc.).
- detailed timeline
- location and current condition
- estimated costs
- outreach and community support
 - # of trees to be planted
- All deliverables
- long-term plans for maintenance and protection

Organizational Capacity

- Describe the staffing, qualifications, and relevant experience of the bidder to support the project.
- Describe the knowledge, skills, and/or experience that both the bidder and key staff members possess to successfully implement the proposed project.

Objectives, Tasks and Performance Measures

- The objectives, tasks and performance measures become part of the contract if awarded. Complete the Projects Detail section with objectives, tasks and performance measures that cover all deliverables. This section becomes part of the awardee contract.

Budget details and eligible costs

- Detailed budget with totaled quotes
- After-planting care must be separate line from everything through installation.

Reasonability of costs

- Only reasonable and eligible implementation expenses are included in the budget. The value relative to the cost is very good.

FAQ

SPECIES

Species selection for reforestation projects must be **native, regionally suitable, and/or selected for the desired future forest type**. Species may also be **based on plant stock availability, planting season, and/or other factors**. Planting plans will be evaluated for each project and will require Departmental approval.

A number of factors should be considered when selecting trees for planting including:

- Native forest type of project location
- Site factors such as soil type, drainage and aspect
- Hardiness zone
- Ability to perform future maintenance, such as thinning and pruning
- Bidder (landowner) goals
- Growth rates
- Appropriate species for restoring rare and unique forested habitats.

Up to 10% of the site may include shrub (understory) stock.

DEC REGIONAL FORESTERS

Technical Assistance:

- Answer grant questions throughout open grant period
- Planting site/amendment recommendations
- Review/approval of tree species planting lists
- Right tree – Right site
- How to check nursery stock
- Proper planting
- Proper care for young trees

See list in RFA or email us at urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov

QUESTIONS?

Contact your local DEC Forester or contact Urban Forestry Team email (urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov) with questions

FAQ Document will be added to SFS, periodically updated until end of question period (Feb 25)

Brad McMillian