

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

PRINCE GEORGE'S DPW&T ROADSIDE AND RESIDENTIAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

AWARDED AMOUNT

\$1,000,000.00

NUMBER OF TREES

4,000



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) is dedicated to tree plantings in urban, underserved communities across the county. DPW&T is undergoing a county-wide planting installations in underserved areas through a combination of the following three approaches of tree plantings: DPW&T owned right-of-ways in underserved areas through the county's existing Right Tree, Right Place program; across incorporated municipal right-of-ways and public spaces; private property through a novel DPW&T sponsored program: Free Trees PGC.

DWP&T has offered the Right Tree, Right Place (RTRP) program for eleven years. Under this program, the County successfully planted over 56,000 trees and partnered with over 250 civic/homeowner's associations to coordinate large-scale, neighborhood wide right-of-way planting installations using county contractors. Additionally, a significant proportion of the County's roadside trees lie within the County's 27 incorporated municipalities, outside of jurisdiction and funding for RTRP. Over the past decade, municipal staff have asked DPW&T to assist with designs for municipal street trees. DPW&T funding does not extend to municipal locations and has had to decline these requests. Local incorporated municipal governments often lack the budget and staffing to support municipal forestry programs. Consequently, trees are often removed, and urban forests are left to deteriorate. With the proposed funding request in this application, DPW&T will lay the groundwork for larger, more coordinated planting efforts in more places throughout Prince George's County right-of-ways.

The Right Tree, Right Place program incorporates engagement strategies for urban and community forestry that increase the level of public participation and impact through community engagement strategies, partnership building, and awareness raising efforts. The RTRP engagement strategies all aim to link urban forestry to critical community issues.

The primary objective of RTRP is to provide thoughtful street tree designs that not only respect the human dimensions of a community forest, but also consider the cultural characteristics of trees and the site-specific growing conditions. RTRP promotes species that require minimal maintenance after establishment. Tree species planted through RTRP are vetted for the following characteristics: mature size, crown spread, excessive pollen/litter, growth rate, and nursery availability. Additionally, given the inhospitable growing conditions of urban trees, trees are always vetted for conferred tolerance to harmful environmental traits such as prolonged drought, air pollution, and salt damage.

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