

FY23 URBAN TREES PROGRAM

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

GROWING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, ONE TREE AT A TIME

AWARDED AMOUNT

\$300,00.00

NUMBER OF TREES

2,000



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) has four long-established programs to assist residents with planting new trees around their homes and communities: Tree ReLEAF, Rain Check Rebate, Arbor Day Every Day, and Tree Planting Demonstrations. The programs have collectively resulted in the planting of nearly 850 trees annually. The Growing Community Partnerships, One Tree at a Time project aims to leverage existing Prince George's County resources to reduce barriers to tree plantings in communities that would benefit most from a healthy urban tree canopy, with the goal of increasing the number of trees planted to 2,000 trees in Year 1. This will be accomplished by leveraging CBT's Urban Trees Grant Program funding to accelerate the pace of tree canopy restoration in underserved areas. In Years 2 – 3, DoE expects to dramatically increase tree installation goals as community knowledge of the program increases demand and urban site constraints are overcome. These efforts directly support the County's implementation of the recently finalized Climate Action Plan and the natural environment goals identified in Prince George's County's Plan 2035.

Besides installing 2,000 native trees, DoE participation through this grant will facilitate enhanced partnerships between the County, municipalities, and NGOs. This grant will also enable DoE to pilot and track new engagement ideas and processes to help refine the County's Rain Check Rebate and Tree ReLEAF programs. For example, if the proposed supplement to the Rain Check Rebate under "Track 1: Supplemental Tree Rebate" results in much higher participation, they know that current rebate levels are too low to be attractive. Long-term, DoE also views this grant as a significant opportunity to build local small business capacity to both grow and install trees as well as support local NGO capacity to engage communities in tree planting.

The proposed project includes three tracks. Tracks 1 and 2 focus on the installation of 2,000 native trees of 1½ - 2½ inch caliper on private land and on eligible public land and open spaces. Track 3 provides technical support for the County's community partners and municipalities who have been awarded Urban Tree Grant funds. Support of trees to be planted by community partners through "Supporting Community Goodwill" are not part of DoE's 2,000 tree install goal.

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