

Description of Some Eligible Project Property Types for Track 2

Streets and Rights of Way - Street Tree Projects

Street trees are an important component of “green streets.” Street trees provide shade and improve air quality, which in turn improve livability and human health and reduce energy expenditures, and beautify areas, which can improve walkability and economic activity in downtown business districts.



While valuable due to these benefits, street tree projects can sometimes be challenging. Knowing these challenges in advance and explaining your approach to them in your proposal can make the ultimate project easier. A few questions to consider for your project that can help identify these challenges early in the application phase are:

- a) Do any local governments or utilities have rights of way, allowing them access and sometimes putting responsibility for trees on those entities? If so, permission, possibly permits, and support must be obtained from those entities. To determine whether this is the case, contact the department or planning and/or public works in the jurisdiction in which the project is located (either for the city/town if the project is in an incorporated area within a county or the county if not).
- b) Does your selected planting site(s) have underground utilities such as cable, water & sewer, gas lines etc.? Proposals must address in-ground precautions taken before excavation or digging.
- c) Are there overhead powerlines that put constraints on the size of trees that should be planted underneath? If so, choose the proper tree species (see Choosing the Right Tree Species section below)
- d) Do neighbors (residents, businesses, landowners) immediately adjacent want the trees? Proposals must address the current level of support for the project and any efforts to increase it. Requests for personnel costs for this outreach work are allowed.
- e) Is there enough permeable space in the form of a tree pit in a sidewalk, for example, to plant the trees without risking tree mortality and/or buckling sidewalks with growing roots? Will tree pits need to be created or expanded, and will stumps need to be removed? Proposals must address the site conditions and any work needed to prepare the site(s) for tree(s).

Vacant Lots - Greening Vacant Lots by planting trees

Studies show that neighborhoods with green spaces that can be used safely by residents have mental and physical health benefits.

Vacant lot greening often includes various elements such as art, recreational amenities like benches, urban agriculture, and pollinator habitats. However, tree planting is a central component of many vacant lot revitalization projects. While costs for non-tree elements can be requested, they should be framed as supporting and enhancing tree planting efforts at those sites and should constitute a relatively small portion of the total budget request. Project leads proposing vacant lot tree planting proposals must apply with permission in writing from the entity owning the vacant lot.



Example Vacant Lot - Before



Example Vacant Lot - After

Institutional Grounds

A way to plant trees at scale and at lower cost per tree is to plant many of them at once on one property. Many schools, faith-based institutions, health institutions, businesses, and other institutions offer that opportunity. Project leads seeking to green institutional grounds must include permission and support from the landowner for both the installation of trees and the maintenance afterwards.



Other types of public or private property - Open Space

Areas that are currently “open space” can provide an opportunity to increase tree canopy in urban areas; however, project leads seeking to plant in these areas must consider how the land is currently being used and by whom, and who might be affected if the area changes from open space to a forested area. Open space can also have positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of individuals in communities, so consider:

- a) Is the open space a designated play area for the youth and families in the community?
- b) Do residents, businesses, landowners utilize the open space for social events (e.g., sports, weddings, festivals)?

Proposals must address tradeoffs between tree plantings in the proposed space and existing land use.