



Iowa Tree Planting Grant (ITPG) Instructions and Requirements

INTENTION OF THE GRANT - Funding for this project provided by the Inflation Reduction Act and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service through the Urban and Community Forestry Program, in partnership with Iowa DNR Forestry for Iowa Tree Planting Grants for Iowa communities. The purpose of this grant is to support local jurisdictions in implementing improvements to urban tree health, increases in canopy cover, and delivery of tree ecosystem services in communities across Iowa. The Iowa Tree Planting Grant is a two-year grant available to community governmental entities, volunteer organizations, and service organizations involved with local urban and community forest services, for planting trees on publicly owned properties within the community. USDA and Iowa DNR are equal opportunity providers and employers. Federal and State law prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, mental and/or physical disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416 or DNR's Civil Rights Coordinators at civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov.

IOWA TREE PLANTING GRANTS - Are federally funded through CFDA #10.727 from the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. If your community is required to have a single audit in accordance with OMB circular A-133, a copy of the audit report will be provided to the DNR if any findings noted are related to the award provided by the DNR. If no findings related to the DNR award, a notification letter will be provided to the DNR stating findings noted did not relate to the DNR award.

ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM RESTRICTIONS - Communities eligible through the [Forest Cover and Socioeconomic Assessment Tool](#) may apply for Iowa Tree Planting Funding. There is a total of \$875,000 thousand available. Funding is competitive, and grants are awarded in amounts starting at \$10,000 up to \$30,000 per project. An application may be for multiple planting locations within the community on public grounds. No matching funds are required. Plantings on properties other than community public grounds are not eligible for grant funding.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES - Award money may be used for the following:

- Purchasing trees - must be 50% or more of award money
- Purchasing mulch
- Purchasing staking and/or tree protection materials
- Paying for supplemental watering or employee watering

Supplemental watering costs may also include purchase of water bags or tree diapers to aid in adequate watering.

PLANTING SCHEDULE, TREE REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIES DIVERSITY - The Iowa Tree Planting Grant is a two-year grant which will cover four planting seasons, two spring (March 15 - June 1) and two fall (September 15 - November 1), starting with the fall of 2026 and ending the spring of 2028. Communities may choose to plant in any combination or all four of these seasons. Trees may be provided by Iowa nurseries or nurseries from other states. Trees **MUST** be landscape size and meet the specifications set forth by the American Nursery Stock Standards (**ANZI Z60.1**), please ensure that your nursery is aware of this. Landscape-size trees start at #5 container and can be in hard pot, air-pruned container, growbag, or balled and burlap trees. In order to ensure species diversity and to protect against large-scale losses from future forest health threats, no more than 10% of any species and no more than 5% maples or elms will be allowed. Trees species to be used **MUST** be from the Approved Species List, any deviation from this list must be approved by the DNR Program Coordinator.

***Note:** Due to the multi-year grant, setting future planting dates is not required in the application. Grant awardees will be required to provide a nursery quote, planting site map and date of planting to the DNR Program Coordinator prior to the planting season. If a DNR forester could not be present at the planting or one was not requested, the applicant must contact the DNR Program Coordinator within a month after the planting to have it inspected by a DNR forester.

MULCHING - Mulching is required for every tree planted. The source and cost of mulch for your planting must be included in the application. If possible, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of any mulch offered by your local community, as such mulch is typically free and comes from locally-removed trees. If purchasing mulch from a nursery, please refrain from using cypress mulch or weed control mulch.

WATERING AND ONGOING CARE - Iowa Tree Planting projects are required to include initial watering of 5 to 10 gallons per tree, depending on planting size. Ongoing watering is required during the growing season for at least the first two years after the trees are planted. Applications **MUST** include a detailed description of who will be responsible for ongoing watering (community employees, volunteers or contracted supplemental watering) and the frequency of the watering. Grant funding can be used for supplemental watering during the length of the contract and/or watering devices such as watering bags or tree diapers.

AWARDED APPLICANT - Applicants awarded the Iowa Tree Planting Grant will be sent a Grant Award Letter and Grant Project Cooperative Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, both of which must be signed. Applicants must also provide a current IRS Form W-9, Federal AD-1048 and proof of current SAM number or Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) registration.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS - Expenditures must be made between July 1, 2026 and May 31, 2028 to qualify. Applicants may use funds to purchase plant materials, mulch, watering supplies and/or services, employee hours, staking material, and tree protection. The grants are reimbursable and each grant will be paid pursuant to the provisions of a Grant Project Cooperative Agreement entered into between the grant recipient and DNR. Reimbursement will be paid on the basis of the approved percentage of all eligible expenditures up to the amount of the approved grant. To receive reimbursement, grantees must complete the project by the project completion date stated in the grant announcement, undergo project inspection by a DNR Forester, and submit all required documentation including proof of payment. A partial reimbursement for trees planted may be made after completion of the planting and inspection. All final request for reimbursement must be submitted by June 30, 2028.

The DNR Program Coordinator will review the invoices and final project report and upon approval, submit final reimbursement to DNR Accounting for the applicant's reimbursement to the applicant. It may take up to 60 days from the time the DNR Program Coordinator submits the reimbursement materials for the applicant to receive payment. NO partial reimbursement will be made at any time without an invoice, proof of payment, W-9, and a SAM number or UEI on file and no final reimbursement without a project report, all sent to the DNR Program Coordinator.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION - To be eligible for the grant, all material and application must be completed in the Iowa DNR SlideRoom portal <https://iowadnr.slideroom.com/#/Login> by 12:00 am (midnight) June 22, 2026. The DNR Program Coordinator reserves the right to disregard any application that is incomplete. Awarded grants will be announced on July 1, 2026.

The DNR Program Coordinator for the Iowa Tree Planting Grant is Chip Murrow. Contact Chip Murrow at chip.murrow@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-822-1031 for questions about the application, reimbursement and rules. Contact Laurie Dams at lauren.dams@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-782-6414 for application assistance or to set up a site visit.