

Community Planting and Stewardship Grant

2025 Program Guidelines

Environment, Climate and Forestry
Urban Forestry

Table of Contents

Purpose	2
Types of Projects Funded	2
Funding Amount	2
Duration	2
Eligibility	2
Application Process	4
Assessment Criteria	5
Funding Terms and Conditions	5
Accommodation	6
Information Sessions	6
Application Support	7

Purpose

This grant supports initiatives that will increase canopy cover in Toronto through tree planting and stewardship on private land.

Types of Projects Funded

All projects need to be focused on increasing canopy cover by:

- Planting non-invasive trees and shrubs on private land
- Maintaining and caring for existing trees on private land
- Educating and engaging the community in the planting, care and maintenance of trees on private land

Funding Amount

Eligible granting requests must range between \$5,000 and \$100,000.

Urban Forestry must be contacted to discuss scope and eligibility before submitting funding requests over \$50,000.

Grants must be matched 50-50 (\$1 for every \$1 received) in cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Duration

Grant funding is available for projects of up to 12 months in duration (to take place between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026).

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must either be an incorporated not-for-profit corporation without share capital, a charitable organization, or a foundation registered as a charity with the Canada Revenue Agency. Only direct costs to run or deliver a project that are reasonable and necessary are eligible for funding. The following applicants, costs and/or projects are not eligible for funding:

Applicant Ineligibility

- Grant-making or third-party fundraising organizations
- Individuals or for-profit businesses or ventures
- Political or lobby groups
- Landlord/tenant and condominium corporations
- Any group that is currently in litigation with the City of Toronto
- Previously funded groups who have failed to meet the terms and conditions of a past grant or who have any outstanding requirements may be ineligible
- Previously funded groups who have received over \$1 million in funding from the City of Toronto for related activities
- Groups that are eligible for funding under the Greening Partnership Grant

Project Ineligibility

- **General**
 - Projects that duplicate, conflict with, or falls within the scope of another program or service being delivered or developed by the City of Toronto or another organization (e.g. Ravine Strategy)
 - Projects or activities that are contrary to the policies of the City of Toronto and/or applicable federal, provincial and municipal legislation, regulations and policies
 - Projects or activities that are not consistent with good arboricultural practice
 - Projects or activities that meet any tree planting requirement or obligation under the City of Toronto's tree bylaws, as a condition for planning and development approval, or any other laws or regulations
 - Research projects, summer camps, political or religious activities/services
 - Purchase, care, or maintenance of invasive species
- **Location**
 - Projects taking place outside the City of Toronto
 - Projects taking place on lands controlled by the City of Toronto
 - Projects taking place on or adjacent to an Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA), Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), Provincially Significant Wetlands, protected areas under the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law, or any other protected or sensitive natural area without the prior written approval of Urban Forestry
 - Projects taking place on lands owned or controlled by the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, or Toronto Community Housing Corporation without their prior written approval
- **Financial**
 - Projects that do not meet the 50% matching funding requirement (cash and/or in-kind) *Special consideration may be made for projects led by equity-seeking groups, please contact Urban Forestry before submitting an application.

Ineligible Costs

- Requests for core operating funding
- Overhead and administrative costs where they make up more than 15% of the amount requested (does not include internal/external salaries or other people-costs)
- Internal or external salaries or other people-costs where they make up more than 50% of the amount requested (including web design, graphics design, writers, translation, labour, etc.). Contact Urban Forestry before submitting an application if people-costs are anticipated to exceed 50%.
- Fees and/or expenses for memberships, courses, conferences
- Fees and/or expenses for travel, personal vehicles, and parking that are excessive or unrelated to the project
- Taxes such as GST and HST for which the recipient is eligible for a tax rebate, and all other costs eligible for rebates
- Contingency costs
- Capital costs or infrastructure (building repairs or renovations, construction of sheds or garden beds, purchase of computers or audio/visual equipment etc.)
- Land purchase
- Advocacy expenses
- Fundraising activities
- Endowments or endowment building Scholarships, grants or bursaries
- Awards and prizes
- Alcohol purchase
- Purchase, care, or maintenance of herbaceous plant material
- Purchase of low growing shrub material (mature height under 3 feet) without prior written approval of urban forestry

Application Process

Applications must be submitted online through the [Toronto Grants, Rebate, and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#) by **4 pm on August 15, 2025**. Link to TGRIP portal can be found at www.toronto.ca/treegrants. Please allow time to create an account and organizational profile within TGRIP.

There are two evaluation stages for submitted applications:

Stage 1: Initial Review

- Applications are reviewed for completeness and for alignment with the grant guidelines and assessment criteria
- Urban Forestry will contact all applicants for submissions that will proceed to full review, are declined, or require additional information.

Stage 2: Full Review

- Applications are assessed by a grant review panel of City staff and external members with relevant expertise and experience. The grant review panel will then make recommendations on which projects should be considered for funding and in what amounts.
- All applicants will be notified once the funding decisions have been finalized.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on four areas: Concept, Feasibility, Budget, and Impact.

- The project must closely align with the stated purpose of the grant
- The application should clearly demonstrate the applicant's experience and capacity to successfully complete the project and to maintain the trees over the long term, and describe a feasible process to accomplish the project and has clearly defined project deliverables
- Project costs should be reasonable to achieve the proposed deliverables and the budget should clearly demonstrate how the 50% matching funding requirement (cash or in-kind) will be met or exceeded.
- The application should demonstrate the impact of the project as it relates to the purpose of the grant and in increasing tree canopy cover.

Additional assessment considerations include:

- Geographic representation across the City of Toronto
- Locations with low canopy cover or a high need for tree planting and/or stewardship
- Projects with clearly defined maintenance plans
- Environmental impact of proposed activities (i.e. biodiversity)
- Community impact, equity impacts, and benefit of proposed activities
 - Use of Toronto's [Tree Equity Score Analyzer \(TESA\)](#) is encouraged but not mandatory
- Projects that maximize increased canopy within available planting space

Funding Terms and Conditions

Applicants approved for funding will be required to sign a Letter of Understanding (LOU) with the City of Toronto in order to receive funding. The LOU will include the grant amount and the terms and conditions of funding.

The following must be provided before applications can be considered.

- Declaration of Compliance with the City's Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Policy
- Conflict of Interest Declaration

The following must be provided before any funds are released:

- Certificate of Insurance (COI) – A valid COI with a limit of not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per occurrence with Comprehensive General Liability (CGL) and non-owned automobile coverage for the funding period. More details will be provided to successful applicants.
- Audited Financial Statements (2 years)
 - Applicants that are not-for-profit corporation, charitable organization or foundation registered as a charity but cannot produced an Audited Financial Statement are required to work with a trustee organization. Please contact Urban Forestry for more information.

Details will be provided to successful applicants.

Accommodation

Accommodation (e.g. documents in alternate formats, off-hour meetings) is available as required to ensure that groups can fully participate in the funding process. For accommodation, please email forestrygrants@toronto.ca.

Information Sessions

Interested in learning more about this grant program and the application process? Join one of our information sessions. The information sessions will be held virtually online. The details and registration are available below:

- May 29, 2025, 12 pm – 1 pm, [Registration Link](#)
- June 4, 2025, 5 pm – 6 pm, [Registration Link](#)
- June 26, 2025, 11am – 12pm, [Registration Link](#)

Application Support

Prospective applicants can contact Urban Forestry for support in determining if their project and organization are eligible to apply for funding or if they have any questions, comments or complaints regarding the grant program.

Please email: forestrygrants@toronto.ca