



# NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:**

Greg Bilyeu  
Greg.Bilyeu@DOF.Virginia.gov  
(434) 981-6761

## **APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

*Proposal applications due by Nov. 3*

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA** – The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF), in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS), announces the availability of grant funding for the 2023 installment of the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant Assistance Program. This program is designed to encourage community projects that promote the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems across the Commonwealth. Virginia received a total allocation of \$6,600,000, distributed over a four-year period, grants may be awarded to civic groups, communities, local governments, tribal organizations, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, public educational institutions, and state agencies.

“This historic allocation of funds for Virginia communities will enable us to reach all parts of the state,” said Lara Johnson, DOF Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator. “Projects located in historically underserved areas will be prioritized and the match-waiver will enable those with the most need to access these funds.”

Proposals that deliver 100% of the funding/program benefits to disadvantaged communities as identified by the federal government’s [screening tool](#) do not have to provide project match. Applications must clearly describe the scope of work to be performed in applicable disadvantaged communities and identify online data tools referenced to support a disadvantaged community designation. Match-free grant proposals will be accepted up to \$250,000.

Projects which do not focus 100% on disadvantaged communities do not qualify for funding. However, projects may be selected to receive up to \$50,000 in Community Forestry Assistance funds which require a dollar-for-dollar match. Match can be provided in the form of cash, services, or in-kind contributions. Please specify your desired grant timeline during the application process but projects cannot exceed one year. Indirect expenses are allowable.

To apply, a proposal must be submitted to [DOF’s System Access Portal for Forestry Grants](#), the agency’s online grant management system. **All applications must be submitted online by 9 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2023.**

For more information about the U&CF Grant Program, including the RFA and grants portal user guide, visit [DOF’s website](#).

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## **About the Virginia Department of Forestry**

*The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With nearly 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$21 billion annually. Headquartered in Charlottesville, the agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it's been doing now for more than 100 years. DOF is an equal opportunity provider.*