

Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant Program



Informational Webinar

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

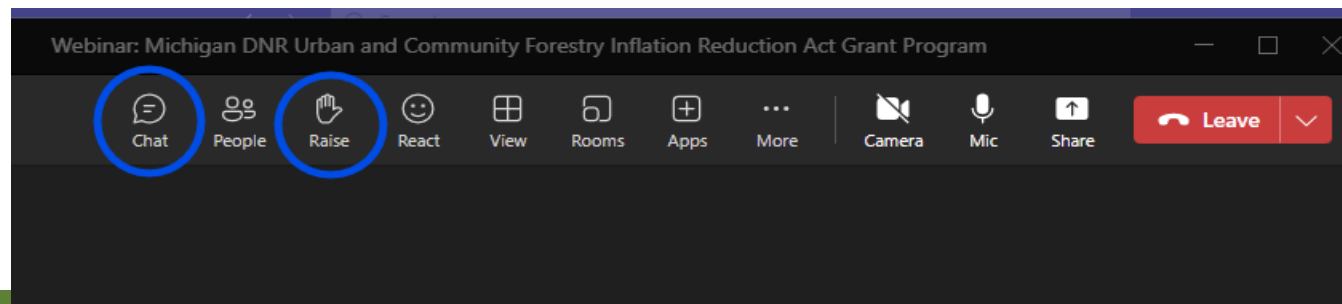
Urban and Community Forestry Program

June 13, 2024

This webinar is being recorded

Thank you for joining

- **This grant webinar is being recorded.**
 - The recording and transcript will be available on the Michigan DNR Urban and Community Forestry webpage at www.michigan.gov/ucf.
- **We will take questions at the end of the presentation**
 - Type questions into the chat or raise your hand at the end of the presentation to ask questions.
 - All participants are muted.



Agenda

- **Welcome**
 - Introductions
 - DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program Overview
- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Overview**
- **DNR Urban and Community Forestry IRA Grant Program**
 - Priorities
 - Grant overview
 - Application
 - Questions



Welcome & Introduction



DNR Urban and Community Forestry Team



Lawrence Sobson
Partnership Coordinator
SobsonL@michigan.gov



Kevin Sayers
Program Manager
SayersK@michigan.gov



Kerry Gray
Grant Specialist
GrayK12@michigan.gov

Urban and Community Forestry Program Overview



Michigan Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Michigan communities through the expansion, sustainable management, and care of urban and community forests.



Educational

- Resources, tools
- Best management practices, guides
- Talks, training, events



Technical

- Urban and community forestry strategies, plans, policies,
- Training
- Partnerships



Financial

- UCF Grants
- Inflation Reduction Act Grants
- DTE Tree Planting Grants

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Overview



Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

\$1.5 Billion from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was provided to the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, to provide equitable access to trees and nature and the benefits they provide to communities.



**Invest in a Healthier
Future for America**

**Expand tree canopy
in communities**

**Increase tree benefits
in communities**

**Address threat of climate
change & extreme heat**



Image Source:
US Forest Service

IRA in Michigan

\$7.5 Million to Michigan DNR's UCF Program

- **\$4.5 million** grant program for disadvantaged and underserved communities
 - **Round 1:** December 2023 awarded \$309,000 to 10 organizations, partners and local units of government
 - **Round 2:** Applications being accepted now
 - **Round 3:** To be released in early 2025
- **\$3 million** for DNR UCF program improvements
 - Staff
 - Technology & Resources



MI DNR Urban and Community Forestry IRA Grant Program





Michigan Department of Natural Resources

www.michigan.gov/dnr

MICHIGAN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GRANT PROGRAM

GRANT HANDBOOK JUNE 2024

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity provider.

Forest Resources Division

IC4075 (05/23/2024)

www.michigan.gov/ucf



Apply for UCF/IRA Grants

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is accepting grant applications through Aug. 31 for the second round of the Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant program.

 [UCF IRA Grant Application](#)

 [UCF IRA Grant Handbook](#)

[IRA Grant Webinar, June 13, 1 p.m.](#)

[MI Urban and Community Forestry
Inflation Reduction Act Screening Tool](#)

IRA Grant Purpose & Priorities

Provide **competitive grants for urban forestry projects that prioritize implementation based on environmental justice and equity issues in disadvantaged* (underserved) communities** to achieve US Forest Service IRA program priorities and support the goals and strategies of the [Michigan Forest Action Plan](#).



Photo Credit: Bruce Marlin – <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

***Disadvantaged communities** is used by the Federal Government to describe **communities that “have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care.”** [Executive Order 14008](#) of January 27, 2021.

US Forest Service IRA Priorities

To support initiatives that:

- provide **increased and equitable access to urban tree canopy** and its associated human health, environmental and economic benefits in **disadvantaged communities**.
- **broaden community engagement** in local urban forest planning, tree planting, and management activities.
- **improve community and urban forest resilience** to climate change, extreme heat, forest pests and diseases and storm events through best management and maintenance practices.



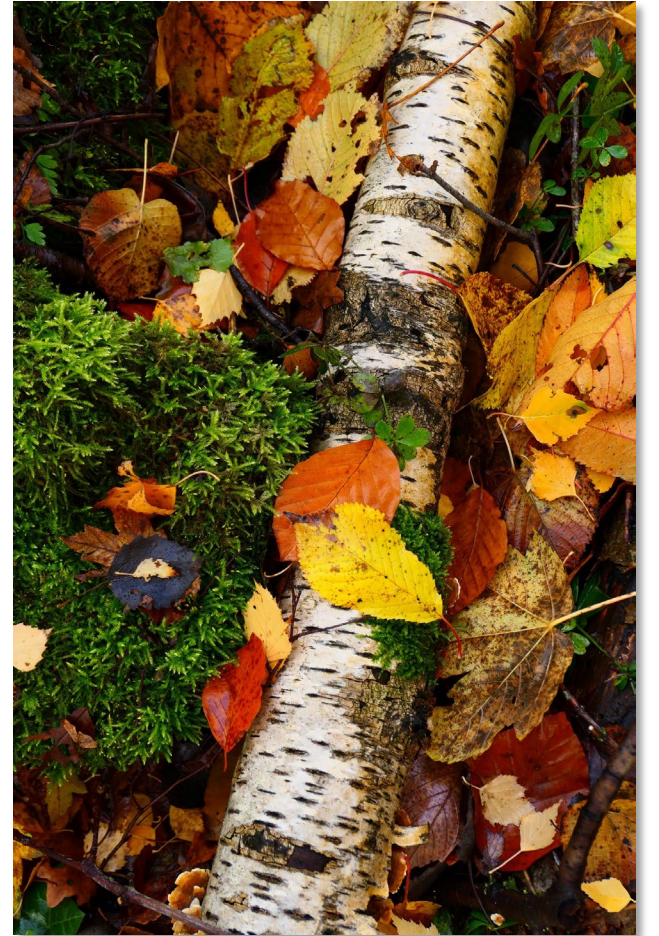
MDNR IRA Grant Overview

- Round 2 total funding available:
\$3 million across 6 categories
- Reimbursement Grant
- Grant request amount: **\$10,000 - \$225,000**
- Proposal can mix activities across categories
- **No match required** – work must occur in or benefit disadvantaged areas.
- Application due date **August 31, 2024**



IRA Grant Timeline

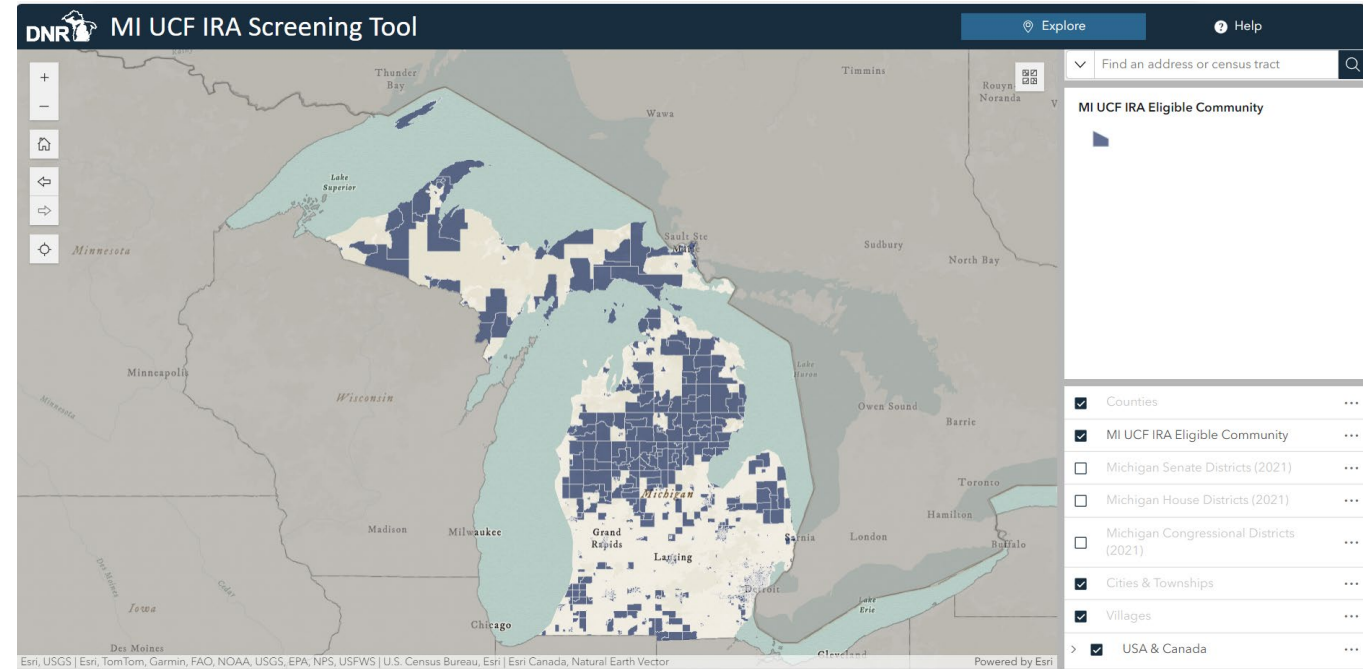
- **Grant Application Open:** through August 31, 2024
- **Application Due Date:** August 31, 2024 @ 11:59pm
- **Application Review:** September-October 2024
- **Awards Announced:** October 2024
- **Grant Period:** October 2024 – September 1, 2026



IRA Grant Overview

All projects **must occur or directly serve disadvantaged and underserved communities** in Michigan.*

Use the **Michigan Urban and Community Forestry IRA Grant Screening Tool** to identify eligible communities and census tracts at www.michigan.gov/ucf

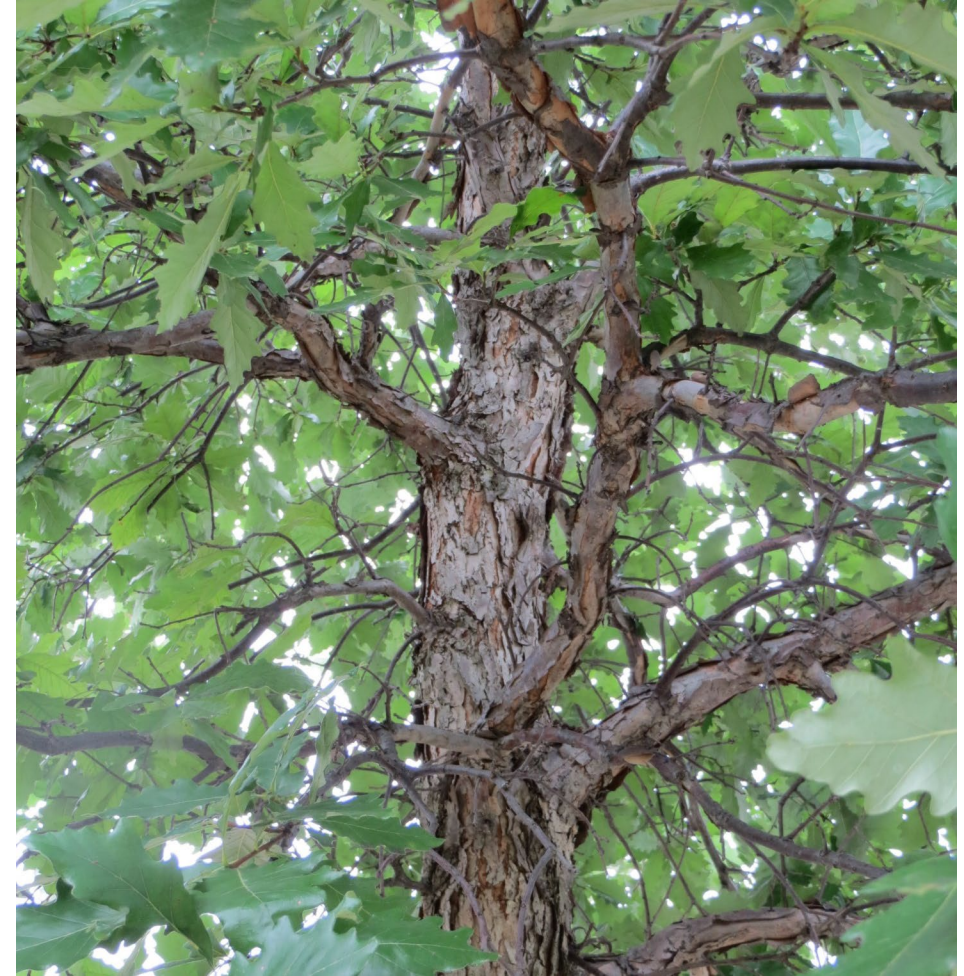


**The entire community does not have to be considered disadvantaged but there must be at least one disadvantaged census tract and the proposed project must occur within and/or directly benefit it to be eligible for grant funding.*

IRA Grant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

- Local units of government
- Tribal governments
- State Agencies
- Educational institutions
- 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations



IRA Grant Project Categories

- Assessment and Data*
- Planning and Management*
- Tree Planting and Establishment
- Tree Maintenance and Care
- Training and Workforce Development
- Engagement, Outreach and Education

**Activities in these categories must be paired with an implementation activity in a disadvantaged area of the community based on the results of the plan or program.*



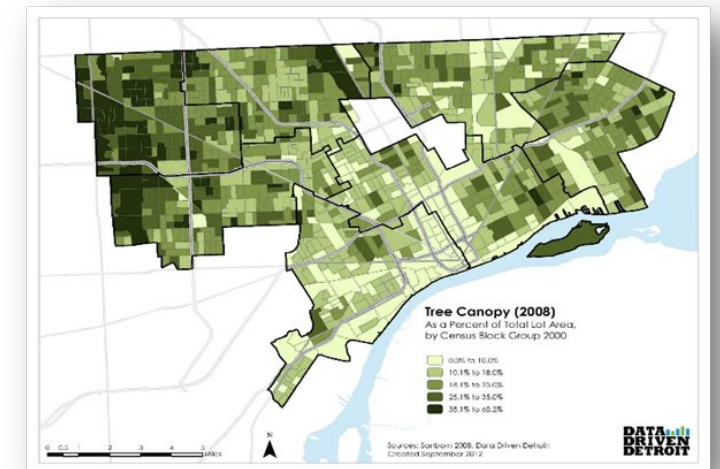
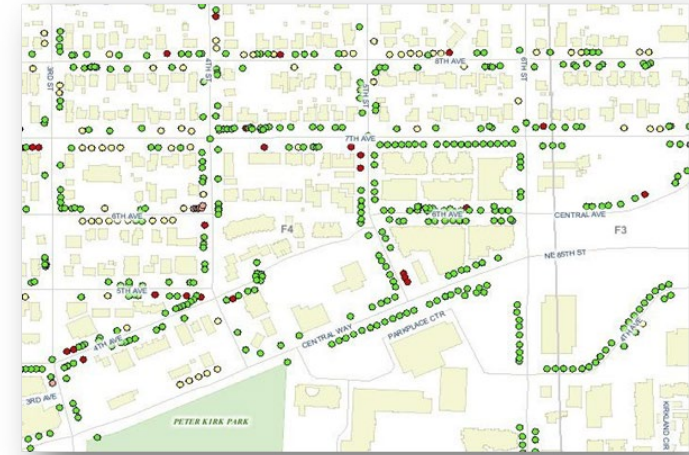
IRA Grant Categories

Assessment and Data*

Activities in this category include:

- Public tree inventories
- Urban tree canopy (UTC) assessments
- Public tree risk assessments
- Tree inventory and management software and applications (one-time purchase)

*Activities in these categories must be paired with an implementation activity in a disadvantaged area of the community based on the results of the plan or program.



IRA Grant Categories

Planning and Management*

Activities in this category include:

- Urban and community forestry plans (management, strategic, etc.)
- Urban forest climate resilience and adaptation plans
- Wood utilization plans
- Tree maintenance work plans
- Nursery business/operations plan development and establishment
- Staff Support (2-years max)



**Activities in this category can occur community-wide but must be paired with an implementation activity in a disadvantaged area of the community based on the results of the plan or program.*

IRA Grant Categories

Tree Planting and Establishment

Activities in this category include:

- Tree purchase and planting
- Post planting care and establishment of newly planted trees
- Tree planting supplies
- Development of a food forest
- Site preparation (ex: removal of concrete to establish/expand tree planting area)



IRA Grant Categories

Tree Maintenance and Care

Activities in this category include:

- Tree pruning
- Young tree care (mulching, watering, young tree pruning)
- Tree removal* (must include associated stump removal)
- Stump removal*

* Must be **paired with tree planting at a rate of 2 trees planted for every 1 tree/stump removed.** Tree planting does not have to occur in the same location as tree/stump removal but must occur within disadvantaged areas of the community.



IRA Grant Categories

Training and Workforce Development

Activities in this category include:

- Professional urban forestry/arboriculture trainings and conferences.
- Hosting urban forestry/arboriculture training and educational classes.
- Creation of a work force development program, including payments to community members to participate in program.

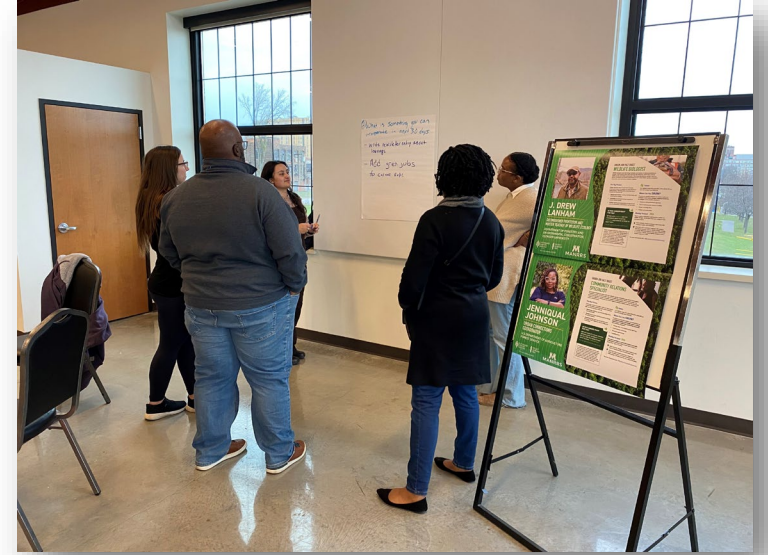


IRA Grant Categories

Engagement, Outreach & Education

Activities in this category include:

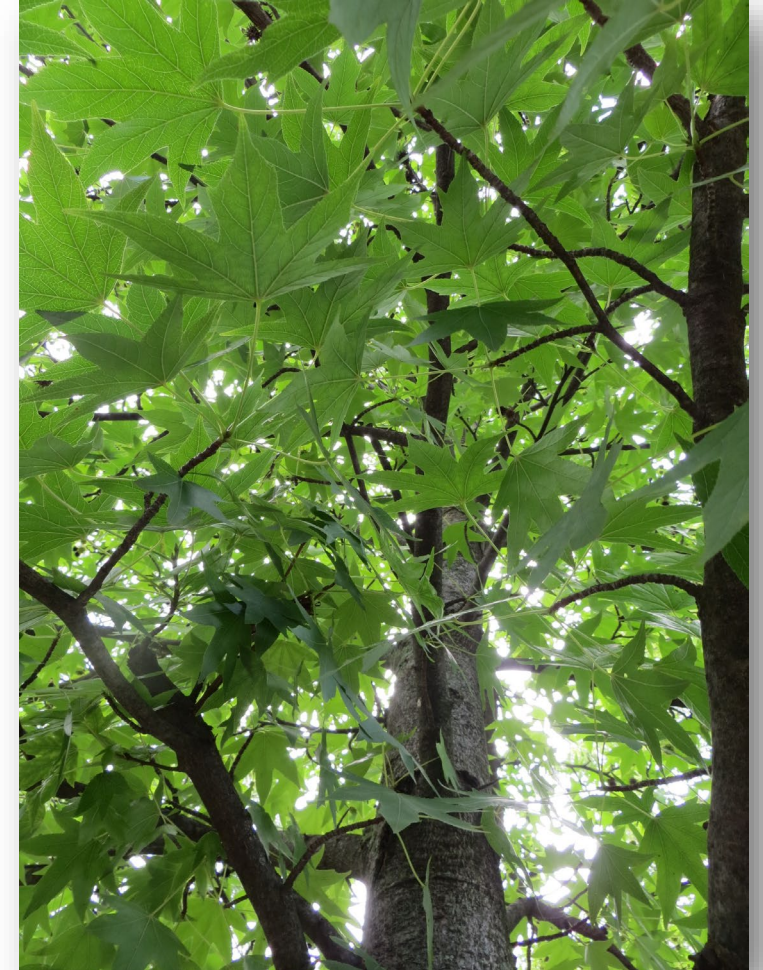
- Community events
- Community tree surveys
- Tree planting and maintenance workshops
- Volunteer community tree steward program
- Public engagement & outreach events
- Tree-related communications, marketing and advertising
- Payments to community members to conduct urban forestry outreach and education activities



Eligible Expense

Applicants may request funding for:

- Program Staff Salary & Fringe Benefits
- Administrative Staff Salary & Fringe Benefits (20% max.)
- Travel
- Supplies
- Contractual/Consulting Fees
- Indirect Expenses
- Other



Ineligible Activities

- Purchase of equipment (defined as tangible personal property with a per unit cost of \$5,000 or more **and** a useful life of one year or more).
- Grant programs that utilize DNR IRA grant funding to pass through funds to sub-grantees.
- Construction and capital investments
- Land purchase/acquisition
- Research



How to Apply

- Visit www.michigan.gov/ucf to access the grant application & grant handbook
- Application is a fillable PDF
- It must be submitted electronically via email*
- Submittal must include:
 - Application w/ detailed budget
 - Attachments (as applicable)
For example:
 - IRS Determination Letter (non-profit)
 - Partner letters of commitment
 - Quotes/Estimates



Apply for UCF/IRA Grants

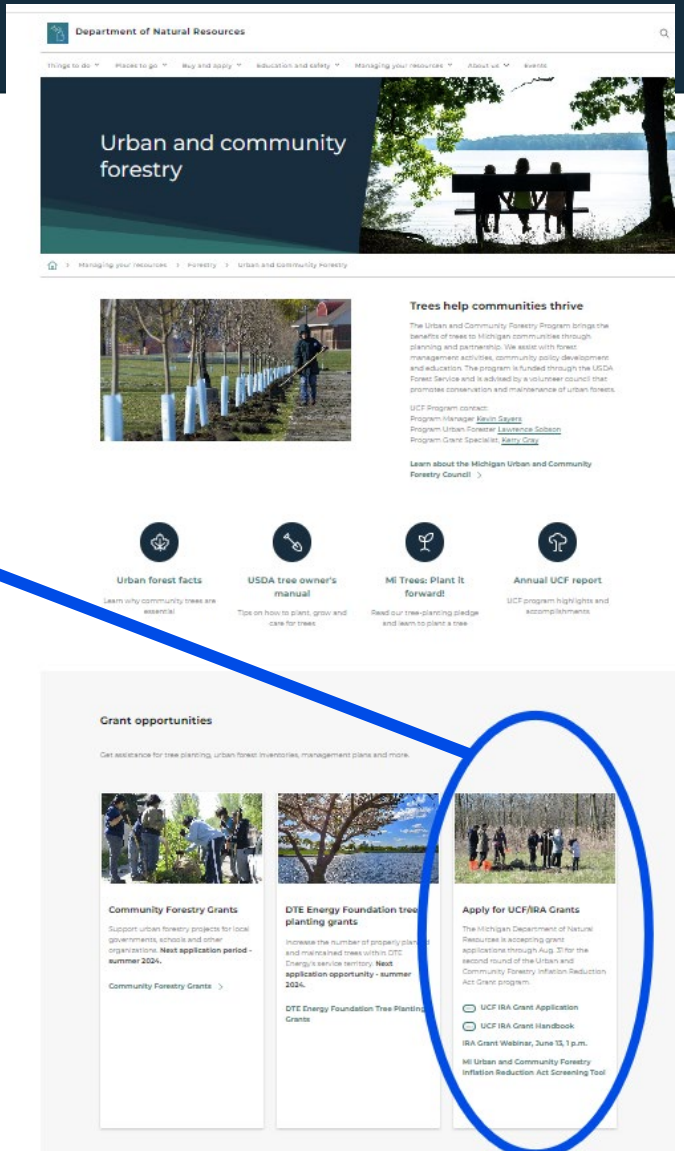
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[PDF UCF IRA Grant Handbook](#)

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Department of Natural Resources

Urban and community forestry

Managing your resources > Forestry > Urban and community forestry

Trees help communities thrive

The Urban and Community Forestry Program brings the benefits of trees to Michigan communities through planning and partnership. We assist with forest management activities, community policy development and education. The program is funded through the USDA Forest Service and is advised by a volunteer council that promotes conservation and maintenance of urban forests.

UCF Program contact:
Program Manager: [Lizbeth Sargent](#)
Program Urban Forester: [Lorraine Sobush](#)
Program Grant Specialist: [Barry Gray](#)

Learn about the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council! >

Urban forest facts
Learn why community trees are essential!

USDA tree owner's manual
Tips on how to plant, grow and care for trees.

MI Trees: Plant it forward!
Read our tree planting pledge and learn to plant a tree.

Annual UCF report
UCF program highlights and accomplishments

Grant opportunities

Get assistance for tree planting, urban forest inventories, management plans and more.

Community Forestry Grants
Support urban forestry projects for local governments, schools and other organizations. **Next application period - summer 2024.**
[Community Forestry Grants >](#)

DTE Energy Foundation tree planting grants
Increase the number of properly planted and maintained trees within DTE Energy's service territory. **Next application opportunity - summer 2024.**
[DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants](#)

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* Alternative method of submission will be provided for those that cannot submit by email.

Application Preparation Tips

- Read the *DNR UCF IRA Grant Handbook* thoroughly.
- Check www.michigan.gov/ucf to ensure you are completing the most up-to-date application.
- Review all grant questions before completing application to understand what information is required.
- Make sure organization and project are eligible for funding.
- Contact DNR UCF staff with any questions or to clarify any grant requirements.



Application Preparation Tips

Be prepared to provide the following information in the grant application:

- SIGMA Vendor Number (State of Michigan) & Federal Unique Identifier Number
- Census Tract Numbers of disadvantaged areas where project will occur
- Estimated number of people that will benefit from project
- How the project will achieve US Forest Service and MDNR IRA program priorities
- Tree planting information (if applicable)
- Project outcomes
- Key personnel and partners involved in project implementation
- Strategies for community engagement and involvement
- Project timeline
- Detailed budget
- How project will be sustained/continued after grant period



Budget Preparation Tips

- Review budget example in the *DNR UCF IRA Grant Handbook*.
- Budget should be reasonable and clear.
- Verify “Grant Funds Requested” are eligible reimbursable costs.
- Provide clear comments in the budget detail to explain expenses.
- Attach quotes/estimates for items that will be purchased and contractors that will be assisting with implementation (ex: tree purchase, tree planting, tree inventory, etc.)

Expenditure Category	Grant Funds Requested (Dollars)	Budget Detail for Grant Funds Requested in each Category
SALARY PROGRAM STAFF	\$10,200.00	Urban Forester: 133 hours x \$30/hour Consultant oversight; community engagement; plan review; implementation activities; grant reporting and management. Forestry Staff (2): assist with volunteer tree planting 10 hours @ \$20/hour

Reimbursement Grant

No Match Required

Sample Budget

Expenditure Category	Grant Funds Requested (Dollars)	Budget Detail for Grant Funds Requested in each Category
SALARY PROGRAM STAFF	\$10,200.00	Urban Forester: 133 hours x \$30/hour Consultant oversight; community engagement; plan review; implementation activities; grant reporting and management. Forestry Staff (2): assist with volunteer tree planting 10 hours @ \$20/hour
FRINGE PROGRAM STAFF	\$2,550.00	Staff fringe rate 25%
SALARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	\$1,000.00	Administrative Assistant: 50 hours x \$20 Accounting; grant administration
FRINGE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	\$250.00	Staff fringe rate 25%
TRAVEL	\$199.66	298 miles x \$0.67 (2024 Federal Mileage Rate)
SUPPLIES	\$20,550.00	100 trees @ \$200 per tree 15 shovels @ \$20 each Mulch 3 yards @ \$50/yard Soil 2 yards @ \$50/yard
CONTRACTUAL/CONSULTING	\$50,480.00	Consultant to develop urban forest management plan with community engagement and oversee volunteer tree planting \$50,000.Quote attached. Community member outreach 3 community members x 9 hours x \$20/hour = \$480.00
INDIRECT	\$8,485.50	10% indirect rate on salary, fringe, travel, supplies, and contracts for services (contractual/consulting).
OTHER	\$4,000.00	Rental of skid steer for tree planting 16 days x \$250/day
TOTAL	\$97,715.16	

Submitting Your Application

- Proofread and edit
- Double-check all sections and fields are complete and accurate
- Double-check instructions for submittal to ensure proposal is submitted to the correct person.
- Email application/attachments **in PDF format** to: Kerry Gray, GrayK12@michigan.gov
- **Deadline:** August 31, 2024 by 11:59 PM Eastern



Grant Review & Selection Criteria

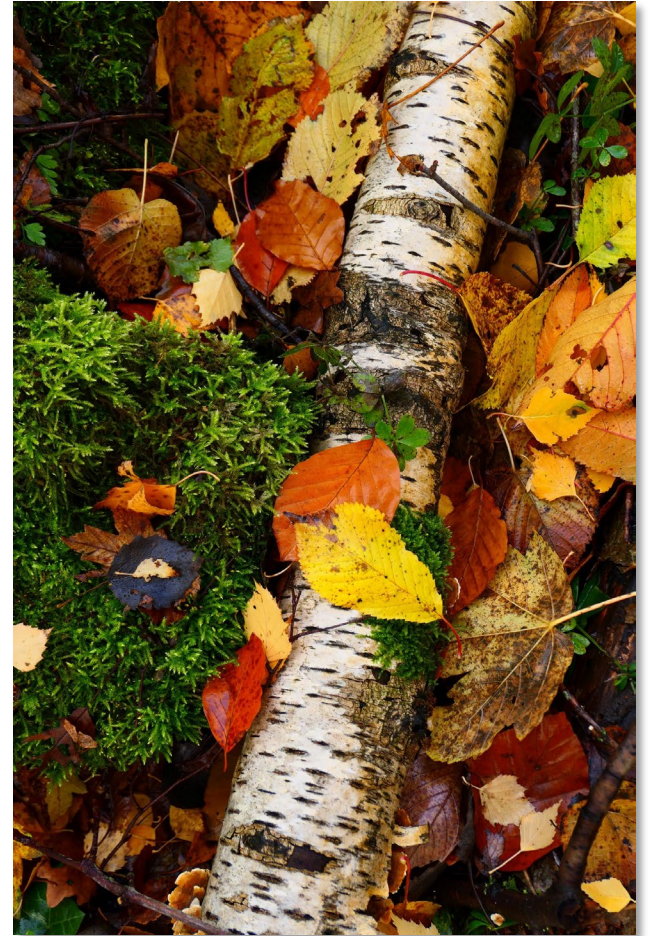
Scoring Criteria

- Technical Merit (50%)
 - thoroughness of grant application, budget and timeline.
 - prioritization of disadvantaged areas.
 - alignment with US Forest Service and DNR IRA grant program priorities.
- Capability, Capacity and Past Grant Performance (10%)
- Measurable Results and Outcomes (15%)
- Community Engagement and Outreach (15%)
- Project/Program Sustainability (10%)



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Questions?

Thank you for joining us today

DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program

Michigan.gov/UCF

Sign-up for weekly UCF E-news!



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SayersK@michigan.gov

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