

City Of Torrington

LAND USE DEPARTMENT
(860) 489-2221



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Fax: (860) 496-5928

MEMORANDUM

TO:	CC:
Mayor Carbone and City Council	Ray Drew, Public Works Director
FROM:	
Nate Nardi-Cyrus – Asst. City Planner	file
DATE:	
APRIL 8, 2024	
RE:	
DEEP's Urban Forest Equity Grant	

NOTES/COMMENTS:

The benefits of trees in any municipality are numerous and include air and water filtration, stormwater control, energy conservation, increased home values, improved mental health, shade, and wildlife habitat. The City of Torrington's Public Works Department is tasked with maintaining and enhancing all trees, shrubs, and woody vegetation within city owned land, including public parks, municipal facilities, and the right-of-way.

On March 20, 2023, the City Council adopted a [new ordinance](#) outlining the City's responsibility to this urban forest. Section 181-3 (a) requires the City *"prepare and maintain a long-range, comprehensive strategic plan for the administration and management of the Community Forest Program...which shall comprise the Urban/Community Forest Management Plan."* To create an effective management plan, the City would first need to create and regularly update a comprehensive tree inventory to guide recommendations and management objectives. In addition, a tree canopy assessment would benefit both Public Works and the Land Use Department by documenting the existing urban forest (both public and private) and analyzing losses and gains over time and identifying priority areas for tree planting in the City.

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Urban Forest Equity Grant

- This competitive grant round offers up to \$200,000 to cover 100% of a project budget (with no match requirement). Only projects in municipalities specifically identified by the federal government as containing 'disadvantaged communities,' which includes Torrington, may apply. Eligible projects include (1) tree planting on private lands (2) engaging groups in urban forest planning and planting (3) urban forest planning and assessment (4) work force development (5) invasive species management (6) urban wood utilization, (7) food forests, and (8) extreme heat mitigation.
- The Land Use Department proposes applying for \$200,000, on behalf of the Public Works Department, to create a (1) tree inventory, (2) community forest management plan, (3) tree canopy assessment, and (4) five-year software subscription to update the inventory as conditions change. See the cost breakdown on the next page for details:

Task	Cost
Tree Inventory	\$76,000
Community Forest Management Plan	\$25,000
Tree Canopy Assessment	\$46,000
Staff Training	\$5,000
Software Subscription (Five-year)	\$18,000
Administrative Costs	\$30,000
Total:	\$200,000

I am seeking City Council's approval to move forward with this grant application. Grant deadline is April 17, 2024.

END OF MEMORANDUM

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

I, Carol L. Anderson , City Clerk , certify that below is a true and correct copy of a
(Name of Official) (Title of Official)

resolution duly adopted by City of Torrington
(Name of the Applicant)

at a meeting of its Board of Councilman
(Governing Body)

duly convened on April 8, 2024 and which has not been rescinded or modified in
(Meeting Date)

any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.

(Date)

(Signature and Title of Official)



WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is authorized to extend financial assistance for urban forestry projects through their Urban Forest Equity Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Torrington make an application to the State for \$200,000 in order to develop a tree inventory, community forest management plan, and tree canopy assessment and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TORRINGTON CITY COUNCIL

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance detailed in the grant announcement.
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by City of Torrington in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 is hereby approved and that Elinor Carbone, Mayor is authorized to submit the application (tree inventory, community forest management plan, tree canopy assessment, and associated tasks) to and execute contracts with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the City of Torrington.