



## Energy and Environmental Affairs

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CHARLIE BAKER  
GOVERNOR

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KARYN POLITO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

### Baker-Polito Administration Awards 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

MATTHEW A. BEATON  
SECRETARY

**BOSTON** – The Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$112,500 in 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants to nine Massachusetts municipalities and non-profit organizations to maximize the social, economic, and environmental benefits of increased tree canopy in communities across the Commonwealth. The funds for the 50-50 matching grant program are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service and the Massachusetts ReLeaf Trust Fund, and are administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

LEO ROY  
DCR COMMISSIONER

#### Media Contact

Mark Steffen

"By working in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, municipalities, and nonprofits, our administration will continue its commitment to more trees for our communities," said **Governor Charlie Baker**. "The awarding of this year's Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants will strengthen and diversify local tree stocks, which provide real benefits like lower heating and cooling costs for Massachusetts families and businesses."

[Mark.A.Steffen@state.ma.us](mailto:Mark.A.Steffen@state.ma.us)

617-360-1715

"Planting trees helps build stronger and more resilient communities within the Commonwealth," said **Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. "Across Massachusetts, our administration is dedicated to increasing the state's diverse urban and community tree inventory to ensure they remain healthy and vibrant for our citizens to enjoy for years to come."

The 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants, which range from \$3,000 to as much as \$30,000, will assist in the following key areas:

- Building and strengthening citizen advocacy;
- Developing and adopting tree and forest ordinances and policies;
- Securing or training professional staff;
- Developing and implementing an urban forestry management plan;
- Attaining a Tree City USA Award;
- Completing strategic community tree plantings and "Heritage Tree" care projects; and
- Other projects that are well-conceived and will result in sustained improvements to urban and community forestry management in other areas.

"Our Commonwealth has a long, proud history of conservation efforts, and it gives me great pleasure that the Baker-Polito Administration has partnered with these communities and organizations, who have pledged to strengthen our state's tree infrastructure," said **Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. "Not only do trees reduce energy needs on local homes and businesses, but they also provide us with cleaner air, reduce noise pollution, beautify neighborhoods, reduce storm water runoff, and offer additional habitats for animals."

"The Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program serves as an excellent example of the Baker-Polito Administration's dedication to fostering partnerships with communities, nonprofit organizations, and other entities to reach a common goal that will truly benefit the public," said **DCR Commissioner Leo Roy**. "I would like to thank all of this year's applicants for producing such strong proposals, and we look forward to watching as these projects grow."

One of the nine grant awards were funded from the Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund utilizing donations from the National Grid Corporation. National Grid contributes to DCR to offer Urban Forestry Challenge Grants in pre-determined amounts to communities affected by the company's hazard tree removal program, which identifies and targets trees near main power feeder lines.

The following proposals were awarded 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants:

**Applicant: Arlington Tree Committee and Town of Arlington DPW**

Title: Arlington Street Tree Inventory

Amount Awarded: \$15,000

**Applicant: Town of Deerfield and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**

Title: Deerfield's Public Trees: Planning and Planting

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

**Applicant: City of Gardner**

Title: Tree Replacement Project

Amount Awarded: \$4,000 (funded by the Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund)

**Applicant: Town of Greenfield**

Title: 2017 Tree Planting Program for Greenfield

Amount Awarded: \$5,000

**Applicant: Town of Milton DPW**

Title: Milton Community Street Tree Reforestation Program

Amount Awarded: \$3,500

**Applicant: City of Salem**

Title: Citywide Tree Inventory and Analysis

Amount Awarded: \$30,000

**Applicant: City of Pittsfield**

Title: Wellesley Park Tree Replacement Project Phase II

Amount Awarded: \$3,000

**Applicant: Walpole Highway, Parks and Cemeteries**

Title: Strategic Tree Inventory and Tree Health Survey

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

**Applicant: Worcester Tree Initiative**

Title: Urban Tree Stewards – Youth Program

Amount Awarded: \$12,000

"Increasing and diversifying our tree inventory builds Massachusetts history of conservation and environmental protection," **said Senate President Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst)**. "These grants provide much needed funds for our communities to build sustainable and ecologically diverse environments for our residents to enjoy."

"Congratulations to the Worcester Tree Initiative on receiving \$12,000 from the 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge," **said Senate Majority Leader Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester)**. "The Worcester Tree Initiative has been a major contributor to Worcester's urban forest and I wish the Urban Tree Stewards Youth Program all the best in its continued efforts."

"This Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant will be of great help to the Worcester Tree Initiative's Urban Tree Stewards program in their mission to rebuild the city's urban forest," **said State Representative Kate Campanale (R-Leicester)**. "Through volunteer recruitment and training Worcester Tree Initiative is able to not only plant, but care for thousands of urban street trees planted to aid reforestation efforts. This serves as a further example of how the Baker-Polito Administration is committed to seeing our communities thrive."

"This grant will provide critical funding for the Stewards in the Streets program which brings in members of the community to care for the 5,500 urban street trees planted over the last several years in Worcester," **said State Representative Mary Keefe (D-Worcester)**. "The Worcester Tree Initiative has been improving communities across the city and has been a stopgap in the city's response to effects of Asian Longhorned Beetle."

"I congratulate the Town of Deerfield for its success in this very competitive grant program," **said State Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington)**. "Being good stewards of our natural resources and environment is one of the most important things we can do to sustain healthy communities and to leave a legacy for future generations. Deerfield is smart to create a program dedicated to the maintenance and expansion of its public trees for the health and enjoyment of all."

Currently, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is accepting project grant proposals for calendar year 2018. Please visit the agency's Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants [webpage](#) for additional details.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Leo Roy, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth

of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)

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