



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL – COMMUNITY TREES FUND

A community investment program to enhance urban forests

A healthy urban forest provides a many benefits to business districts, neighborhoods, parks and schools. Planting the right tree in the right place can make all the difference in the appearance and success of community tree planting events. Increasing the number of trees in a community can provide shaded sidewalks and trails, beautify streetscapes and make our region more comfortable for walking to school, work, or the store.

The Houston-Galveston Area Local Development Council created a fund to provide assistance with community tree planting events. The program focus is on increasing the number of trees in our region, beautifying our communities and providing attractive tree planting opportunities for public spaces and business districts. An emphasis is placed on using native species, supporting local tree farms and nurseries, using volunteers, and promoting biodiversity. Eligible areas include: Counties, cities, towns and villages within the H-GAC region.

Grant Program Parameters

- Recipients must be a local government, chamber of commerce, management district, volunteer association, or other non-profit organizations. Individuals, businesses and other private entities are not eligible.
- Trees must be planted on public land and accessible to the general public. Private plantings are prohibited.
- Maximum award is \$2,000 and must be matched 1:1. In-kind match can be used to meet the matching requirement.
- Funds are awarded as reimbursement grants – and paid out after the project is complete.
- Funds may only be used for purchasing trees, mulch, stakes and other materials necessary for planting. Labor, design work and other charges are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Preference is given to using native species and using planting a diversity of species. Certain species (i.e., crape myrtles) are not funded through this program.
- H-GAC provides technical assistance regarding tree species selection, planting locations and long-term maintenance.
- Trees must be watered and maintained for a minimum of two years. A written commitment and maintenance plan is required.

For more information, contact Chuck Wemple at 713-499-4514 or cwemple@h-gac.com.