



2025 Year in Review

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

UCF Grant Program

The UCF Grant Program offers cost match grants to municipalities and nonprofits for projects with the goal of leading to a more effective and efficient management of urban and community forests.

Application & project eligibility information is available at:
www.dem.ri.gov/urbanforestry

In 2025, 7 projects, out of 9 applications, were awarded a total of \$50,000.

Grant awards are between \$2,000 - \$10,000 and must be matched 50% by the applicant.

Technical Assistance for RI Urban Forests

The UCF Program completed its second year of its comprehensive technical assistance program, in partnership with [Green Infrastructure Center](#). GIC has now assisted 8 RI municipalities by assembling a tree canopy advisory committee in each city and then hosting a series of workshops for the committees. Citywide tree canopy mapping, along with a code and ordinance audit, calculation of ecosystem services, and development of potential implementation strategies for public feedback were covered within the workshops. GIC completed its first strategic canopy plan for the City of Pawtucket and will develop plans for each remaining participant of the program.

Program accomplishments

The goal of the RI Urban & Community Forestry Program is to support communities in their efforts to develop sustainable urban forestry programs that enhance the environmental, economic, social, and health benefits that healthy trees and forests provide. To support this goal in 2025, we:

- Held 4 RI arborist license exams, with 52 new licenses issued and 848 total arborists and introduced a new Spanish language arborist exam in 2025.
- Celebrated Arbor Day in East Providence, RI and announced 15 Tree City USA, 3 Tree Campus Higher Education, and 1 Tree Line USA recipient.
- Partnered with URI Regenerative Community Design Lab to provide conceptual design assistance for open space projects in 3 RI municipalities.
- Awarded \$150,000 in tree planting grants to 3 nonprofit organizations through funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- Completed street tree inventories for 3 municipalities.

Public Tree Inventories

A public tree inventory is the building block of any community forestry program. Without the knowledge of what you have, where your trees are, and what their needs are, you can't manage your resource or justify budget needs. The UCF program provides technical assistance to communities who are interested in conducting an inventory, including access to [AUTI](#), a low-cost inventory program. We encourage communities interested in starting a public tree inventory to contact the UCF Coordinator and apply to the [UCF Grant Program](#).



Contact info:

Robert 'Lou' Allard, Urban Forestry Coordinator
robert.e.allard@dem.ri.gov
401.537.4067

Division of Forest Environment
235 Promenade Street, #394
Providence, RI 02908

