



## Neighborhood Forest Grant Opportunity

### Proposals Accepted: January 22 to March 20, 2024

The Anchorage Park Foundation is seeking grant proposals from community organizations working in qualifying neighborhoods to implement forest health projects. Grant funding is provided from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program through the federal Inflation Reduction Act, a historic investment to boost the nation's tree cover in urban and rural communities nationwide. This grant offers Anchorage community organizations a unique opportunity to increase equitable access to trees and green spaces and the many benefits they provide.

The Neighborhood Forest Grant provides funding on a competitive basis for projects that restore, reforest, and sustain urban forests on public or private land. Projects must benefit underserved areas in north Anchorage and have meaningful community involvement. Complete grant applications received by March 20, 2024, will be reviewed by a committee in a competitive process based on available funding. The grant review committee will recommend a slate of projects for approval by the Anchorage Park Foundation Board of Directors. Awarded community forest projects will start in May and need to be completed by fall of 2025.

The Anchorage Park Foundation is offering a concurrent [Community Challenge Grant](#) opportunity for community groups and neighbors to propose park and trail improvement projects on municipal land. Applicants may submit one grant proposal to each open opportunity.

**Funding Available:** A total of \$200,000 in funding is available. The maximum grant award is \$25,000. NO MATCH IS REQUIRED.

#### **Important Dates:**

February 29, 2024 @ 5:30 pm – Applicant assistance workshop @ Fairview Recreation Center

March 6, 2024 @ 5:30 pm – Applicant assistance workshop online, email for meeting link

March 20, 2024 @ 5 pm – Application deadline

April 24, 2024 – Awards announced

May 1, 2024 – Project start date

May 17, Noon – Project Kickoff Event at Fairview Lions Park, 1201 E 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue

October 31, 2025 – Project end date

**Project Assistance:** Two workshops provide assistance to applicants, with park planners from Anchorage Parks and Recreation, landscape architects from the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and forest health experts from the USDA Forest Service.

1. **Thursday, February 29, 5:30 pm** – in person at Fairview Recreation Center, 1121 E 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Food will be provided.
2. **Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 pm** – online only.

**Please RSVP for the workshops.** Email [Diana@anchorageparkfoundation.org](mailto:Diana@anchorageparkfoundation.org) to RSVP for food for in-person and to receive meeting link for online.

**Eligible Applicants:** Community-based organizations within or serving eligible neighborhoods or populations in north Anchorage. For this funding opportunity “community-based organizations” are defined as nonprofits, public schools, community councils, or Alaska Native organizations that serve the Anchorage community through engagement, education, and other related services provided to individual community residents and community stakeholders.

**Eligible Land and Neighborhoods:** Projects must benefit the disadvantaged neighborhoods listed below. These neighborhoods have the lowest tree canopy, least access to greenspace, and greatest social and environmental injustice in Anchorage. Work can be done on public land and private land with permission from the landowner, including parks, forested creeks and greenbelts, public rights of way, private lands and parking lots to benefit the following neighborhood areas:

- Downtown
- Fairview
- Mountain View
- Muldoon
- Russian Jack
- Spenard
- Government Hill
- Midtown
- North Star

**Eligible Projects:** Award considerations and priorities may include, but aren’t limited to, projects that restore, reforest, and sustain urban forests in the eligible North Anchorage neighborhoods, including:

- Cultivating, planting and watering trees, shrubs and seedlings
- Harvesting, storing and cultivating native seedlings for revegetation projects
- Providing paid training experiences for urban forestry crews to establish and maintain urban forests into the future, including youth employment
- Strategic management and removal of invasive species in urban forests
- Encouraging proactive and systematic maintenance and monitoring of urban trees and forested natural areas to improve forest health
- Increasing access to parks and nature in neighborhoods
- Creating and maintaining community food forests and rain gardens
- Removing and treating invasive plants on public and private land
- Maintaining and expanding tree canopy on public and private land
- Restoring streambanks with native vegetation
- Advancing the use of tree and forest inventories, monitoring, and assessment tools

- Planting and maintaining native plants along greenbelts adjacent to qualifying neighborhoods, including Chester Creek Trail and Ship Creek Trail
- Encouraging long-term forest planning, assessment and management
- Assessing risk to forests from pests, disease and adverse climate impacts
- Formulating adaptive management strategies to improve forest resilience
- Fostering individuals, groups and organizations in the neighborhoods served to become engaged participants in urban forest planning, planting and management

**Ineligible Projects:**

- Research or studies
- Education and public awareness without meaningful stewardship activities
- Construction and capital improvements, including facilities, infrastructure, roads, new buildings, culverts, and boardwalks
- Land acquisition
- Cost-share, reimbursement and other types of payment provided directly to private landowners
- Removing Spruce Bark Beetle-killed trees on private land

**Required Proposal Content:**

1. Applicant Information:

- Applicant Name
- Point of Contact, including name, title, email address, phone, and mailing address
- Community-Based Organization Status
  - Nonprofit (attach IRS determination letter)
  - Public School
  - Tribal Entity
  - Community Council
  - Other (describe)

2. Organization Description

Provide mission statement, description of services provided, audience and geographic area served, and 1-2 accomplishments. Identify project leaders, their major responsibilities and expertise.

3. Size of Organization Budget

4. Project Title

5. Amount of Funding Request

6. Project Overview

In a few sentences, describe the project goal(s) and scope of work to address the forest health concern.

7. Project Details and Activities: Information should include:

- Detailed project activities/scope of work
- Location of project
- Photos or maps of area

- Letter of support from landowner, community council, etc.
  - Project partners and roles
  - Description of any anticipated permitting, approval, or public involvement process
  - Tree care and maintenance plan
8. Project Timeline: A timeline of planned activities, deliverables, performance measures, events, etc.
9. Project Budget: Complete the supplied Neighborhood Forest Budget Form. *Note: No match is required. Indirect may be take on up to 10% of direct expenses (Personnel, Equipment, Travel, Supplies, Contracted Services).*  
[Download Required Project Budget Template](#)

**Other Documentation:**

- IRS Determination Letter for nonprofits
- Landowner Letter of Support
- Additional Project Materials (optional)

**Proposal Submission:**

All Required proposal content must be submitted via email as a PDF attachment with the subject line Neighborhood Forest Grant Application to: [Diana@Anchorageparkfoundation.org](mailto:Diana@Anchorageparkfoundation.org) AND copy [info@Anchorageparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@Anchorageparkfoundation.org) by 5 pm March 20, 2024.

**Contact:**

Diana Rhoades, Program Director  
(907) 249-6652  
[Diana@Anchorageparkfoundation.org](mailto:Diana@Anchorageparkfoundation.org)

**Thank you to** the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program for partnering with the Anchorage Park Foundation on this grant program.

***Anchorage Park Foundation is an equal opportunity provider.***