



**Request for Proposals: Tree Canopy
Enhancement in Urban Areas**
Due: June 18, 2018



[The Nature Conservancy in Washington](#) and [City Habitats](#) are currently accepting proposals from organizations to support the development, design, and implementation of tree canopy enhancement projects. Grants will be awarded to projects that increase the urban forest canopy, contributing to positive stormwater management, human well-being and other benefits.

The goal of this Request for Proposals is to support the capacity of organizations to implement tree planting projects throughout the urban space, including on public and private lands. Additional information related to types of projects is available below.

In conjunction with these projects, The Nature Conservancy will be developing communications material focused on the benefits of trees for use by partners and grant recipients. We will also work with grant recipients to ensure they have successful tree planting projects that promote healthy communities and thriving nature.

Background / Purpose & Description

The Cities program at the Nature Conservancy in Washington is focused on building more resilient cities for healthy people and thriving nature. We work collaboratively across Puget Sound to address stormwater through on-the-ground, innovative projects; regional coalition building; policies and funding at the State and Federal level; and science to more effectively prioritize and design efforts, and evaluate outcomes.

A core part of this work is investing in on-the-ground projects to ensure sufficient capacity to realize the project's vision. These grants will provide that additional capacity, with a focus on tree planting. This funding is part of a larger effort by The Nature Conservancy in Washington and Oregon to engage residents and volunteers through tree planting that promotes cleaner water and air, carbon storage, and supports human and community wellness. This funding is made possible through a partnership with The Boeing Company.

Eligibility and Project Types

- Proposals will be accepted from non-profits and others. Government agencies are not eligible to receive funds; however, projects that occur on public lands are eligible to receive funds.
 - o Government agencies and programs are eligible as implementing partners on proposed projects
 - o Unincorporated entities are eligible in partnership with a fiscal sponsorship. (Contact Hannah for additional information)
- Requests for grants from \$15,000 to \$75,000 will be accepted
- Funding can be used to support project development, ground prep, depave work, planting, stewardship, and other expenses related to a successful project
 - o Each proposed project must include an element of planting during the grant period
 - o Projects will be evaluated on their impact on stormwater (see resources below)
 - o Projects will be evaluated in their consideration of environmental justice concerns related to project site and community served (see resources below)

- Projects spanning two years are eligible for funding; provide additional timeline information in the proposal
 - o In addition, a second round of funding for projects will be available in 2019
- The Nature Conservancy aims to further the science related to the benefit of trees in partnership with grantees and others. Projects that are willing to be included in scientific studies evaluating the impacts of tree plantings on human and environmental health will be given preference. The Nature Conservancy and University of Washington will provide scientific capacity and resources to investigate the impacts of projects.

Request for Proposals Structure

Please submit up one to three pages detailing the following:

- Contact Name & Info
- Organization and type
- Website
- Project Details (identify how site was selected and description of site, including community input, percentage impervious surface and tree canopy cover in selected project geography as well as potential impacts to water quality, air quality, carbon sequestration, etc.;
- Geography or geographies (Specific project locations can be identified through an attached map)
- Project timeline (up to two years)
- Partners (include any specific environmental justice concerns)
- Budget need
- Additional funding committed to the project (optional)
- Willingness to partner with TNC to monitor and evaluate project (TNC will provide scientific capacity and resources to support this work)

Timeline:

May 14, 2018 – RFP Released

June 15, 2018 – Applications due to The Nature Conservancy

June 18 to 30 – Applications reviewed by grants committee

- Grants committee includes representatives from TNC and City Habitats partners

July 3 – Grantees notified of funding and contracting begins

- The Nature Conservancy will work with grant recipients throughout projects to ensure resource support and effective storytelling throughout the project.

Criteria:

Projects will be selected for:

- Overall impact on stormwater quality, with an additional emphasis on air quality, carbon storage, mitigating heat impacts and urban habitat. This includes areas with low tree cover canopy, in high traffic areas, and close to salmon bearing streams and estuaries.
- Geographic distribution, including environmental justice focus areas
- Partnership with the community and contribution to human health and well-being
- Capacity Building impact
- Opportunities for volunteers to participate, including veterans and corporate partner employees

Submission Instructions: Submit your application and any questions to Hannah Kett, Cities Program Manager, hannah.kett@tnc.org by June 15, 2018

Additional Resources for Project Development

- Identifying a Fiscal Sponsor: Please contact Hannah if you have a specific question or concern about eligible fiscal sponsors

- Identifying high priority areas for stormwater mitigation:
 - o [Areas in close proximity to salmon-bearing streams](#)
 - o [Areas in close proximity to estuaries](#)
 - o Trees that would overhang impervious surfaces

- Priority areas for human health & wellbeing (including educational outcomes): *Additional information coming soon*

- [Environmental Justice Screen](#): Provides additional data about project sites to include in proposals