



Learning Session

March 28, 2024



Lexington's Urban Forest



- An Urban Forest is composed of all the trees within our urban lands and includes
 - Individual trees
 - Tree stands / small groupings of trees
 - Trees found along streets, in gardens and parks, along greenways and in planned green / naturalized spaces, in nature preserves, and along corridors
 - Trees on both public and private property
 - The various ecosystem components that exist with these trees (e.g., – soils, understory flora, wildlife)
- Urban Forestry is the careful and purposeful management of our Urban Forest

How Trees Benefit Lexington



- Environmental
 - Provide stormwater mitigation
 - Reduce heat island effect
 - Remove airborne pollutants
 - Sequester carbon
- Human Health
 - Reduce hospital stays
 - Reduce rates of cardiac disease
 - Improve mental health & reduce stress
 - Improve our immune systems
- Social
 - Reduce rates of crime
 - Encourage community engagement & connectivity
 - Decrease aggression & violence
- Economic
 - Reduce costs of city services
 - Increase property values
 - Reduce energy bills
 - Support tourism

2022 Urban Tree Canopy



<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/lexingtons-tree-canopy>

Lex Grow Trees



- Two avenues for planting trees

Yard Tree Request	Large Project Funding
Interest form to complete (Follow up will occur mid- to late-summer)	Grant application form to complete
Trees will be planted in order of need and availability	Awards up to \$100,000 per applicant, per project (No minimum grant amount)
Residents can apply	Organizations can apply
Anticipated fall planting schedule	Funding in time for fall planting

Lex Grow Trees – Individual Properties



- Planting Trees on Private Property
- Complete the form at https://lexingtonky.formstack.com/forms/lex_grow_trees

Lex Grow Trees

Plant a Tree on My Property Form

Please note that trees will be planted in the fall of 2024 and you will be contacted prior to tree planting to confirm details. Trees will be approximately 1¾" diameter (or about 10' to 12' tall) at the time of planting.

Contact Crystal Williams Goodwin at (859) 425-2558 or cwilliams2@lexingtonky.gov with any questions.

Name*

First Name Last Name

Address*

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

ZIP Code

Phone number*

Email address*

Do you own the property?*

Yes No

How many trees would you like to have planted on your property?*

Where would you like the tree or trees planted on your property? (Check all that apply.)*

- Street tree – grassy strip between the sidewalk and road
- Front yard
- Back yard
- Side yard

Would you like to receive email updates from Lex Grow Trees at the email address provided above? If so, what topics interest you? (Check all that apply.)*

- Organizing larger tree plantings
- Volunteering or taking part in tree events
- Learning how to care for my current trees
- Becoming a tree expert for my neighborhood
- Staying informed on tree-related news

[Save and Resume Later](#)

[Submit Form](#)

Lex Grow Trees – Individual Properties



- Goal: Fall 2024 Planting Timeframe
- Details to be worked out (max # of trees per request, tree species, etc.)
- Prioritization by
 - census tracts with tree canopy inequities
 - council districts with lower canopy percentages
 - residential properties in the urban service area
 - residential properties outside the urban service area

Lex Grow Trees – Grant Program



- For Larger Tree-Related Projects
- Grant Program Objectives:
 - Increase the scale and health of our tree canopy.
 - Increase community buy-in and resident engagement in assuring the creation and maintenance of our tree canopy.
 - Guide a cultural shift in the understanding of the benefits of trees for individuals, our economy, our community’s social structure, and our collective community’s health.
 - Address the equity challenges of access to the benefits of a healthy tree canopy.

Lex Grow Trees – Grant Program



- Eligible Organizations:
 - Federally recognized non-profit organizations 501(c)(3)
 - Incorporated, active neighborhood or homeowners associations
 - For profit organizations
- Eligible Activities:
 - Tree planting
 - Tree maintenance
 - Tree education
 - Develop and support tree advocates and stewards

Lex Grow Trees – Grant Program



- Application Components:
 - Organization Info and Contact Info
 - Project Narrative / Scope of Work / Community Objectives
 - Project Schedule
 - Project Budget (no grant match or cost share requirements)
 - Supplemental Items (photographs, maps, letter of support, etc.)

Lex Grow Trees – Grant Program



- Scoring of Applications:
 - Location with a focus on equity
 - Number of people reached via engagement or education
 - Ability of the applicant to maintain the project
 - Cost efficiency
 - Number of trees (newly planted)
 - Number of trees (maintenance or care of existing)

Lex Grow Trees – Grant Program



LexGrowTrees Grant Program	APPLICANT NAME	NAME1
	FUNDING REQUESTED	AMOUNT REQUESTED
PROJECT IMPACT (30%)		
Is the project location within the focus areas identified by the grant program and/or the 2022 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment?	Points Available:	10
Is the project location within Council Districts or Census Tracts that are identified in the 2022 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment to be an area of priority for environmental and/or human health?		10
Is the project location accessible to individuals and/or the public?		10
	Total Score:	30
PROJECT ENGAGEMENT (25%)		
Does the applicant demonstrate a community need for the project?	Points Available:	10
Is the applicant proposing to involve an audience/volunteers?		5
If so, what is the size of the target audience/volunteers? i. 0-10 People ii. 11-20 People iii. 21-50 People iv. More than 50 People		
Is there an educational component to the proposed project? I.e. Does the project help to increase the understanding of the benefits of trees in our community?		10
	Total Score:	25
TREE MOBILIZATION (25%)		
How many trees is the applicant proposing to plant and/or maintain? i. 0-10 Trees ii. 11-20 Trees iii. 21-50 Trees iv. More than 50 Trees	Points Available:	15
Is the applicant prepared to maintain trees past the grant program deadline or has plans for maintenance?		10
	Total Score:	25
PROJECT SUCCESS (10%)		
Does the applicant demonstrate readiness and ability to create and implement the grant program?	Points Available:	5
Does the applicant demonstrate readiness and ability to abide by the schedule of the grant program?		2.5
Does the applicant provide appropriate and quantifiable program success measures?		2.5
	Total Score:	10
COST EFFICIENCY (10%)		
Are the applicant's budget narrative and proposal specific, justified, and reasonable?	Points Available:	10
	Total Score:	10
		Total Applicant Score Out of 100 Points:
		0

Lex Grow Trees – Grant Program



- Timeline
 - Grant Applications Due Friday, April 26
 - Selected Grant Recipients Notified by Friday, May 31
 - Recipients to Sign and Return Grant Agreement by Friday, June 14
 - Urban County Council Approval by Tuesday, July 9



Questions?

Lex Grow Trees: contact@lexgrowtrees.com

Crystal Williams Goodwin: cwilliams2@lexingtonky.gov



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