

Welcome!

Boston Tree Alliance Grant Information Session Fall 2026

September 23rd, 2026
3-4pm



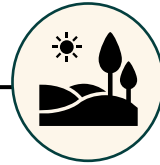
Why Trees?

Urban Forest Plan (2022)



Benefits of Trees and Tree Canopy

- Reduce heat and adverse health impacts of extreme heat
- Reduce air pollution
- Improve water quality
- Provide essential wildlife habitat
- Help communities save money via reduced energy costs
- Improve mental health
- Play an important role in cultural and spiritual practices

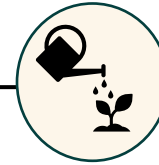


Urban Forest

All trees within a city

Tree Canopy

From an aerial view, the leaves and branches covering the ground



In Boston, 27% of the land is covered by tree canopy.

Most of these trees are on private land, where the loss of tree canopy is fastest.

Boston has made funding tree canopy expansion a key climate resilience strategy.

What is the Boston Tree Alliance?

The **Boston Tree Alliance** (“The Alliance”) is a coalition of nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, urban forestry professionals, and stakeholders working collectively to equitably grow and care for new trees on private property in Boston.

The Alliance

- **Provides grants** to non-profit and community-based organizations to plant and care for trees on private land in Boston,
- **Increases tree canopy** and **reduces urban heat** island impacts in temperature hot spots and under-canopied communities, and
- Leads **education and engagement** about trees and the importance of trees.



How is the Boston Tree Alliance Supported?

The Alliance is supported by **Mass Audubon** and the **City of Boston's** Office of Climate Resilience in coordination with Parks and Recreation.

Funded in parts by multiple grants to the City of Boston:

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - \$1 million program funding through 2026 – **completed**
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
 - \$1.8 million program funding through 2028 – **ongoing**



Mayor Wu at the Boston Tree Alliance Kick-Off Event

Boston Tree Alliance Impact

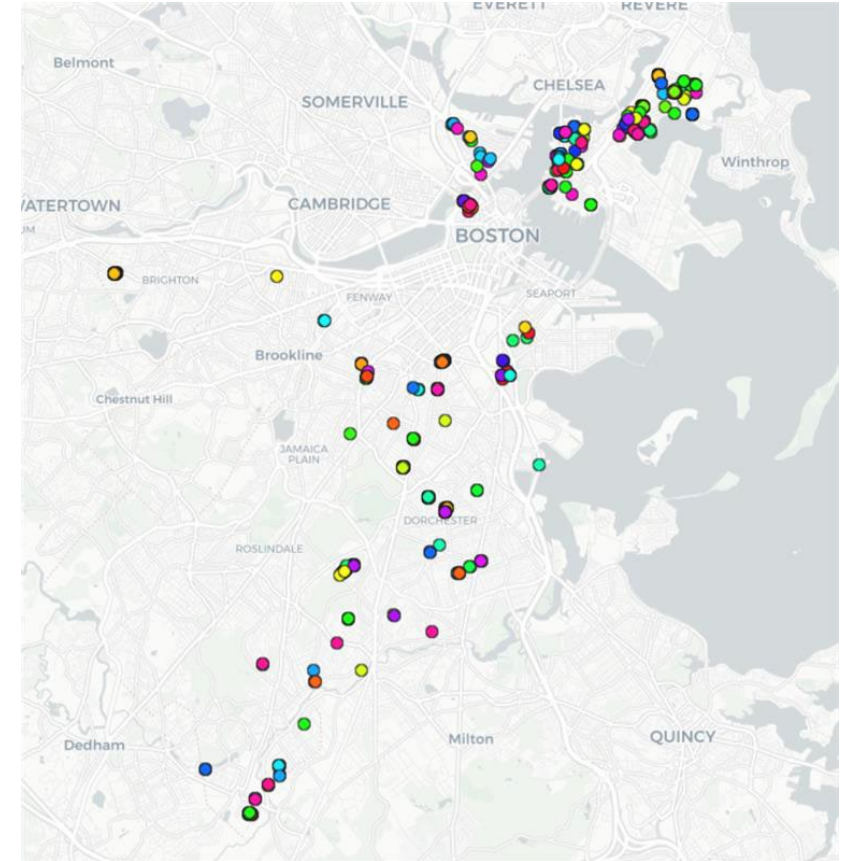
Since its founding in 2023, the Alliance has accomplished

- **Planting 540 trees** across the most vulnerable neighborhoods in Boston,
- **Planting 70+ tree species** to diversify and strengthen the urban forest, and
- **Distributing \$811,750** in sub-grants from the American Rescue Plan and Inflation Reduction Act,
- Through **funding 11** non-profit and community-based organizations.

In 2026, over \$519,750 was awarded to six projects – tree planting is occurring this fall



In 2027, up to \$688,000 will be awarded!



Trees planted across Boston

Case Studies – Example Projects

Boston Food Forest Coalition (2024)

- Awarded \$25,000 to plant 13 fruit trees.
- Transformed a vacant lot in Roxbury into a productive food forest open to the public for fresh produce.



Tree Eastie (2024 to 2026)

- Awarded \$75,000 to plant 180 trees.
- Having received multiple BTA grants, Tree Eastie was able to expand tree planting to more residents, businesses, and churches in East Boston.



Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard (2026)

- Awarded \$194,000 to plant 24 trees.
- Located along a major public roadway, this project aimed to turn the sidewalk and bicycle lanes into a more fruitful greenway.



Tree Planting and Care Grant Overview

Purpose

This grant supports tree planting projects on privately-owned land in Boston

One Grant Application for the Year

- Spring Planting season: approximately April – May
- Fall Planting season: approximately October – November

Award Amount

Total Amount Available: \$688,000

Award Maximum: up to \$249,000 per project*

Timeline

- Application Opens: September 9th, 2026
- Grant Information Session (Virtual): September 23rd, 2026 3-4pm
- [Fall Tree Planting Training and Grant Information Session](#) (In-person at the Boston Nature Center): October 2nd, 2026 10-12pm
- **Application Deadline: November 6th, 2026**



Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

- ✓ Community-based organizations and non-profit organizations with current tax-exempt status. Must work with or serve Boston residents/businesses
- ✗ Individuals may not apply for funding but may request tree planting on their properties. Not all requests can be fulfilled
- ✗ For profit-corporations, public agencies, and individuals not representing community-based or non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for funding through this grant program. These stakeholders are encouraged to identify and collaborate with a local non-profit or community-based organization

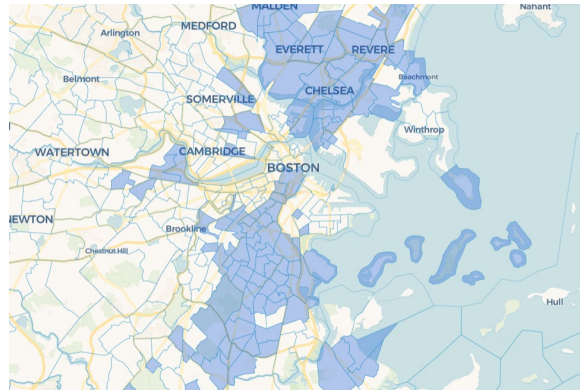
If awarded, grant recipients should be prepared to

- Sign a Contractor Agreement with Mass Audubon and provide a signed W-9
- Provide proof of insurance issued in the applicant organization's name, or in the name of whomever is performing tree planting and care on private property, for commercial general liability and workers compensation

Eligible Lands

Eligible Lands

- ✓ Private land in the city of Boston.
- ✓ Tree planting must take place within specific geographic boundaries as outlined in the map linked below, in accordance with census tract boundaries approved by the USDA Forest Service. Projects that occur outside of the specified geographic areas in the linked map will not be eligible to receive funds from this grant in this round.
- ✗ Lands owned by federal, state, or municipal governments are not eligible for this funding opportunity.



[Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)

Eligible Lands

What is Private Land?

The efforts of Boston's Urban Forestry Division have helped the city of Boston increase and improve tree canopy on public land, such as parks, street trees, public schools, and more. More information can be found at [Urban Forestry | Boston.gov](#).

As described in the program overview, the focus of the Boston Tree Alliance Tree Planting and Care grant is on private land. The Urban Forest Plan found that 60% of Boston's tree canopy is located on private land – residential, commercial, etc. – and that residential land had the greatest losses in canopy.

Eligible applicants may apply for funding for a project to be conducted on private land within the city of Boston. Examples of private land may include, but are not limited to: residential land, commercial properties, cemeteries, churches, universities, and more. In order to work with private landowners, applicants can identify private land from the City of Boston's Parcel Viewer tool here: [Boston Tax Parcel Viewer](#).

A Landowner Agreement must be signed by the landowner for any private property where tree planting will occur.

Example Landowner Agreement

I agree to allow **Contractor** personnel and their crews access to my property for the purpose of planting trees and subsequent post-planting inventory and assessment. Access is being granted for the specific and sole purpose of work associated with tree planting on my property. I understand that **Contractor** will make every attempt to protect my property from damage by the program's planting work.

Acepto dar permiso a los trabajadores de **Contractor** para tener acceso a mi propiedad, con el propósito de plantar árboles y el subsecuente proceso de post-plantado, inventario y evaluación. Se garantiza el acceso a su propiedad con el único propósito del plantado de árboles y los trabajos asociados. **Contractor** hará todos los esfuerzos por proteger su propiedad de posibles daños producidos por el trabajo del programa de plantado.

Landowner Contact Information

Print Name | Escribir su nombre _____

Date | Fecha _____

Landowner Signature | Firma del propietario de casa _____

Street Address | Direccion de calle _____

City | Ciudad _____

Zip Code | Código de pueblo _____

Phone | Número de teléfono _____

Email | Correo electrónico _____

I further agree to care for and maintain any tree(s) that I receive as part of this program for 2 years following planting, in accordance with any verbal instructions and/or written literature provided to me by the **Contractor** staff and/or professionals acting on the program's behalf.

Yo entendí que voy a mantener los árboles que recibí del programa por dos (2) años siguiendo las instrucciones que recibí del programa **Contractor**.

Landowner Signature | Firma del propietario de casa _____

Contractor Representative(s) | Representante del **Contractor** _____

Date | Fecha _____

[**Contractor, Contractor Address**]

Eligible Projects

Eligible Projects

Required:

- ✓ **Tree planting** on private property (may include one or multiple properties)
- ✓ **Maintenance activities** associated with tree planting projects (watering, weeding, inspection, pruning, mulching, staking) for up to 2 years after planting

Optional:

- ✓ **Site preparation** for tree planting projects as directly related to new tree planting
 - **De-paving:** removal of impervious surfaces (usually concrete or asphalt) to create space for planting trees
 - **Green infrastructure:** addition of soil cells, structural soil, pervious pavements, stormwater tree systems to increase survivability rates for newly planted trees
 - **Hazardous tree removal:** removal of trees deemed hazardous by certified arborists to make way for at least one replacement tree
 - **Irrigation systems:** installation of or addition to existing irrigation systems to add drip lines around newly planted trees to meet watering requirements in circumstances where hand watering needs cannot be met



Ineligible Projects

Ineligible Projects

- ✗ Tree planting and maintenance on publicly-owned land (lands owned by federal, state, or municipal government entities)
- ✗ Tree care costs for trees not planted with Boston Tree Alliance grant funds
- ✗ Projects that do not meet the program goals of the Boston Tree Alliance or that do not follow the required standards and guidelines
- ✗ Site preparation that is not directly connected to tree planting or that does not prioritize new tree planting long-term outcomes
- ✗ Installing any Massachusetts state-listed invasive species, including invasive species listed as “restricted,” “pending further review,” or “nonrestricted,” or that are on a watch list

All tree-related work completed under this grant must follow the latest relevant American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards (e.g. ANSI Z60.1 Nursery Stock Standards, A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations) and International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices or equivalent

Required Documents

Organizations should prepare to provide detailed project implementation plans to describe how they will accomplish their goals, which should be clearly connected to the goals of the Alliance.

Required documents

- Completed application for funding via online application form, including details about tree planting and 2-year maintenance plan
- Budget spreadsheet
- A tree species list for planting (may be a draft but any changes must be approved the Boston Tree Alliance Urban Forester)
- Signed landowner agreement(s) from private property owners or a detailed plan for ensuring agreements are received before funding can be dispersed
- If applicable, any site plans with the planting address to detail tree locations

Tree Planting and Maintenance Plans

Tree Planting Plan

Should include

- Number of trees,
- Tree species list,
- Tree size/stock type,
- Details on site preparation,
- Who will be planting the trees,
- Calling DigSafe, and
- Reporting tree planting data.



Tree Maintenance Plan

Should include

- Detailed watering plans,
- Details on future mulching/pruning needs, and
- Who will be reporting inspection data and complete closeout report.



Budget

Budget

Applicants should provide an anticipated total budget and budget breakdown that may include these eligible expenses for labor and materials

- **Admin costs, planning, and engagement:** staff or subcontracted time to identify sites, secure landowner agreements, implement plan, or provide landowner education for tree planting and care of grant-funded trees. Indirect/administrative costs may not be more than 10% of total budget,
- **Planting:** costs of trees, mulch, staking, gator bags, items for time-of-planting and staff or subcontracted planting time. May include site preparation costs as detailed in Attachments and Guidelines,
- **Maintenance:** 2 years from time-of-planting costs of watering, resetting mulch, young tree pruning, and staff or subcontracted inspection time.

[Sample budget template](#)

Grant Application Recommendations

Grant Application Recommendations and Recap

- If you do not have previous experience with tree planting and care, we still encourage you to apply! We highly encourage the incorporation of arborists/urban foresters in project plans and/or working with resources developed by practitioners.
- Read through the checklist of requirements if approved, including but not limited to:
 - Obtaining a signed landowner agreement
 - Plan for siting, ordering trees, planting trees, and caring for them for minimum 2 years
 - Detail your plan to report back to the Alliance (data on planting, trees, pictures, maintenance). All grantees are required to submit data within 2 weeks of tree planting, and inspection data 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years after trees are planted.
- Attend an orientation session before implementation (October 2, 2026 10-12pm)
- On your application
 - Be clear on how the project benefits the community
 - Detail how costs will maximize tree benefits
- Check out our [resources](#) on the grant page and reach out for assistance. Resources include the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and the [Grant Guidelines](#) document.

Next Step!

All materials can be found at www.boston.gov/tree-grants

B.T.A. TREE PLANTING GRANT

We provide grants to community-based organizations to plant and care for trees through the Boston Tree Alliance (B.T.A.) Program.

[BACKGROUND](#) [TIMELINE](#) [ELIGIBILITY, GOALS, AND PRIORITIES](#) [INFORMATION SESSIONS](#) [GRANT MATERIALS](#)

[RESOURCES](#) [NOTICE OF ACCOMODATIONS](#)



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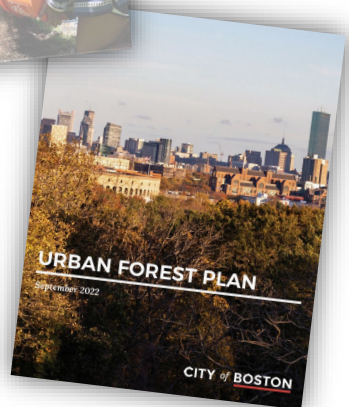
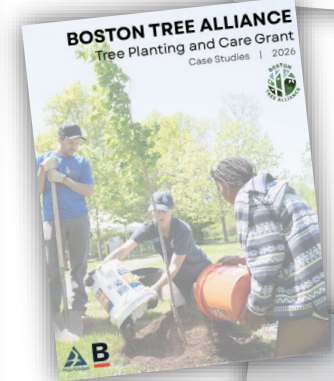
[NOTICE OF FUNDING
OPPORTUNITY \(NOFO\)](#)

[SUBMIT AN APPLICATION](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

[GO TO THE PROJECT WEBSITE](#)

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



A photograph of three people participating in a tree-planting activity. A man in a blue shirt and black cap is kneeling on the left, holding a shovel. A woman in a dark shirt and cap is in the center, holding a young tree. Another person in a blue shirt and denim skirt is kneeling on the right, pouring water from a white bucket onto the base of the tree. The background shows a grassy field with various trees and a clear sky.

Thank you! Questions?

bostontreealliance@massaudubon.org

