

RE: Inflation Reduction Act – Urban and Community Forestry Application for “Our Napa Forests: Growing an Equitable Tree Canopy Through Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration”

Notice of Funding Opportunity: [UCF-IRA-NOFO-04122023.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/programs/urban-and-community-forestry/ucf-ira-nofo-04122023.pdf)

Project Partners:

- We seek to work across jurisdictional boundaries to maximize community benefits of the project activities and lay the foundation for longer-term collaboration in urban and community forestry.
- We anticipate the following partners will be involved:
 - Napa County Resource Conservation District – *lead applicant*
 - City of American Canyon
 - City of Napa
 - City of St. Helena
 - American Canyon Community & Parks Foundation
 - Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition

Grant Scope – Project Activities:

- We will be refining the grant scope and associated budget over the next couple of weeks, working with each project partner to better understand opportunity areas.
- In broad strokes, we anticipate that the project activities will include the following:
 - **Goal 1.** Increase healthy tree canopy in urban and community spaces through planting and stewardship, with an emphasis on disadvantaged communities
 - Develop of a planting & stewardship plan for each municipality (level of planning will vary by municipality, depending on needs/goals and existing plans)
 - We will prioritize areas that will increase equitable access to healthy green spaces, such as:
 - Disadvantaged neighborhoods ([Justice 40](#), [tree equity scores](#))
 - Public parks/parklets/community spaces
 - Urban/community forested reas experiencing high level of forest stressors (e.g., invasives, pests/diseases, burned areas)
 - Collaborate with municipalities/partners to implement planting and stewardship activities in high-priority urban and community spaces, including:
 - Planting trees/shrubs
 - Maintenance of existing trees/shrubs (stewardship of mature trees, managing pests/disease)
 - Removal of invasives
 - **Goal 2.** Educate and empower the community to actively steward urban and community green spaces, with an emphasis on engaging disadvantaged community members
 - Host workshops & field days to educate community members on urban forestry and practical actions community members can take to support the health of our urban and community forests
 - Create and disseminate educational resources to support community-led urban forest stewardship (e.g., what types of trees/vegetation to plant where, how to care for existing/mature trees, how to identify and manage invasives, etc.)
 - Volunteer events (tree planting & maintenance, invasives removal) to directly engage community members in efforts to increase healthy urban tree canopy and deepen their connections to urban green spaces

- Plant giveaways to support community members planting trees/shrubs in yards or apartment complexes, with priority to low-income community members
- **Goal 3.** Provide workforce development to upskill those currently caring for urban/community forests (e.g. parks staff, crews) and facilitate career pathways in forestry, with an emphasis on equitable and inclusive programming
 - County-wide training for parks/public works staff on planting and maintenance best practices, incorporating climate adaptation lens
 - Paid internships for college students (e.g., Napa Valley College, Pacific Union College)

Grant Application and Administration:

- Napa RCD will be the lead applicant, and will manage grant administration.
- Project Partners will be involved in project scoping and implementation, including informing opportunities for planting/stewardship, community education opportunities, workforce development needs etc.