

**Community Tree Planting Grants Scoring Guide**

**Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions**

There are 5 categories that will be used to evaluate applications, with 20 points possible in each category. Within each category, there are 4 sub-criteria; these repeat on a spectrum of 0-5 points within the category. Check the boxes most applicable to the application, using no more than 4 checks per category, then multiply the checks by the “points” column to get a total score. For example, “Project area has <20% canopy cover” earns 5 points, but “20-25 trees planted” earns only 3 points.

Points	Equity (20 pts)	Likelihood of Success (20 pts)	Co-Benefits (20 pts)	Planning Goals (20 pts)	Project Metrics (20 pts)
<b>5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Project planning, implementation, or maintenance authentically led by an underserved community <input type="checkbox"/> Maximizes the co-benefit of each tree to disadvantaged communities by mitigating dust, noise, heat, traffic. The largest possible tree is selected for all sites. <input type="checkbox"/> Creates multiple lasting pathways for future benefits in an underserved community through food security, climate resilience, youth engagement, workforce development, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant hasn't interacted with VT UCF or does not have an arborist on staff and would greatly benefit from technical assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has history of multiple successful planting projects <input type="checkbox"/> Trees will require minimal watering (fall planting) and pruning. <input type="checkbox"/> Includes full list of species to be planted that are correctly matched with each site <input type="checkbox"/> Existing subsurface conditions are ideal and require no improvement for trees to thrive.	<input type="checkbox"/> Removes pavement, adds trees, and provides infiltration that controls both stormwater flow and quality (phosphorus) <input type="checkbox"/> Establishes new recreational opportunities for all community members <input type="checkbox"/> Provides deep shade, cooling, or shelter in a heavily trafficked area <input type="checkbox"/> Provides food, cultural or aesthetic value and invites in new community members.	<input type="checkbox"/> Project has clear and specific objectives and strategies to reach overall goals. <input type="checkbox"/> Project advances town plan with no tradeoffs <input type="checkbox"/> Project has express support from multiple entities, including municipal legislative body <input type="checkbox"/> Project is located in a state-designated center	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 75 trees planted <input type="checkbox"/> Project area has <20% canopy cover <input type="checkbox"/> Census tract has 5 or more flags on <a href="#">VT Social Vulnerability Index</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality ranks 80-100% in <a href="#">Vermont Community Index</a>
<b>4</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Project planned, implemented, or maintained collaboratively with an underserved community <input type="checkbox"/> Maximizes the co-benefit of some trees to disadvantaged communities. The largest possible tree is selected for some sites. <input type="checkbox"/> Creates a single lasting pathway for future benefits in an underserved community. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has interacted with VT UCF, but hasn't received technical or financial assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has at least one successful past planting project <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified professionals are committed to maintenance (watering / pruning) of trees. <input type="checkbox"/> Includes a full list of sites and criteria that will be used to determine appropriate species <input type="checkbox"/> Root growth is enabled through cost-effective subsurface improvements (structural soil, silva cells, suspended pavement Stockholm method, etc.); infrastructure is protected from roots	<input type="checkbox"/> Removes pavement, adds trees, and controls stormwater flow but not quality (phosphorus) <input type="checkbox"/> Enhances existing recreational opportunities for all community members <input type="checkbox"/> Provides deep shade, cooling, or shelter in a moderately trafficked area <input type="checkbox"/> Provides food, cultural or aesthetic value to most community members	<input type="checkbox"/> Project has clear but non-specific objectives and strategies to reach overall goals. <input type="checkbox"/> Project advances town plan with minimal tradeoffs <input type="checkbox"/> Project has express support from the municipal legislative body. <input type="checkbox"/> Project is located in a state-designated center	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 trees planted <input type="checkbox"/> Project area has 20-40% canopy cover <input type="checkbox"/> Census tract has 4 flags on <a href="#">VT Social Vulnerability Index</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality ranks 60-80% in <a href="#">Vermont Community Index</a>
<b>3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant consulted affected community and paid them as part of project planning. <input type="checkbox"/> Project has considered tree equity and equitable access to trees in site selection, but project does not specifically provide tree co-benefits to disadvantaged communities. <input type="checkbox"/> Creates multiple temporary pathways for future benefits in an underserved community. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has received VT UCF technical OR financial assistance, but still demonstrates need	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has demonstrated success managing similar non-planting projects <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant is committed to maintenance but does not have qualified professionals to do it. <input type="checkbox"/> Identifies planting sites but not a method by which to select appropriate species. <input type="checkbox"/> Root growth is enabled through subsurface improvements, but at high cost.	<input type="checkbox"/> Removes pavement, adds trees, but has no net effect on stormwater management <input type="checkbox"/> Enhances existing recreational opportunities for some community members <input type="checkbox"/> Provides some shade, cooling, and shelter benefits to some people <input type="checkbox"/> Provides food, cultural or aesthetic value to some community members	<input type="checkbox"/> Project identifies clear goals but no objectives and strategies to reach them. <input type="checkbox"/> Project is consistent with town plan and/or involves some tradeoffs <input type="checkbox"/> Project has general support from municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Project is located in an urban area, but not in a state-designated center	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 trees planted <input type="checkbox"/> Project area has 40-60% canopy cover <input type="checkbox"/> Census tract has 2-3 flags on <a href="#">VT Social Vulnerability Index</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality ranks 40-60% in <a href="#">Vermont Community Index</a>
<b>2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant consulted with affected communities (i.e., provided avenue for input). <input type="checkbox"/> Application doesn't reference tree equity; disadvantaged communities are unintentionally excluded from tree co-benefits . <input type="checkbox"/> Creates one temporary pathway for future benefits in an underserved community. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has received VT UCF technical AND financial assistance, but still demonstrates need	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has no history of similar projects <input type="checkbox"/> No clear commitment to tree maintenance but trees are likely to survive on their own. <input type="checkbox"/> Planting sites identified, but proposed species are inappropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Below OR above ground space is restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> No removal of pavement; planting site is currently a lawn <input type="checkbox"/> Has no impact on recreational opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Does not provide useful shade, cooling, or shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Project has no impact on cultural or aesthetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Project goals are vague with no objectives or strategies. <input type="checkbox"/> Project may interfere town plan or require significant tradeoffs <input type="checkbox"/> No clear support from municipal bodies <input type="checkbox"/> Project is located in an urban area, but not in a state-designated center	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-25 trees planted <input type="checkbox"/> Project area has 60-80% canopy cover <input type="checkbox"/> Census tract has 1 flag on <a href="#">VT Social Vulnerability Index</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality ranks 20-40% in <a href="#">Vermont Community Index</a>
<b>1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No consultation with affected community and/or assumptions made about affected community in project planning. <input type="checkbox"/> Project reduces tree equity; disadvantaged communities are intentionally excluded from tree co-benefits. <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't create benefit pathways in an underserved community. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has no need of technical or financial assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Past planting projects have failed to meet goals <input type="checkbox"/> No clear commitment to tree maintenance and tree survival is questionable. <input type="checkbox"/> No planting sites identified <input type="checkbox"/> Below AND above ground space is restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> No removal of pavement; trees planted in forest, forest edge, or meadow <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces recreational opportunities. <input type="checkbox"/> Negatively impacts nearby buildings, sidewalks, or other infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Project will negatively impact cultural or aesthetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Project does not set goals. <input type="checkbox"/> Project will actively hinder town plan <input type="checkbox"/> There is opposition to the project from community or affected entities <input type="checkbox"/> Project is located outside an urban area	<input type="checkbox"/> Fewer than 10 trees planted <input type="checkbox"/> Project area has >80% canopy cover <input type="checkbox"/> Census tract has 0 flags on <a href="#">VT Social Vulnerability Index</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality ranks 0-20% in <a href="#">Vermont Community Index</a>