# Scoring Guide for 2027 Communities Caring for Canopy Grants

Applicant:_____

## Project Eligibility

Project takes place in Vermont and relates to urban and community forestry in public ways and places as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2501a and that include municipal rights-of-way and municipal property, or at public educational institutions

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Project consists of one or more of the following program components [check all that apply]:

- ☐ Tree planting: estimated # of trees _____
- ☐ Tree maintenance: estimated # of trees _____
- ☐ Tree protection and preservation
- ☐ Removal of trees – high public safety risk: estimated # of trees _____
- ☐ Tree inventory
- ☐ Tree planting or management plan development
- ☐ Municipal Tree Policy or Ordinance development
- ☐ Pest and disease preparedness efforts
- ☐ Staff or tree warden training
- ☐ Outreach and program development

## Projects that Include Removal of Trees that Pose a Risk to Public Safety

For tree removal to be considered an eligible project expense, written support for the removal(s) from the municipally appointed tree warden is required as an attachment to the application. This written support must:

- Be based on at least one site visit to the tree(s);
- Be consistent with 24 V.S.A. § 2504.
- Include the date;
- Include contact information for the tree warden; and
- Be signed by the tree warden.

Is a written recommendation included with the application?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

## SCORING TABLE (PAGE 2)

To be completed by all grant review and selection committee members. There are 5 categories that will be used to evaluate applications, with 3 points possible in each category, for a total of 15 points maximum. Within each category, there are sub-criteria. Use the sub-criteria to assign points most applicable to the application; ½ points okay.

Applicant: _____Reviewer: _____Total Points Assigned to Application:_____

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| Points | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Project Need | The project addresses critical needs and enhances safety, protects public resources, or significantly addresses a local urban & community forestry gap or problem.<br><br>Without grant funds, existing conditions will continue to deteriorate, remain unaddressed, or unsafe. | The project addresses clear needs, though not urgent. Significant risk to public resources or safety will be reduced by the project, or existing urban & community forestry efforts will be bolstered.<br><br>Without grant support, efforts are likely to remain stable but limited, resulting in incremental progress rather than meaningful expansion. | The project addresses a problem, but the needs statement does not clearly express urgency or impact. Minimal risk reduction to public resources or safety.<br><br>Without grant funds the work could have been achieved in time, but grant funds somewhat accelerate. | Cannot discern the relevance or need of the project.<br><br>Without grant funds the project will still occur, or there is little impact if it does not occur. |
| Likelihood of Achieving Specific Goals | Project has clear and specific objectives and stated strategies are very likely to reach overall goals.<br><br>If project includes tree planting, maintenance, or removal, details on location, number, and species are provided. Clear roles and responsibilities are assigned. Measures will be taken to ensure long-term project success and/or sustainability of the co-benefits of the project. | Project has clear but non-specific objectives and strategies are likely to make progress toward overall goals.<br><br>If project includes tree planting, maintenance, or removal, some but not all details are provided. Roles and responsibilities are broadly assigned. Long-term project success and/or sustainability of the co-benefits of the project are alluded to, but no specifics measures are detailed. | Project goals, objectives, and strategies are vague, but stated strategies are likely beneficial for the community<br><br>If project includes tree planting, maintenance, or removal, details are lacking. Roles and responsibilities are addressed, without specific details. Long-term project success and/or sustainability of the co-benefits of the project are not addressed. | Project does not establish goals.<br><br>Project details are missing, including project activities or roles and responsibilities. There is no clear commitment to tree maintenance or survival. |
| Public Access & Engagement | Project occurs only in areas that are critical to daily life in the community and are free to access for all Vermonters regardless of any identity they hold, or other protected status.<br><br>Project area is among the most highly used places in the community. | Project scope focuses on areas of full public access that are critical to life in the community some of the time or may have limited impact on the whole community.<br><br>Project area is in frequent use compared to other spaces in the community. | Project area includes less critical public locations, and the location of the project seems less central to overarching project scope.<br><br>Project area is infrequent use compared to other spaces in the community | Project is located on private or restricted access land (may cost to access).<br><br>Project area is rarely in use compared to other spaces in the community. |
| Budget | Budget is comprehensive, realistic, and optimizes the use of grant funds by achieving valuable goals at a very cost-effective rate. | Adequate budget but may require clarification or more detail. Project achieves valuable goals at a standard rate. | Budget lacks detail or is not realistic. Project achieves its goals at an above average cost. | Budget is not complete or is inconsistent with project scope. Or achieves goals at an unacceptably high cost. |
| Impact & Community Engagement | The project will meaningfully benefit or improve conditions in the community and includes robust engagement. The public/stakeholders will be engaged at multiple points throughout the project. True community uplift will expand knowledge and excitement about urban and community forestry. | The project may benefit the community, but these benefits may be somewhat indirect.<br>The public/stakeholders will be engaged through outreach, but mostly to inform them or convince them to allow the project to be completed. The outreach may bolster existing UCF partners. | The project has little impact on the community, or the impact will be extremely localized. Public outreach and engagement are addressed vaguely, but it seems unlikely that new urban and community forestry advocates will be recruited or energized. | The project does not include any discernable, impactful public engagement or outreach. |