**Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative (TEDI)

Grant Application for Spring 2025 Tree Planting Projects**

**DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy
100 W. Water Street, Suite 5A
Dover, DE 19904**

**Deadline:** Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 2024.

**Submission Instructions:** Applicants should provide the project information requested below in addition to maps, drawings, narrative text, or other information needed to clearly describe the project proposal. Completed proposal applications must be submitted electronically via email to Scott Blaier at scott.blaier@delaware.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 2024.

 **Organization Contact Information**

Organization’s Name:

Primary Contact Person:

Mailing Address:

Primary Contact Email:

Primary Contact Phone Number:

Please check the organization type:

\_\_\_\_ Delaware State Agency

\_\_\_\_ Conservation District

\_\_\_\_ County Government

\_\_\_\_ Municipality/Local Government

 \_\_\_\_ Non-Governmental Organization with 501(c)(3) status

 \_\_\_\_ Public School District

 \_\_\_\_ Private School - Kindergarten - 12th grade

 \_\_\_\_ College or University

 \_\_\_\_ Tribal Government

 \_\_\_\_ Business entity responsible for corporate campus(es)

For Non-Governmental Organization having 501(c)(3) status, does the organization possess aggregate insurance of one million dollars or more?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

*Note: Funding requests can include more than one project, as provided in the example below. Complete the Project Description and Selection Criteria sections for each proposed site/project.*

 **Requested Amount**

Project 1 Name $X,XXX

Project 2 Name $X,XXX

Add additional sites as necessary

TOTAL REQUESTED AMOUNT $XX,XXX

***Project 1 Name***

Estimated number of trees to be planted: XX,XXX seedlings, saplings, etc.

Estimated cost for trees: $XX,XXX

Estimated cost for supplies: $XX,XXX

Estimated combined cost for trees & supplies: $XX,XXX

Funding Requested: $XX,XXX

Average cost per tree (total TEDI funds requested divided by number of trees to be planted): $XX,XXX

**Match (not included in proposal scoring, information is used for reporting purposes):** Are there matching funds supporting this project? Please provide details and funding source, if any, including dollar amount, materials list, and volunteer time. Are matching funds needed for this project? Are there federal funding opportunities for which your organization is seeking to leverage funding?

**Project Scope:** Use this section to describe the project. How does the project address afforestation/reforestation or tree canopy enhancement? What is the general location? Describe the existing site conditions. What month(s) and year will the planting take place? What size trees will be planted and what are the associated costs? How many acres (or number of trees) will be restored? What tree species will be planted?

**Project Benefit(s): Use this section to describe the overall project benefits.** How will the project benefit and enhance wildlife? Does the project connect other contiguous forested lands? What is the water quality benefit? Would the project replace trees lost due to storms, drought, or pests within critical habitat areas or bordering waterways? How will the project reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases?

*Evaluation Criteria for Project Benefit (35 points out of 100 points). The project focuses on reforestation and/or afforestation efforts, wildlife protection and enhancement, water quality benefits, bridges, or connects surrounding forest lands, etc. Other benefits could include shading and cooling, improved quality of life, improved storm-water management, replacement of trees lost due to pest or storm damage, protection, or enhancement of critical habitat, etc.*

**Outreach: Use this section to describe any anticipated opportunities for learning or outreach about the benefits of trees or proper tree care.** How will efforts be coordinated to provide community outreach and involvement from the public and surrounding communities? Will a volunteer organization be involved in the project? Is there an educational component to the project?

*Evaluation Criteria for Outreach (15 out of 100 points): The project engages community volunteers, incorporates general public education, involves Kindergarten through grade 12 students, includes education on tree care and maintenance, etc.*

**Project Benefit(s) Specific to Environmental Justice Impacts:** Describe any anticipated benefits to environmental justice communities. See Appendix A for additional information regarding maps and tools for applicants to utilize and questions to consider when completing this sections of the proposal.

**Other:** Include any other relevant information that describes the project and potential benefits not covered in preceding sections. Attach maps and photos as appropriate.

 ***Project 2 Name***

Repeat information provided for Project 1 above

**2025 Tree for Every Delawarean (TEDI) Call for Proposals**

**Appendix A: Environmental Justice**

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies; and the equitable access to green spaces, climate resilience, public recreation opportunities, and information and data on potential exposures to environmental hazards.

At the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), environmental justice seeks equity for minority and low-income communities that may be disproportionally exposed - and vulnerable - to adverse environmental impacts. Simply put, practicing environmental justice ensures everyone has an equal seat at the table where decisions are made. To learn more about environmental justice at DNREC and access information and resources available to communities, please go to: <https://dnrec.delaware.gov/environmental-justice/>

Environmental justice is a consideration used to select projects for TEDI funding. TEDI project proposals should consider and identify any direct and indirect benefits the project will provide to adjacent and/or nearby environmental justice communities. Applicants should include a description of these benefits in the project proposal. Because environmental justice benefits are not always obvious or easily discerned, this appendix has been provided to assist applicants in identifying potential environmental justice benefits associated with their project.

Projects that do not have a clear link to an environmental justice community are still eligible for funding; environmental justice considerations are one of several factors that will be to determine which project proposals will receive funding. Applicants should seek to include all potential project benefits in their proposals.

Applicants are encouraged to use the appropriate means at their disposal to identify environmental justice benefits. These benefits can include, among others, shading and cooling, water quality improvements, flood abatement, passive recreation, and/or educational opportunities.

Applicants should use the tools below to identify environmental justice communities. If the project area is not within or adjacent to areas identified in one of the tools below, potential environmental justice benefits can be described at a statewide or regional scale.

When using the Tools for Identifying Environmental Justice Project Benefits included below, consider the following questions as they relate to your project:

1). Is the project located within or adjacent to a Limited English Neighborhood and/or DelDOT Equity Focus Area as identified by the DNREC EJ Area Viewer?

2). Is the project within or adjacent to an area with a tree equity score of 70 or less as identified by the American Forests Tree Equity tool?

3). Will the project provide shade and cooling for environmental justice communities as temperatures rise with climate change, and/or potentially mitigate heat island affects in these communities?

4). Will the project help mitigate air pollution and generally improve air, water, and soil quality for environmental justice communities?

5). Will the project provide recreation, aesthetic, and other similar benefits to environmental justice communities?

6). Will the project deliver improved human health outcomes through passive recreation or aesthetics (air quality for example)?

7). Will the project mitigate impacts from natural disasters such as flooding by improving stormwater management in environmental justice communities?

**Tools for Identifying Environmental Justice Project Benefits**

*DNREC Environmental Justice Area Viewer:*

To integrate environmental justice into its decision-making, DNREC has developed a map-based tool that leverages data and information from DNREC programs and external partners to help identify communities disproportionately impacted by agency decisions and environmental issues.

DNREC uses data tools, mapping resources, and information technology to study the health and resilience of Delaware’s natural resources, manage programs, and provide information to the public. These tools include detailed datasets, digital mapping tools (known as geospatial data tools) and a variety of tools to share data and information. In addition, there are several federal and local tools to help identify traditionally underserved and underrepresented populations. The DNREC Environmental Justice Area Viewer tool is available here: <https://dnrec.delaware.gov/environmental-justice/data/>

*EPA’s EJSCREEN*:

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) definition, Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.  An overview of EPA’s Environmental Justice “EJSCREEN” tool can be found by visiting <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>. This website features an online mapper (<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>). The Environmental Justice Index of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) represents a rating of air quality degradation, where a lower number (out of 100) is preferred over a higher number. If this method of analysis is chosen, please note all proposed tree planting projects located in areas that are *60th percentile or higher* above the national average for PM 2.5, as shown in the EJSCREEN online mapper.

*American Forests Tree Equity Score:*

Trees can help address damaging environmental inequities like air pollution. The Tree Equity Score combines certain metrics such as tree canopy, population density, income, employment, surface temperature, race, age, and health into one single score between 0 and 100. The Tree Equity Score mapper can be found by visiting <https://www.treeequityscore.org/>. The Tree Equity Score is available for some select communities (not all) in Delaware, where a higher number is preferred, representing a percentage out of 100. If this method of analysis is chosen, please note all proposed tree planting projects located in areas having a Tree Equity Score of *75 or less*, as shown in the American Forests online mapper tool.