$1.5 Billion to Expand Tree Canopy and Access to Nature

100% of Benefits Will Flow to Communities in Greatest Need

Urban and Community Forestry Grants, authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act, provide funding to community-based organizations, Tribes, States and local agencies, public colleges and universities, and non-profits working to provide equitable access to trees and nature and the benefits they provide to urban communities.

Investing in a Healthier Future for America

In 2023, $1.5 billion in grants were awarded to 100 states, Territories, and U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands, and multiple Tribal communities with 100% of benefits flowing to those in greatest need.

1

Expanding Tree Canopy in Our Communities

Benefiting cities, towns, villages, non-profit organizations, tribes, communities and faith-based organizations, and minority serving institutions.

2

The Benefits of Trees in our Communities

Trees mitigate extreme heat, conserve energy, provide shade, absorb stormwater, create wildlife habitat, and filter air and water. An urban tree canopy leads to better health outcomes, economic opportunities and jobs, and increased property values.

3

Confronting the Growing Threat of Extreme Heat and Climate Change

July 2023 was the hottest month on record in communities around the country. Research has shown tree canopies can reduce temperatures 11-19°F compared to communities with no tree cover.

4

Urban and Community Forestry FY 2023 IRA Grant Allocations in Millions of Dollars

The USDA Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded more than $1.5 billion to fund projects that support urban communities through equitable access to trees and the benefits they provide. The funding was made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Historic Investments in America’s Cities, Towns, Suburbs, and Tribal Communities

100% of Benefits Will Flow to Communities in Greatest Need

Investments from the Inflation Reduction Act will fund 385 projects dedicated to tree planting and maintenance, workforce development,avoid utilization, extreme heat mitigation, restoration and resilience strategies, and community planning. Most projects include multiple themes.

Tree Planting & Maintenance

60 percent of the projects will support the planting, monitoring, and long-term maintenance of trees, including those in public outdoor lands and parks, along streets and schools, and in parks, and community gardens.

Restoration and Resilience

40 percent of the projects will support urban forest management, pollution abatement, and strategies that increase community resilience to droughts, floods, storms, Vector-borne diseases, and other natural disasters.

Workforce Development

40 percent of the projects will create and sustain living-wage jobs in green industries and provide career pathways into urban forestry and related fields for youth and adults to enter the workforce.

Extreme Heat

80 percent of the projects will involve the planting, fencing, and long-term care of urban trees needed to mitigate long-term temperatures in growing megapolitan areas.

Community Engagement in Urban Forestry Planning

10 percent of the projects will empower local communities, especially those experiencing irreparable environmental and social burdens, to participate in decision-making that enhances conditions locally, regionally, and nationally.