

Boston Tree Alliance

Tree Planting and Care Grant

Attachment and Guidelines



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With support from:



CITY of BOSTON

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The Boston Tree Alliance

The Boston Tree Alliance (“The Alliance”) is a coalition of nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, urban forestry professionals, and stakeholders working collectively to **equitably grow and care for new trees on private property in Boston**. The Alliance is supported by Mass Audubon and the City of Boston’s Office of Climate Resilience in coordination with Parks and Recreation.

The [Urban Forest Plan](#) (UFP), which guides the efforts of the program, found that **60%** of Boston’s existing tree canopy is located on private land and there’s room to grow the canopy. Residential land in Boston also experienced the greatest loss of tree canopy.

The program goals of the Alliance include:

- Increase access to trees and their benefits through tree planting and associated care
- Share tree planting and care best practices through public engagement and education
- Focus on socioeconomically disadvantaged communities that are under-canopied and susceptible to urban heat island effects, to support the city’s Heat Plan and Urban Forest Plan

Eligible Costs

General Overview

Maximum Grant Request: \$249,000*

The Boston Tree Alliance Tree Planting and Care Grant program is **providing up to \$688,00 in funding to support tree planting and associated care on privately owned lands in the city of Boston. Community-based and non-profit organizations may apply for funding starting on September 9th, 2026, for a maximum of \$249,000***. The program focuses on expanding access to trees and their benefits in under-canopied communities that experience greater impacts from urban heat islands. This program is funded in by a grant to the City of Boston from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Mass Audubon is contracted with the city to facilitate the distribution of grant funds and administer the program.

Organizations interested in tree planting and care are encouraged to apply for grant funding **regardless of previous experience**. Applications will be reviewed by Mass Audubon alongside the City of Boston.

**\$249,000 maximum applies per awardee over the lifetime of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Applicants from prior rounds may reach out to the program manager if they have a question about the maximum amount they are eligible for this round.*

Eligible Lands

The efforts of Boston's Urban Forestry Division have helped the city of Boston increase and improve tree canopy on public land, such as parks, street trees, public schools, and more. More information can be found at [Urban Forestry | Boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov/departments/urban-forestry).

As described in the program overview, the focus of the Boston Tree Alliance Tree Planting and Care grant is on **private land**. The Urban Forest Plan found that 60% of Boston's tree canopy is located on private land – residential, commercial, etc. - and that residential land had the greatest losses in canopy.

Eligible applicants may apply for funding for a project to be conducted on **private land** within the city of Boston. Examples of private land may include, but are not limited to: residential land, commercial properties, cemeteries, churches, universities, and more.

In order to work with private landowners, applicants can identify private land from the City of Boston's Parcel Viewer tool here [Boston Tax Parcel Viewer](https://www.boston.gov/departments/urban-forestry/parcel-viewer). A Landowner Agreement must be signed by the landowner for any private property where tree planting will occur. An example is attached in the document below.

Note: Land owned by any public agency, whether city, state, or federal, is NOT eligible for tree planting. Situations of publicly-owned land under site control agreements or long-term leases by a non-public entity are not eligible to receive Boston Tree Alliance funding. Land must be located within the City of Boston and in the eligible map areas.

Eligible Geographic Boundaries

In addition to the requirements for projects to occur on private land in the City of Boston, tree planting must take place within specific geographic boundaries **as outlined in the map [linked here](#)**.

In accordance with census tract boundaries approved by the USDA Forest Service, projects that occur outside of the specified geographic areas in the linked map will not be eligible to receive funds from this grant in this round.

Eligible Uses of Funding

Eligible project activities include:

- Tree planting on private property (this may include one or multiple properties) and associated costs. Choosing the right trees for your project can have a major impact on project success. See the section below for species selection before finalizing your species list.
- Maintenance activities and costs associated with tree planting projects (watering, weeding, inspection, pruning, mulching, staking) for up to 2 years after planting are required.
- Site preparation for tree planting projects (de-paving, green infrastructure, stump removal, decompaction, etc. **as directly related to new tree planting**). Descriptions of these items can be found on page 12 of this document. While not required for tree planting projects, we encourage folks to explore how site preparation can impact your project.

Shovel-Ready Projects

The Boston Tree Alliance will award grants on a competitive basis to fund shovel-ready projects for tree planting and care on private land. Grant applications must meet all eligibility requirements and provide thorough detail according to the information listed throughout the Guidelines and Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Shovel-ready projects are projects ready to be implemented within the next year (through December 2027). Grant awardees must implement projects upon the

approved timeline of a spring (April-May) or fall (October-November) tree planting season in 2027.

Some key characteristics of shovel-ready projects include:

- Planting location(s) identified on private land in Boston in eligible map area
 - Siting for trees performed by a trained individual, or outreach to the Alliance for technical assistance if needed
- Permission to plant has been given by landowner and Landowner Agreement signed or ready to be signed
- Project management prepared to undertake urban forestry project – planning, planting, care, and engagement
- Any additional funding sources are secured or the project can clearly be structured in a phased approach that utilizes Boston Tree Alliance funding before December 2027.
- Any necessary permitting needed for the completion of your project (i.e. if your project takes place in a classified wetland) must be obtained from the appropriate office BEFORE application submission.

For more examples of what a shovel-ready project may look like, check out these case studies of past projects supported by BTA funding: [Boston Tree Alliance Case Studies](#).

Tree Species Selection Guidelines

Choosing the right tree for the right place is the key to seeing your tree grow, mature, and provide benefits to you and your community for years to come. This section provides a number of resources and tips to support you in planning a successful tree planting project. Below are resources and considerations for choosing the best tree for your site and project needs.

Finding the Right Tree

- Consider all site conditions including sun exposure, soil conditions, land use, utilities present, and any other relevant conditions that may affect tree growth.
- Trees that are native to Massachusetts and are well suited for urban environments can typically adapt better to local weather conditions and provide ecosystem services that nonnative trees cannot provide.
- Trees planted along roads, walkways, or near coastlines should be species that have higher salt tolerance as these sites are consistently inundated with road salts.
- Take note of trees that are susceptible to local pests and diseases. Avoid species that have high risk of infection or search for resistant cultivars.
- Soil tests can be conducted to determine soil profile and to detect any potential nutrient deficiencies- always test soils before applying fertilizer.
- Trees must have a minimum diameter of .5 inches, exceptions for this must be cleared by Boston Tree Alliance Staff as most saplings will need extra care and protection.

Sourcing Trees

Reach out to local and regional accredited tree nurseries to resource preferred tree species, sizes and stock types. The Boston Tree Alliance cannot make direct nursery recommendations, however, the [MassGrown Map](#) can provide more information on nurseries near you.

Stock Type Considerations

Consider available stock types: trees can come potted, bare root, or balled and burlap- each of these options have their own pros and cons and different project suitability.

Follow [American Standard for Nursery Stock](#) rules and guidelines.

Price Considerations

The type of tree species, size, stock type, and rarity will affect the cost per tree. Other cost considerations include but are not limited to:

- Staking, trunk guarding, and fencing needs.
- Larger trees will require more water for establishment and mulch for making sizeable rings, raising the cost of watering and mulching each tree. They may also require the use of heavy machinery for tree planting. The purchasing of heavy machinery is not covered by Tree Alliance funding.
- Site preparation needed for tree planting: de-paving costs, green infrastructure, irrigation systems, stump removal, etc. More information can be found on page 12 of this document.

Resources for Species Selection

The websites below are all good resources for exploring different types of trees that are suitable to growing in cities and the types of conditions that are needed for them to thrive.

- [Arbor Day's tree selector tool](#) can help match potential species to the site but will not show every possible species.
- [DCR's Selecting Trees for Your Urban and Community Forest](#)
- [UMass Amherst's Planting For Resilience: Selecting Urban Trees in Massachusetts](#)
- [Climate Change Vulnerability For Urban Trees; Boston Massachusetts](#)
- [Boston Region Urban Trees: Climate, Carbon, and Health](#)
- Trees found on [Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List](#) are **not allowed**.

Tree Planting Guidelines and Associated Costs

Planting must occur in either spring (April-May) or fall (October-November). Exceptions for this must be cleared by Boston Tree Alliance staff.

Tree alliance funding can be used to cover the costs of all items associated with tree planting projects and associated labor for the following items:

Steps for Proper Tree Planting

1. Call DigSafe (811- It's the law!) 2-3 weeks prior to project to mark public utilities. Obtain information on private underground utilities landowner whenever possible as DigSafe does not provide information on private utilities. All utilities must be marked before holes can be dug to plant trees.
2. All trees planted with Boston Tree Alliance (BTA) funding must meet International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards as well as American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 standards.
3. Remove all nursery materials and tagging from the tree before planting.
4. Trees must be planted in holes that are 2-3 times as wide as the root ball and as deep as the root ball so that the root flare is at grade with final soil level.
5. Remove any roots that are circling or crisscrossing (girdling) the root ball as these can strangle the tree as they mature.
6. Backfill holes with native soil so that roots are stable but not compacted.
7. Water trees during and immediately after planting.

Mulching

- Provide a mulch ring surrounding the tree.
- Mulch ring should be sized at a rate of 1ft of radius per inch of trunk diameter. Example: A tree with a trunk diameter of 2 inches will have a mulch ring that expands 4 feet in diameter.
- Mulch should be 2-4 inches thick and should not cover the trunk or root flare of the tree.
- Use un-dyed bark mulch or, whenever possible, use leaf litter/mulch, especially allowing for the tree's own leaves to mulch itself.

Pruning

- Do not prune the tree for at least one year after planting, only broken branches should be removed at the time of planting
- Reject [low quality stock](#) that has two or more dominant stems, multiple dead stems, or any signs or symptoms of disease

Staking, Trunk Guards, and Fencing

- Add one to three wooden stakes around the tree depending on tree size and site wind severity
- Place stakes in the ground along the outer edge of the mulch ring (see mulching section above for details)
- Stakes should be loosely tied with arbor tie so that they do not girdle trunk and can allow some movement in wind
- All trees should be provided with trunk guards to protect trees from sunscald and damage from mowers and weed whackers
- Fencing should be installed in areas where deer and rabbit browse are of concern

Data Reporting

- Upon receiving an award from the Boston Tree Alliance, a TreePlotter account will be created for the organization. This account will house all tree planting and inspection data associated with these funds and will be the duty of the grant recipient to maintain post-planting, 6 month, 1 and 2 year inspections. After tree planting is completed, data must be uploaded to TreePlotter within the following two weeks. Grant recipients can anticipate training on use of TreePlotter with the Tree Alliance's Urban and Community Forester. Data reporting is a mandatory requirement for BTA funding recipients.

Tree Maintenance Guidelines and Associated Costs

Tree alliance funding can be used for two years of maintenance to cover the following categories plus labor costs for these items:

Watering

- All trees should be given 5 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter 2-3 times a week from spring through end of fall
 - Trees that do not lose leaves such as evergreen species should receive continued watering until the ground freezes
- Water more during times of drought and less during heavy rains or flooding
- Water on this schedule for at least 2 years after planting
- If using a gator bag, inspect frequently that there are no signs of moisture issues throughout the season, if symptoms occur, switch to tree diaper or other watering method that does not hold moisture next to the trunk

Mulching

- Mulch should be refreshed every year as it will gradually decompose throughout the season
- Mulch rings shall be weeded throughout the season especially of any vines that may start climbing up the trunk
- Avoid placing new mulch against the trunk or root flare
- If using leaf litter as mulch, reapply more frequently as leaves tend to decompose quicker than bark mulch
- Allowing the tree's own leaves to remain over its root system will provide best nutritional and ecological outcomes

Staking, Trunk Guards, and Fencing

- Staking and arbor tie should be removed after one year. However, if the tree is planted within a strong wind tunnel, staking can remain for two years
- Ensure trunk guards are not rubbing against bark or girdling trees, adjust monthly as trunk expands

Pruning

- Follow American National Standards Institute [A300 standards](#)
- Please review the BTA tree pruning [guidelines](#)

Tree Damage or Death

- If trees are damaged beyond recovery or die within the first year, it must be replaced by the next closest planting season (Spring: April-May, Fall: October-November)
- If you notice signs or symptoms of disease or pest issues, report them to BTA or contracted arborist for advice on treatment options and next steps
- If trees are purchased without a warranty, leave a small portion of the project budget to cover the replacement of any tree that dies in the two years following planting. If this money is not spent by the two-year mark, allocate it to any maintenance requirements for the new trees

Expanded Site Preparation Guidelines and Associated Costs

Outside of calling DigSafe, removing any turf or ground cover present, and digging proper sized holes for new trees, Boston Tree Alliance funding can cover the following items and associated labor to increase and improve planting space across privately owned land in the city:

De-Paving

The removal of impervious surfaces such as concrete or asphalt can greatly increase the amount of water absorbed into soil and taken up by trees. Boston Tree Alliance funding can be used to remove and dispose of these impervious materials if it is done so for the purpose of tree planting. Asphalt removal can be done manually or mechanically, while concrete removal must be done mechanically. All permitting laws and guidelines regarding the removal, disposal, or replacement of any pervious or impervious surfaces must be followed and approved before funding can be disbursed.

- The removal of impermeable pavements can reduce flooding by allowing tree roots and soil to absorb more water which will have a positive effect on tree health and reducing the urban heat island effect
- When de-paving is a necessary component for the installation of other green infrastructure permeable surfaces should be used to replace the formerly paved areas, whenever possible

Parameters of spending: The removal of impervious surfaces shall take place directly in areas where trees will be planted.

Green Infrastructure

Boston Tree Alliance funding can be used for the procurement and installation of certain green infrastructure features that directly aid in the growth of trees in urban spaces. When submitting application, please ensure any green infrastructure listed in budget is explicit in how it will directly benefit newly planted trees and does not extend beyond the tree's growing space.

Examples of this include but are not necessarily limited to structural soil/soil cells, suspended pavement, permeable pavement, and stormwater catchment systems. The number of trees planted should always be a priority, and utilizing the site to fit as many trees as it can accommodate is encouraged. [This guide](#) provides more information on soil volume requirements for growing trees.

Soil Cells/Suspended Soil

Soil cells and suspended soil are underground structural components of green infrastructure that support the weight of heavy land use while holding soil and protecting it from compaction.

- These are best used for plazas, sidewalks, roadways, and other situations in which tree root zones are subject to extreme compaction.
- This tends to be a pricier option, but has shown better results for allowing trees to reach mature canopy size and is preferred over structural soil when feasible.
- Projects including these components should consider the root zone capacity of the tree species and plan on providing enough space for mature trees while not extending beyond the capacity of these root systems.

Structural Soil

Structural soil is also used to support heavy weight loads around root zones but uses a mix of gravel and soil to support the weight while allowing space for root growth.

- Structural soil can be more cost effective and flexible with future changes, but has more mixed results with tree longevity.

Permeable Surfaces

Permeable surfaces allow for water infiltration and reduce heat island effect by allowing subsoils to absorb water and reflect less heat.

- Permeable pavers supported by this grant must be shown to be placed directly above tree roots projected extent. This is usually determined by the mature size of the tree and its dripline.
- Adding permeable surfaces around tree root zone can allow water to infiltrate the root zone which is beneficial to the development of the tree.
- Resin-bound stone is recommended for accessibility as pavers can easily buckle and potentially cause tripping hazards if not properly maintained.

Stormwater Catchment Systems

Above ground options such as rain barrels and below ground options such catch basins can collect stormwater for the purpose of caring for newly planted trees, which will require plenty of water for establishment.

- [Stormwater tree systems](#) can mitigate flooding issues- reach out to City of Boston Street's Cabinet to learn more about this option.

Parameters of Green Infrastructure Spending

Any procurement or implementation of green infrastructure to a site must be done for the direct benefit of trees being planted within the scope of the project. The number of trees and their intended mature size will determine the amount of necessary green infrastructure to support tree growth in each project.

Tree Removal

Hazardous trees are trees that present a near-future or immediate threat to the people, animals, or landscape below. Only trees that are dead, dying, or diseased beyond recovery can be removed with Boston Tree Alliance funding. Tree removal can only be done if at least one replacement tree is planted in its place. Planting more than one replacement tree is encouraged whenever suitable. A hazard tree must be identified by an ISA or state certified arborist and must comply with all rules in the Boston City Tree Ordinance, "[7-15.13 REMOVAL OF PRIVATE TREES](#)."

Parameters of spending: Only trees deemed dead, dying or hazardous by an ISA or state certified arborist can be removed for the planting of at least one replacement tree. All removals must follow Boston City Tree Ordinance rules.

*Please note: Applicant must provide the name and contact information of certified arborists who determine the tree's condition and will be vetted by BTA staff before removal can take place.

Irrigation Systems

Consistently watering a newly planted tree is key to its survival, and it can take many years of watering before it is fully established. Irrigation systems are an option for passive watering when hand-watering needs cannot be met or managed. Boston Tree Alliance funding can be used for the installation of drip line irrigation around new trees. Boston Water and Sewer must be contacted when installing new irrigation systems that connect to city water lines. Existing irrigation systems should add only drip lines around the base of the tree while leaving enough room for trunk expansion. Improper irrigation set ups can girdle tree roots trunks. Do not use sprinkler systems for the purpose of watering in newly planted trees as constant water exposure on trunk can result in fungal issues.

Parameters of Irrigation Systems Spending

The installation of new irrigation lines and systems must directly serve newly planted trees with the capacity to supply the necessary amount of water for establishment. Boston Tree Alliance funding cannot be used to install irrigation in existing landscaping outside of new trees.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	10 Points	5 Points	0 Points
<i>Applicant Eligibility</i>	The applicant meets all eligibility requirements.	Unclear whether applicant meets eligibility requirements.	Eligibility requirements for applicant and/or project are not met.
<i>Tree Planting</i>	The applicant has provided a detailed plan for tree planting that aligns with Species Selection and Planting attachments. Clearly lays out how project goals will be accomplished. If applicable: site preparation plan has clear timeline and description of work and any necessary permits have been obtained.	Plan for tree planting aligns with Species Selection and Planting attachments, but lacks some detail and/or unclear how project goals will be accomplished.	Tree planting plan lacks required detail. Plan does not align with Species Selection and/or Planting attachments.
<i>Tree Care</i>	The applicant has provided a detailed plan for two years of tree care/maintenance that aligns with Maintenance attachment. Clearly lays out how project goals will be accomplished.	Plan for two years of tree care/maintenance aligns with Maintenance attachment but lacks some detail and/or unclear how project goals will be accomplished.	Plan for two years of tree care/maintenance lacks required detail. Plan does not align with Species Selection, Planting, and/or Maintenance attachments.
<i>Site Selection and Planting Address</i>	Applicant provides a known location for tree planting. Project prioritizes Priority Zone criteria from the Urban	Planting address is not currently known, but plan for identifying location(s) is clearly	There is no known location for tree planting, and project does not prioritize Priority Zone criteria

	Forest Plan, or CEJST disadvantaged communities. In the City of Boston and on private land.	laid out and project will prioritize Priority Zone criteria from the Urban Forest Plan or CEJST disadvantaged communities. In the City of Boston and on private land.	from the Urban Forest Plan or CEJST disadvantaged communities. Not in the City of Boston and/or not on private land.
<i>Budget</i>	Budget proposal is detailed and clearly outlines project costs. Costs are reasonable and maximize the number of trees planted given space and project goals. All proposed project expenses meet eligibility requirements.	Budget lacks some detail, clarity is needed around project costs. All proposed project expenses meet eligibility requirements.	Budget lacks required detail, does not maximize number of trees planted, and/or does not meet eligibility requirements.
<i>Engagement and Community Impact</i>	Applicant is engaged or demonstrates willingness to engage with the Boston Tree Alliance. Applicant demonstrates strong community engagement and capacity to meet reporting requirements. Strong community impact demonstrated.	Applicant demonstrates some community engagement and impact as well as capacity to meet reporting requirements, but does not demonstrate willingness to engage with Boston Tree Alliance.	Applicant is unwilling to engage with the Boston Tree Alliance. Applicant does not demonstrate community engagement, impact, and/or capacity to meet reporting requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Program

Does the Boston Tree Alliance supply trees for organizations?

At this time, the Boston Tree Alliance does not source or supply trees for the organization's tree planting projects. Organizations should incorporate costs associated with any planting project materials in their project budget.

What type of projects is the BTA looking to fund?

The Boston Tree Alliance seeks to increase the canopy of Boston's urban forest on privately owned land. Ideal projects for BTA funding prioritize maximizing the number of trees, planting in areas as outlined in the geographic boundaries map, and employing elements of community engagement or education.

If my organization chooses to hire someone to do tree planting and care for the project, where do I go to get that information?

Applicants are encouraged to explore the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Urban and Community Forestry resources here: [Picks and Shovels: Urban and Community Forestry Resources | Mass.gov](#).

Are there other opportunities to get involved with the Boston Tree Alliance besides applying for funding?

Yes! We welcome folks to email bostontreealliance@massaudubon.org with any inquiries. If you are part of an organization and interested in attending meetings, please fill out [this Interest Form](#). Individuals who are interested in having a new tree planted on their property may fill out the [New Tree Request Form](#).

Application Process

How do I learn more about applying for funding for tree planting and care on private land?

Please feel free to contact bostontreealliance@massaudubon.org with any questions, or [book an office hour](#) with this link! More information can be found on the City of Boston's website here: [B.T.A. TREE PLANTING GRANT | Boston.gov](#).

Can my organization apply for funding more than once?

Organizations are encouraged to submit a maximum of one application for all tree planting that will take place each year. The maximum grant funding per organization is \$249,000 total over the lifetime of the U.S. Forest Service grant through 2028.

Is support available for the grant application process?

Yes! We will be hosting a grant information session and offer open hours for applicants to meet with our team.

Eligibility

How do I know whether or not I am qualified to apply for funding? Additionally, how do I know if my project is eligible for funding?

Community-based organizations and non-profit organizations that work with or serve Boston residents and Boston-based organizations are eligible to apply for funding through this grant program. Organizations may apply in partnership for funding. Projects must conduct tree planting on non-publicly owned land in the City of Boston. Specific criteria may be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The program focuses on areas that are heat islands, under-canopied, and in Environmental Justice (EJ) census tracts.

What are the new geographic boundaries associated with this funding release?

In accordance with census tract boundaries approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, projects that occur outside of the specified geographic areas in the linked map will not be eligible to receive funds from this grant in this round.

[Tree planting projects must be located within the areas denoted by the map for both planting seasons in 2027.](#) To be eligible for funding, projects must match this additional location requirement as well as being on privately-owned land in the City of Boston. Applicants should identify planting site location upon submission of the application.

Reporting and Follow-Up Requirements

Is my organization required to care for the trees that I plant? What is required in terms of reporting/ follow-up?

Yes, grantee organizations are required to care for and maintain the trees planted with BTA funds. Organizations must demonstrate a tree planting and care plan in their

applications. Trees must be maintained for at least 2 years after the day of planting. Previous applicants have worked with property owners and volunteer groups to support care, however, grantees are responsible for making sure care happens even if they are not directly doing the maintenance activities. All tree planting and care must adhere to best management practices (BMPs) and standards of arboriculture. Organizations must report back with data and photos from the day of planting and 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years after planting.

Green Infrastructure

Can I use BTA funding to pay for landscape architect/structural engineer designs for projects that incorporate green infrastructure for tree planting?

While we encourage thoughtful design in these projects, Boston Tree Alliance funding can only fund for the general planning, materials, labor, community engagement, and maintenance of tree planting projects. Costs for designing green spaces cannot take precedence over the costs of project implementation and should only consist of 10-20% of the total budget at most.

What considerations are there when incorporating green infrastructure into a project?

There are many considerations when incorporating green infrastructure into a project. These include but are not limited to:

- Any necessary permitting
 - Note: if your project is located in an area that is classified as a wetland by the City of Boston, wetland permitting is required and should be completed before submitting Tree Alliance application.
 - All permits should be in progress or completed at the time of application. Any necessary permitting should be completed before awards can be disbursed.
- Design
- Maintenance to ensure infrastructure is working correctly- this will depend on infrastructure components used and manufacturer guidelines.
- Hiring experienced contractors.
- Timelines are expected to be longer than typical tree planting projects.

Can I use BTA funding to pay for other green infrastructure components such as rain gardens and green roofs?

Green infrastructure paid for with BTA funding must directly support tree planting projects and the tree's ability to reach maturity. Most green roofs do not typically hold enough soil for trees, and many rain gardens prioritize herbaceous plants and shrubs. If trees are planted in either green roofs or rain gardens, BTA funding can be used to plant and care for the trees in these projects only.

Does the Boston Tree Alliance fund green infrastructure projects that include the maintenance, monitoring, and assessment of existing urban trees?

No, the Boston Tree Alliance currently focuses funding on new tree planting projects. While green infrastructure can support existing trees in some ways, precautions should always be taken to avoid damaging, disturbing, or compacting the soil around existing trees. The tree protection zone is the area around the tree where the vital root mass exists and should always be fenced off and protected during construction.

How do I know which green infrastructure components are appropriate for my site?

Each site will have different needs to make it compatible with tree growth. Read through the definitions in the "Green Infrastructure" section to determine which element of tree-supporting green infrastructure is best for your project or reach out to the Boston Tree Alliance for further assistance.

What kind of maintenance is required for green infrastructure components after installation?

General maintenance and monitoring should always be employed when installing and managing new infrastructure. In areas where soil cells or suspended pavement is used, ensure that no areas appear sunken. Ensure that water catchment systems or rain barrels are not leaking and remain unclogged. Leaks in irrigation systems must be promptly addressed and corrected. Maintain level grade with permeable pavements so that there are no tripping hazards. Always follow manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.

Are there city regulations I should be aware of when planning tree planting with green infrastructure?

DigSafe (811- it's the law!) shall always be called at least 2-3 weeks before any digging is done to mark public utilities to ensure that no existing infrastructure is damaged or destroyed. Adding soil or any infrastructure below ground will require extra planning and coordination with DigSafe and landowners to ensure the integrity of existing utilities. Permitting is required whenever projects extend into public rights-of-ways or

if the site has classified wetland status. This [filing guide](#) shares more insight into when and how to apply for a permit with the Boston Conservation Commission.

Example Landowner Agreement

I agree to allow **Contractor** personnel and their crews access to my property for the purpose of planting trees and subsequent post-planting inventory and assessment. Access is being granted for the specific and sole purpose of work associated with tree planting on my property. I understand that **Contractor** will make every attempt to protect my property from damage by the program's planting work.

Acepto dar permiso a los trabajadores de **Contractor** para tener acceso a mi propiedad, con el propósito de plantar árboles y el subsecuente proceso de post-plantado, inventario y evaluación. Se garantiza el acceso a su propiedad con el único propósito del plantado de árboles y los trabajos asociados. **Contractor** hará todos los esfuerzos por proteger su propiedad de posibles daños producidos por el trabajo del programa de plantado.

Landowner Contact Information

Print Name | Escribir su nombre _____

Date | Fecha _____

Landowner Signature | Firma del propietario de casa _____

Street Address | Direccion de calle _____

City | Ciudad _____

Zip Code |Codigo de pueblo _____

Phone | Número de teléfono _____

Email | Correo electrónico _____

I further agree to care for and maintain any tree(s) that I receive as part of this program for 2 years following planting, in accordance with any verbal instructions and/or written literature provided to me by the **Contractor** staff and/or professionals acting on the program's behalf.

Yo entendí que voy a mantener los árboles que recibí del programa por dos (2) años siguiendo las intrucciones que recibí del programa **Contractor**.

Landowner Signature | Firma del propietario de casa _____

Contractor Representative(s) | Reprecentante del Contractor _____

Date | Fecha _____

[**Contractor, Contractor Address**]

Adapted from the Department of Conservation & Recreation Tree Planting Permission Form.