



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
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**Justin Elicker**  
**Mayor**

Tyisha Walker-Myers  
President of the Board of Alders  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

September 19, 2024

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I am pleased to request authorization to accept \$104,613 from the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) as a sub-grantee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (FS) Urban and Community Forestry Program Notice of Funding Opportunity: Inflation Reduction Act – Urban and Community Forestry. URI was awarded money to plant an additional 2,500 trees in New Haven’s disadvantaged environmental justice areas.

Funds will be used to:

- to support staffing, equipment, supplies, contractors, and/or provide stipends through the Board of Education to individual school principals and/or Parent-Teacher-Organizations for the purpose of watering 150 newly planted trees for three successive years on both school (75) and park (75) grounds.
- Further ensure the survivability of 750 new trees planted into parks and schools in environmental justice neighborhoods. (150 trees per year for five years)

There is no match requirement. This revenue has not been fully programmed at this time, but considerations include a combination of the following:

- Hiring a full-time seasonal during the summer months for four years at \$72,960.
- Contractor assistance from groups such as Emerge for watering and mulching
- Purchase of equipment (water tanks, hoses, nozzles, tools, supplies)

This is an exciting time for urban forestry. Now, more than ever, the environmental, health, and economical benefits of trees, and the role that trees play in the fight against climate change are being recognized. Trees are critical infrastructure that require data collection, analysis, risk mitigation, and maintenance.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annie Mixsell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Annie Mixsell  
Tree System Coordinator, Tree Warden  
Parks Department