

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **USFS Urban & Community Forestry Grant: Tree Equity & Employment (TrEE)**

#### **Project – Sub-grant**

New Haven Parks Department

September 24, 2024

Funding request: \$104,613.00 for four years

The New Haven Parks Department seeks authorization to accept a sub-grant from Urban Resources Initiative (URI) in the amount of \$104,613.00.

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)

Urban trees provide many benefits, such as cooling homes, yards, streets, and public spaces by reducing the heat island effect and providing shade and protection from harmful UV rays. Newly planted trees require intensive maintenance in the first three years to ensure survivability. The Parks Department Tree Division successfully watered 180 trees during the 2024 growing season. This sub-grant from URI will build capacity for the Parks Department Tree Division to care for these new trees in disadvantaged environmental neighborhoods.