



**NEW HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Jeffrey Pescosolido, Director**  
34 Middletown Ave, New Haven, CT 06513  
P (203) 946-6132 F (203) 946-7357



**Justin Elicker**  
**Mayor**

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

May 7, 2023

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I am pleased to request authorization to apply for and accept up to \$550,000 from 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.

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 careful management of resources. The money requested in this grant application will be used to create an Urban Forest Master Plan, continue annual inventory of street trees by neighborhoods, and support professional development of the Department of Parks and Public Works Tree Division staff.

Tree Inventory and Tree Canopy Assessment form the backbone of an Urban Forest Management Plan. Since summer 2021, the City has been working in partnership with Urban Resources Initiative (URI) to complete an ongoing inventory of all the street trees across the City. This is considered a bottom-up approach to data collection and a starting point for city-wide management plans. Tree Canopy Assessment mapping, as requested in this grant, will provide a top-down analysis of the urban forest on both public and private property. An Urban Forest Master Plan provides a strategic plan, based on data and utilizing community engagement, to create an equitable, sustainable, and climate resilient vision for the care, management, and growth of New Haven's urban forest. The submission deadline is June 1, 2023. I am awaiting a few final estimates for the budget but expect the ending request amount to be close to \$325,000. All match will be in-kind.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annie Mixsell".

Annie Mixsell  
Tree System Coordinator, Tree Warden  
Department of Parks and Public Works.