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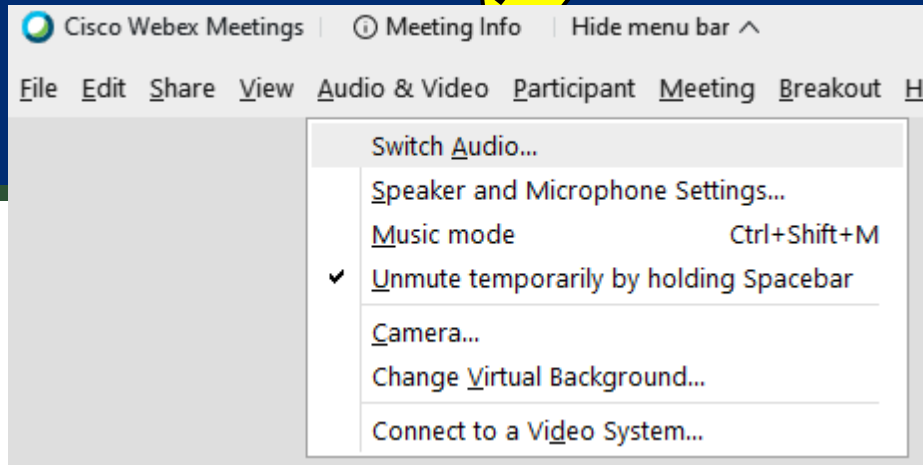
Urban and Community Forestry Grants

- **Community Forest Management Plan Implementation**
- **Ash Tree Management**

Gloria Van Duyne
Urban and Community Forestry Program
October 24, 2023

If you need to change your audio from computer to phone, use the drop-down menu on the upper left corner of your screen. Enter your phone number for Webex to call you.

Start Recording

Cisco Webex Meetings | ⓘ Meeting Info | Hide menu bar ∧

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Goal

To improve the health and quality of the urban and community forest in disadvantaged communities in NY through:

- Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) Implementation
- Ash Tree Management

RFA to be released within a few weeks.

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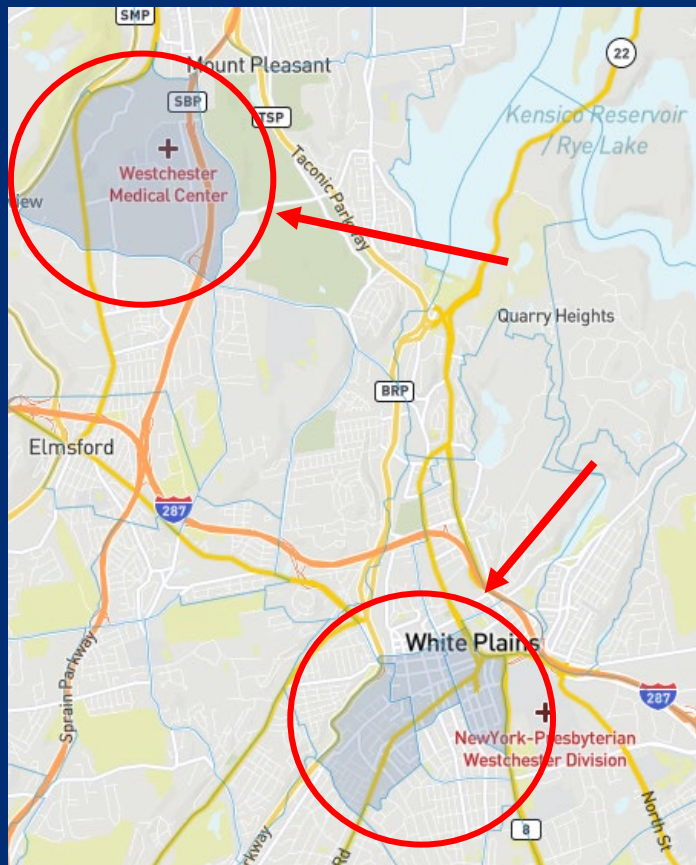
Project Locations - Disadvantaged Communities

Must be in *one of these tools* for this grant:

- Federal Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

- NYS Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)

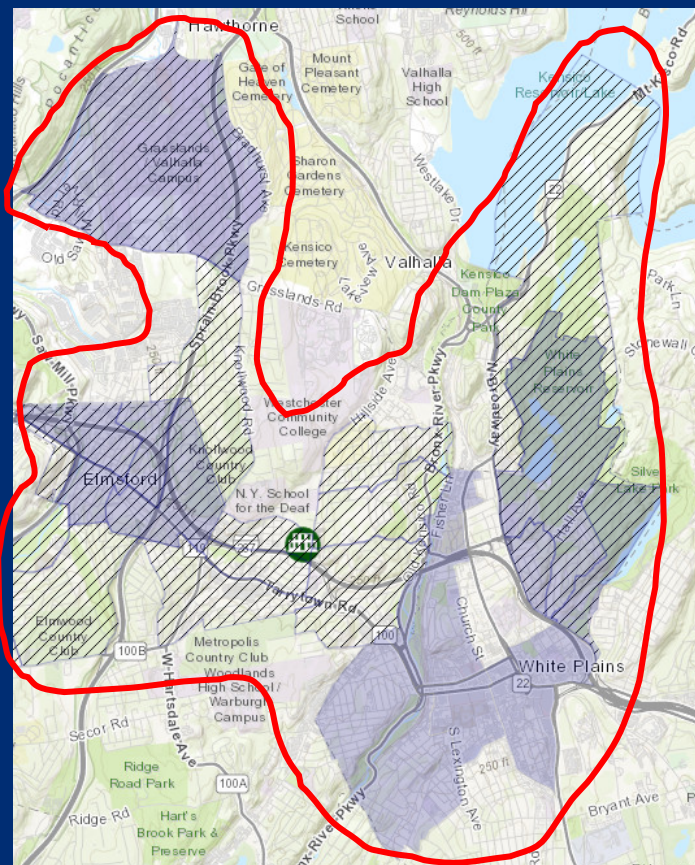- NYS Potential Environmental Justice Areas (PEJA)

Non-state-owned public land in NYS, or private land open to the public (e.g., cemeteries).

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Federal CEJST

NYS DAC and PEJA

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Draft Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Maps

DECinfo Locator

www.dec.ny.gov

Search "DECinfo Locator"

Who Can Apply?

- NYS municipalities, and quasi-governmental entities including, but not limited to, counties, cities, towns, villages, or public benefit corporations, public authorities, municipal corporations, soil and water conservation districts, and community colleges

- Indian nations or tribes recognized by the State or the US

- 501(c)(3) not-for-profit (NFP) corporations
  - Prequalification in GG is required!

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Project Types and Funding

1. Community Forest Management Plan Implementation ($10 million)

2. Ash Tree Management ($2.9 million)

- Amount $10,000-$500,000 regardless of community size
- NO match required
- Reimbursement grant

USDA Forest Service/Inflation Reduction Act

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Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) Implementation

- CFMP based on a professional (ISA Arborist) tree inventory
- CFMP completed or updated (inventory) in 2016 or later

Eligible CFMPs must have:
- A vision, goals, objectives and a strategy for how to care for the community forest.
- management needs i.e., pruning rotations, removal, maintenance needs, workload prioritization.

Eligible activities outlined in the CFMP include:
- Pruning, tree and stump removal, young tree care (pruning, watering, adding tree guards)
- Tree planting, including site preparation
- Invasive species management if specific actions are listed in the CFMP
- Wood utilization

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Inventory Must Have

- Column headings and description of column content
- Measurement of tree DBH (diameter at breast height) in inches
- Tree species
- Street address location
- GPS coordinates
- Location and size of empty and/or potential tree planting sites
- Location of stumps
- Maintenance recommendation (prune, train, remove, etc.)
- Crown condition and/or percentage of crown dieback (excellent to dead rating)

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Ash Tree Management

Goal: to manage ash trees that could pose safety risks

Includes: Removal, pruning, replanting, treatment for EAB

- Number of trees
- Approximate size in diameter AND height
- Condition
- Work to be performed, i.e., removal (including stump grinding and cleanup or not), pruning, and/or ash treatment.

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Planting with Both Projects

How long do you want your trees to live?

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Planting with Both Projects

How long do you want your trees to live? 1 year? 2? 20? 40?...

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Planting with Both Projects

How long do you want your trees to live? 1 year? 2? 20? 40?...

- RFA includes minimum standards: planning, site selection, species selection, planting, mulching, watering

- Develop a 5-year maintenance plan – for long-term success.

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Eligible Expenses

- Personal Services – contractor, staff, new staff dedicated to executing work in this grant. Fringe but not overhead.
- Grant Admin cannot exceed 20% (contract with DEC, invoices, quarterly reports).
- Equipment: purchase or rental of equipment directly related to the project.
- Trees, structural soil, mulch, watering, pavement removal
- Other expenses directly required to implement the project.

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Eligibility Questions

If applicant passes all pass/fail eligibility questions, the application will be further reviewed and scored.

Project estimates

Require at least one, recommend 2 for all costs > $1000: trees, consultant/contractor, equipment.

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Scored Questions

- Well-planned applications score better.
- Think project through **with partners and those involved**: community organizations, planners, DPW, tree board, local DEC urban forester.
- Write more rather than less so reviewers get all the details and are confident the project will be a long-term success.
- Scoring is included in the RFA

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2. Outreach Strategy

Communities and residents affected by this project should be made aware of this project prior to and during implementation and given an opportunity to be engaged. For instance, residents could be consulted whether they want a tree planted in front of their home and be given a choice of species from an approved list. Local meetings inform and allow residents to ask questions. Describe how you will engage the community affected by this project.

(A) Applicant clearly described an outreach strategy that will respectfully inform the community members about this project and describes reasonable opportunities for community involvement.   12 pts.

(B) Applicant described an adequate outreach strategy to inform community members and some opportunity for community involvement.   8 pts.

(C) Some public outreach effort was described that may or may not reach community members   4 pts.

(D) No public outreach and/or education efforts were described.   0 pts.

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This grant is about PEOPLE

- Respectful engagement

- Go to them. Don't make them come to you.

- Find out what they want. Don't go in knowing everything and telling them what they need.

- This is their neighborhood and their trees.

- Listen.

- How can you be partners in the success of this project?

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Request For Applications (RFA)

It's in there.

- Eligible and ineligible expenses.

- All application questions and scoring details.

- Minimum Planting Standards.

- Your local DEC urban foresters.

- Grants Gateway instructions and contacts.

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Quality Control

- Pruning according to best m

- All projects will be inspected by a regional DEC urban forester.

- Tree Planting is 95% survival rate and must be planted correctly.

- Contractors should have a proven track record and use appropriate professionals according to the project type.

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Local DEC Urban Foresters are Here for You

Technical Assistance:

- Answer grant questions throughout open grant period
- Planting site/amendment recommendations
- Review/approval of tree species planting lists
- Right tree – Right site
- How to check nursery stock
- Proper planting
- Proper care for young trees

See list in RFA or email us at urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov

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Thank You!

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