Hot Topic: Tennessee Department of Agriculture 2004 Urban Forestry Funding

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I. Program Introduction

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry is accepting Urban Forestry project proposals from local governments, private non-private organizations, and educational institutions. Project categories for 2004 are urban forestry personnel, program development or educational/training, and tree planting.

The Division of Forestry provides financial assistance in the form of urban and community forestry grants to local governments, educational institutions, communities, and non-profit groups. Grants provide the opportunity for local communities to develop or expand their urban forestry programs and build lasting capabilities to manage their urban forests. Examples of projects that have been recently funded by the grant include the following:

- tree inventories;
- urban forest management plans;
- outdoor classrooms;
- urban forestry brochures, publications or videos; and
- educational conferences and seminars.

II. Program Requirements

The proposal is required to match the grant award 50-50 with non-federal dollars, in-kind services and/or materials. The grantee is required to keep accurate records for reporting, invoicing, and project documentation. Project proposals must be received in the Nashville office of the Division of Forestry by 4:30 p.m. on April 2, 2004.

III. Program Purposes

In order to adequately demonstrate the need for funding urban forestry programs, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture recommends that the grant applicant provides one or more of the following purposes for funding.
• increasing public understanding of economic, environmental, social and psychological values of urban and community forests;
• improving education and technical support for proper tree maintenance and management;
• enhancing community sustainability with urban forestry programming; and
• developing and maintaining an urban and community forestry information network that is supported through examples of accomplishments in technology and partnerships with research.

IV. Program Materials

To request a grant information package or get more information about the urban forestry grants, contact Bruce Webster at (615) 837-5436, Tom Simpson at (865) 908-4434 or Christy Pepper at (901) 754-5185. Grant information packages are also available on the internet at www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry/tdfuf.html.

In order to present the most effective grant package, we recommend various letters of support from within your community and a resolution supporting and transmitting your grant package by your city council. For additional information, contact your MTAS Municipal Management Consultant. You may also visit our web site at www.mtas.utk.edu.