



Working directly with the N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program, this assistance package is designed to assist a municipality with enhancing urban forest protection and management through a project that identifies and mitigates “bad” trees. Bad trees may include invasive tree species and/or risk trees, trees that pose an unacceptable risk to people and property. Assistance will be awarded to one municipality or tribal government.

- Eligible organizations
 - Municipalities and tribal governments that do not meet the standards for Tree City USA recognition
- Application period
 - The application period will open Jan. 1, 2026, and close March 1, 2026.
- Project practices and activities/deliverables
 - The NCFS U&CF program will lead the community in the development and implementation of a plan to identify, mitigate and replace “bad” trees using NCFS staff, municipal staff and grant funding.
 - NCFS services
 - Program review -- review of the municipality’s urban forestry program and recommendations for enhancement
 - NC Trees & Storms readiness plan
 - Partial tree inventory – an inventory of the “bad” trees and sites to plant replacement trees
 - Outreach product and/or event to engage, educate and inform the public about the project
 - Funding for the removal and/or pruning of select “bad” trees
 - Replacement trees
 - Municipality will provide:
 - Removal of select trees that are within the municipality’s capacity to complete
 - Planting of replacement trees
 - Project schedule
 - Quarter 1 -- June
 - Program review
 - Quarter 2 – July – September
 - Tree inventory
 - Work plans
 - Quarter 3 – October – December
 - Tree pruning and removal



- Tree planting
- Award, grant contracts and schedules
 - Award – See our [Financial Assistance Program webpage](#) for awarding information.
 - Conditional award notices will be issued by March 31, 2026. The final awardee will enter into an agreement with the N.C. Forest Service.
 - Working with the NCFS U&CF program, conditional awardees must complete all work necessary to execute an agreement before May 31, 2026.
- Application
 - The application is an online electronic application.
 - A copy of the application for planning purposes is available on the [U&CF Resources and Specifications webpage](#) under the financial assistance section.
 - Prepare your application responses before opening the online application for completion. The application must be completed and submitted in one online session.
 - The following information will be required to complete your application:
 - Answers to all application questions.
 - Name of the NCFS county ranger who you have contacted and informed of your intent to submit this application.
 - Click the link below to begin when you are ready to apply.

[Apply for the Bad Tree Bounty Project by clicking here](#)