

**N.C. Forest Service -- Ash Protection Program
2026 -- Request for Applications**



Applications are now being accepted for the N.C. Forest Service Ash Protection Program. The intent of this program is to protect urban ash trees greater than 4 inches in DBH (diameter at breast height defined as 4.5 feet above ground level). Below are important items related to this program. See Ash Protection Program details at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/forest-health/ash-protection-program>.

- Application period
 - Opens March 2, 2026, and closes at 5 p.m. EST April 3, 2026
- Financial assistance
 - This is a cost reimbursement program.
 - Maximum reimbursement of \$16 per inch of diameter (breast height).
 - Maximum reimbursement amount: \$10,000 per qualifying organization per application year.
- Eligible organizations
 - Local municipalities, e.g., cities, towns
 - Colleges, universities and schools
 - Historical or preservation associations/societies
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Parks, e.g., city, county, state
- Eligible practices
 - Chemical pesticide injections done by a NC licensed pesticide applicator
 - Chemical pesticide injections done according to the label/law
 - Acceptable insecticide: emamectin benzoate only (medium or high rate for trees 22-inch DBH or greater)
 - Retirements only on trees treated at least two years before the date of application
- Priority trees
 - Priority 1: trees 22-inch DBH or greater
 - Priority 1: trees with historical significance
 - Priority 2: trees 12-to-22-inch DBH
 - Priority 2: trees in recreational areas, those in high visibility areas and/or where risk of failure presents a high risk
 - Priority 3: trees 4-to-12-inch DBH
- Project schedule and assistance agreement
 - Awardees will enter an agreement for reimbursement with the N.C. Forest Service.
 - The awardee will complete the work, pay for the completion of the work and submit a reimbursement request to us for approval and reimbursement.
 - Reporting – Awardee will be required to submit documentation of work done (see Ash Protection Program Guidelines for details).
- Award
 - Awards will be prioritized and awarded following the closing date for applications.
- Application information
 - Application forms: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/forest-health/ash-protection-program>.
 - Applications will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to trees meeting the criteria listed above in the priority trees section.