



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. An example of “bad” trees is invasive tree species. 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 opens July 1, 2026, and closes Sept. 30, 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
    - N.C. 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
    - 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 – Jan. 1, 2027 - March 28, 2027
      - Project mobilization
      - Kickoff meeting
    - Quarter 2 – April - June
      - Program review
    - Quarter 3 – July - September
      - Tree inventory
      - Work plans
    - Quarter 4 – 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 Oct. 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 Dec. 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](#) in 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
    - Project team
    - Name of the NCFS county ranger who you have contacted and informed of your intent to submit this application
  - Click the link below to complete an application when you are ready to apply.

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