



City of Newberry

City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	April 27, 2015
Title:	2015 Urban and Community Forestry Grant Application Submittal and Enabling Resolution No. 07-15
Agenda Section:	VIII.B.
Department:	Planning and Economic Development, Grants Program
Presented By:	Wendy V. Kinser, AICP, City Planner and Grants/Special Projects Administrator
Recommended Action:	Approve the enabling Resolution 07-15 to support and authorize submittal of the 2015 Urban and Community Forestry Grant.

Summary:

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) grant program funds are provided through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and administered through each state's office of the state forester. The primary purpose of this U&CF grant program is not beautification through tree planting, but to develop and enhance urban and community forestry programs, with funds awarded as 50-50 matching grants (50 percent federal, 50 percent applicant), up to \$30,000 per applicant. The US Forest Service has directed the FFS to focus on assisting communities to strengthen their urban forestry programs in the following four core areas:

1. Active involvement by community tree boards or citizen tree advisory groups.
2. Development of urban tree management plans based on current inventory data.
3. Program oversight by qualified professional staff or professional consultant.
4. Development of a tree ordinance that will enforce community tree care standards

The City of Newberry is seeking funding to strengthen our existing urban forestry program through a Category 1: Local Government Program Development or Improvement project to enhance the City's ability to develop and maintain a more useful, comprehensive, and effective tree management program. Specific tasks include professional services to provide a much-needed Tree Ordinance update, to help develop in-house training for staff now responsible for implementation, and to assist with public education programming for encouraging/maintaining Tree Board active involvement.

Attachments:

1. 2015 Urban and Community Forestry Grant Application Handout
2. Enabling Resolution 07-15.

2015 URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT

INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) grant funds provided through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service are administered in each of the fifty states through the office of the state forester.

The state foresters provide national leadership for the implementation of U&CF programs at the state level. The National Association of State Foresters works closely with the USDA Forest Service, members of Congress and national conservation organizations to provide for adequate U&CF funding, a responsible national U&CF policy and progressive strategies to manage and replant our nation's community forests.

The growth of our national population and the accompanying development of urban centers and the surrounding rural areas have resulted in the continual loss of natural areas and tree cover. Trees provide many benefits to people living in cities and towns including energy conservation through shade, wildlife habitat, decreased storm water runoff, cleaner air, production of oxygen, removal of carbon dioxide and increased property values. It is through these and other benefits that trees contribute to the health, safety and welfare of people living in cities and towns. Studies have shown that in our cities more trees are removed than are planted and that the average lifespan of a tree in inner city areas is only seven years.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Florida's U&CF grant program is to provide financial assistance to local governments, Native American tribal governments, volunteer groups, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to initiate or enhance local urban and community forestry programs and improve the urban environment within the state of Florida. The state of Florida anticipates an allocation of \$400,000 for fiscal year 2015. However, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) has not received the federal funding to support this grant program at the time of issuance of this Request for Proposal (RFP) and may have to delay contract execution until these funds are received. The primary purpose of this U&CF grant program is not beautification through tree planting, but to develop and enhance urban and community forestry programs. Total funding available for demonstration or site specific tree planting projects is limited to 20% of available funds (\$80,000), and tree planting projects are limited to a maximum award of \$20,000 per applicant.

The U&CF grant program is intended to help local governments, Native-American tribal governments, volunteer groups, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions get programs started and is not meant to be a continual funding source for staffing. The U&CF grant will fund staffing for no more than three grant years.

The US Forest Service has directed the FFS to focus on assisting communities to strengthen their urban forestry programs in the following four core areas:

1. Active involvement by community tree boards or citizen tree advisory groups.
2. Development of urban tree management plans based on current inventory data.
3. Program oversight by qualified professional staff or professional consultant.
4. Development of a tree ordinance that will enforce community tree care standards.

Addressing these four areas will involve education of citizens, local officials and tree care professionals. Encouraging volunteer and citizen group participation in these activities is also a key to program success. Some demonstration areas to show good urban forestry practices are also helpful and will be funded to a limited extent under this grant program.



CITY OF NEWBERRY

RESOLUTION 07-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES FOR APPROVAL OF THE CITY'S 2015 URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Newberry, Florida is experiencing a need to enhance and strengthen development of its Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) program, acknowledging the importance of such programs to our citizens for the appropriate management and replanting of trees in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newberry recognizes that nationally, the growth of urban centers and surrounding rural areas have resulted in, for many areas, the continual loss of natural areas and tree cover; and that trees provide many benefits including energy conservation through shade, wildlife habitat, decreased storm water runoff, cleaner air, production of oxygen, removal of carbon dioxide and increased property values; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newberry holds the prestigious certification as "Tree City USA", committed to sustaining its urban forestry program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newberry desires to encourage and promote correct urban forestry re-planting and management, but requires financial assistance, and the Florida Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program is soliciting applications for possible funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newberry desires to apply for an Urban and Community Forestry Grant which would help fund the ability to build and maintain the City of Newberry's Urban Forestry Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newberry wishes to enter into an Urban and Community Forestry Grant Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Newberry, Florida and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA THAT:

SECTION 1. The Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant program is declared to be a workable program for providing needed program improvements to City urban and community forestry that will benefit Newberry's small community, facilitate education of citizens, local officials, and tree care professionals, and encourage volunteer and citizen group participation as indicated in the proposed 2015 U &CF Grant application.

SECTION 2. The City Commission hereby authorizes the Mayor, or City Manager in his/her absence, to sign all necessary forms and certifications associated with the 2015 Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant application submittal.

SECTION 3. The City Commission directs the Mayor, or City Manager in his/her absence, to enter into an Urban and Community Forestry Grant Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Newberry, Florida and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

SECTION 4. The City of Newberry supports the City's "Category 1 - Local Government Program Development or Improvement" project intended to enhance the City's capacity for building a sustained urban

forestry program, helping ensure a more useful, comprehensive, and effective tree management program Services

SECTION 5. The proposed U&CF Grant application is consistent with the local comprehensive plan, and supports the City's "Tree City USA" designation.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED in regular session of the City Commission of City of Newberry, Florida, on this 27th day of April, 2015.

CITY OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA:

Honorable William H. Conrad, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST BY THE CLERK OF THE
CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF NEWBERRY, FLORIDA:

Judy S. Rice, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Attorney, City of Newberry