

# Community Hazard Tree Cost Share Description

Kansas Forest Service

2023

Kansas' mature to over-mature canopy has been degraded by repetitive storms, drought, and flooding over the last decade, along with an invasion of emerald ash borer and other biotic threats and issues. This declining canopy continues to increase the number of defective and potentially hazardous public trees. Many smaller rural communities lack the funding to properly address hazardous and dead or dying trees.

The Kansas Forest Service is offering a competitive cost-share grant (50/50 match) for street tree removals of hazardous, dead, or dying trees within the city public easement of communities with a population of less than 50,000. Applications are due on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, by 6 pm CST. Late applications will not be eligible. Applications should be emailed to [kfscommunity@ksu.edu](mailto:kfscommunity@ksu.edu). Grant funds must go towards removing hazardous, dead, or dying street trees. The applicant will be required to hire and administer the contractor. The contracted services are required to be completed by licensed, bonded, and Kansas Arborist Association and/or International Society of Arboriculture credentialed arborists. The Kansas Forest Service is offering two grant awards for \$9,500 and six awards for \$5,000. Projects need to be completed within a year of the award date. The estimated award date is January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Applicants are required to include a replanting plan that specifies maintenance and watering schedules for new trees installed after the removals. Awarded grant funds cannot go towards replanting. New trees do not need to be at the same location or on the same street as the removals. Shrubs are not considered trees for the purpose of this grant. New tree locations should ensure tree equity for all in the community. Communities should work with their Kansas Forest Service District Forester to select appropriate tree species. Applications that include ash, Siberian elm, silver maple, pin oak, and other undesirable, invasive, or overplanted species will be ineligible.

Questions or comments can be directed to Matt Norville, Community Forestry Program Coordinator at [mnorville@ksu.edu](mailto:mnorville@ksu.edu).