



Hamden Alliance for Trees
Diane Hoffman
Convenor
190 Wilmot Road
Hamden CT 06514
203 387 1695
Hamdentrees@gmail.com



HAT Proposal for a Community-Based Tree-Planting Project
\$10,000 to \$15,000 requested budget
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The Hamden Alliance for Trees is proposing a pilot project, using ARPA funds and in collaboration with the Town, to work with residents of a Southern Hamden neighborhood to learn and implement effective ways to beautify their living spaces with trees and to help restore any existing tree canopy.

A robust tree canopy in Hamden is essential for the health of our town residents. There are areas of Southern Hamden, particularly in the 5th District, that lack green infrastructure and would greatly benefit from planting trees on town-owned tree lawns.

This proposed pilot project will help a small volunteer group of 5th-District residents beautify their outdoor living spaces with trees and help restore a vital tree canopy.

Borrowing methods from a successful model developed by Urban Resources Initiative in the City of New Haven, this project hopes to foster environmental revitalization and stewardship, and to encourage community building. Community meetings will help to identify small groups of neighbors who volunteer to work together to address their block's greenscape needs and come to an agreement on planting—and caring for—trees on their street. These volunteers will reach out to neighbors by knocking on doors and providing educational materials about all things trees.

The success of this project depends upon a strong and on-going partnership among community residents, activists, legislative council members, Hamden public works and the Hamden Tree Commission.

The grant will fund:

- Street trees, flowers, mulch, and stakes appropriate for the site as determined by the Tree Commission.
- Watering equipment, including hoses, buckets, watering bags as needed.
- Educational postcards/door hangers, lawn signs, and promotional banner(s)

The allocation of the grant funds will be determined as the neighborhood planting groups are formed and as they identify their needs more clearly. We expect that the majority of the grant will be used to purchase trees and watering supplies.

This pilot project will serve as a valuable opportunity, and a possible template, for Hamden to continue to address the greenscape concerns of the town and its residents.