

U&CF Grant Awards Are Announced

[Auburn University](#) has awarded \$189,750 through its [Urban & Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program](#). The awards will fund eleven projects selected through a competitive selection process.

"I am pleased to announce that these projects have been approved for funding through the U&CF Program," said Dr. Paul Mask of the [Alabama Cooperative Extension System](#). "Each project will help improve the ability of local communities to take better care of their urban forests."

The eleven winning project proposals were chosen from a group of applications that totaled \$464,411. Since its inception in 1990, the U&CF program has awarded over \$4 million to nearly 150 Alabama towns, cities, and institutions.

"I can't overemphasize the importance of this program to the citizens of Alabama," said [Neil Letson](#), State Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. "Our state has a healthier and more productive urban forest because of this program. Alabama citizens will benefit for generations."

The U&CF program is authorized by Congress through the [USDA Forest Service](#). Auburn University receives a portion of the funds to support a state urban and community forestry program. Additional funds support local projects. Beginning last year, the U&CF program shifted its emphasis to four performance measures. Priority funding now goes to projects that increase the number of city foresters, urban forestry management plans, tree ordinances, and local advisory/advocacy nonprofit urban forestry groups.

Alabama's FY 2006 U&CF Award Subrecipients

City of Valley

City will purchase tree inventory software and GPS tracking device to create database of community's urban trees. The City Arborist will collect data and used it to develop a comprehensive urban forest management plan.

City of Montgomery

City will complete Phase 2 of its Comprehensive Tree Inventory. Project will allow completion of data collection for the Tree Infrastructure Layer of the City's GIS mapping system. Once completed an urban forestry management plan will be produced.

City of Montgomery

City will create permanent Urban Forester Assistant municipal position. During the course of the project, the City will hire and train person for full employment.

Montgomery Tree Committee

Committee will recruit 15 municipal and private tree worker employees to take ISA Certified Arborist exam. Employees will be recruited from Montgomery River Region. Each employee will complete nine 3-hour training sessions covering all 15 chapters in the ISA study manual, followed by review and exam. The goal is to increase number of ISA Certified Arborist working in both public and private sectors.

Montgomery Tree Committee

Committee will conduct national research of successful tree conservation ordinances. Research will generate report that will be used by City to craft a tree conservation ordinance. Report will be provided to other Alabama communities.

City of Florence

City will collaborate with the University of North Alabama's Geography Department to complete municipal tree inventory using GPS technology uploaded daily onto GIS mapping software. The data will be processed to produce a resource analysis, State of the Urban Forest Report, and short term management plan.

City of Mountain Brook

City will create and fill permanent payroll position for person schooled, trained, or otherwise certified in forestry. This employee will assist the City Arborist in developing Mountain Brook's urban forestry program.

Town of Oak Grove

Town will complete GPS mapping of urban forest and use data to develop a management plan. Project will also include public attitude survey of citizens as part of the management planning process. A local urban forestry advocacy group will also be formed based on the findings of the inventory and survey.

City of Clanton

City will contract with qualified consultant to assess existing urban forestry needs, develop management action plan, and recommend future urban forestry activities.

City of Tuscumbia

City will purchase study materials and pay costs for two municipal employees to take ISA Certified Arborist exam.

City of Birmingham

City will contract with qualified contractor to install tree inventory software with GIS/GPS capability. Contractor will also complete first phase data collection and produce urban forestry management plan.