



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

2023 Grant webinar

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CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Housekeeping:

- This webinar is being recorded and we will also release a “Frequently Asked Questions” document.
- Please use the Q&A tool to ask questions. Questions will be addressed in writing, and some will be read out loud at the end.
- Project-specific questions may not be answered. Please reach out to your Regional Urban Forester directly.
- Google: CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry to reach our website, sign up for our newsletter and grant updates, and identify your Regional Urban Forester.



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Goal of today's webinar

- Purpose of the Green Schoolyards grants
- Eligibility
- Grant types: Implementation and Planning Grants
- Eligible activities for Implementation Grants
- What does “in-need educational facility” mean?
- Application and required documentation
- Reporting & invoicing & inspections
- Valuable resources to consider
- Important Dates



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Purpose of the Green Schoolyards grants

- The **purpose** is to green schoolyards to protect the health, well-being, and educational opportunity of children most vulnerable to increasing temperatures and extreme heat across California.
- K-12 public school campuses and nonprofit childcare facilities receiving government funding
- Projects shall be centered around improving the environmental conditions and experiences for school children with the highest levels of co-benefits.
- Projects will invest in nature-based climate solutions that deliver multiple benefits

→ Focus on trees in child-accessible spaces



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Eligibility

→ Per California Urban Forestry Act of 1978
(Public Resources Code § 4799.06 – 4799.12)

- Project must be in urban areas
- Cities
- Counties
- Qualifying districts (including school districts)
- Nonprofit organizations
 - including nonprofit child care facilities receiving government funding



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Grant types: Implementation and Planning Grants





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Implementation Grant: All aspects of planning and implementation of the grant project.

Budget limitations:

- \$500,000 to \$30,000,000 per applicant
- \$2,500,000 max. per school campus included in the project
- No applicant will receive more than \$30,000,000 in total funding
- 25% matching requirements (may be reduced or waived)

Pros: If awarded, the entire project is funded.

Cons: More complex application process that requires more information/knowledge at the time the application is submitted.



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Planning Grant: All planning aspects of the grant project to result in a shovel-ready project. No implementation of any kind.

Budget limitations:

- \$75,000 to \$3,000,000 per applicant
- \$200,000 max. per school campus included in the project
- No applicant will receive more than \$3,000,000 in total for planning grants
- 25% matching requirements (may be reduced or waived)

Pros: Simpler application process. If completed successfully, grantees are in the desirable position to apply for various grant opportunities with a shovel-ready project.

Cons: Funding for project implementation is not guaranteed.



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Eligible activities for Implementation Grants (Summary)

- Greenery: Planting of trees, removal of pavement, installment of natural features for learning and recess, pocket forests, rain gardens, botanical gardens, natural playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, food producing gardens and landscapes..
- Staffing/Maintenance: Staff recruitment and training for maintenance, improvements to policy, procedures, best practices, plans, monitoring systems..staff time for project reporting
- Learning: Education including curriculum development to enhance hands-on learning and environmental literacy..
- Post-grant maintenance

→ Projects shall be centered around improving the environmental conditions and experiences for school children with highest levels of co-benefits.

→ Focus on in-need educational facilities



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What does “in-need educational facility” mean?

1. School sites located in disadvantaged communities or low-income communities as identified by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (defined in Section 39711 and Section 39713 of the Health and Safety Code) or
2. School sites in which 70 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals (defined in Section 42238.01 of the Education Code) or
3. School sites with an unduplicated student count of free/reduced-price meals, English learners & foster youth of 70% or more per California Department of Education’s data.

With justification, other tools or indices may be used to identify disadvantaged status, such as the California Heat Assessment Tool or Healthy Places Index.



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**Application and required documents – 3 applications max.
Implementation Grant per grant type**





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Application and required documents:

Implementation Grant

Application Process:

1. Request site drawings for each campus
 2. Schedule pre-application meeting the DSA's regional office
 3. Complete application form using the portal including budget
- Make sure to include all required forms documents



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Application and required documents:

Implementation Grant

Application form: General info

- Information on the applicant's organizations
- Primary & secondary contact
- Budget & matching budget
- Source of technical advice: ISA certified arborist, CA licensed landscape architect, architect, structural engineer etc.
- Project background, objectives, deliverables



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Application and required documents:

Implementation Grant

Application form: Info on each campus:

- In-need educational facility? Explain
- Project background, objectives, scope of work, deliverables
- Tree information
- Timeline
- Plan for stakeholder engagement
- Budget & budget explanation
- Site photos and aerial images



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Application and required documents:

Implementation Grant

Application form: Additional Documents

- Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form (STD. 19)
- A Drug-Free Workplace Certification form (STD. 21)
- Environmental Checklist
- Resolution/MOU
- DSA pre-application meeting form



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Application and required documents:
Planning Grant





CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Application and required documents:

Planning Grant

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Application and required documents:

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CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Application and required documents:

Planning Grant

Application form: Info on each campus:

- In-need educational facility? Explain
- Project background & objectives
- Plan for stakeholder engagement
- Budget & budget explanation (as far as possible)
- Site photos and aerial images



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Application and required documents:

Planning Grant

Application form: Additional Documents

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CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Reporting & Invoicing & Inspections

- Quarterly Progress Reports
 - project description, project location, funds allocated, matched funds, activities completed, number of trees planted, vegetation planted and location, maintenance activities conducted
- Quarterly Invoices
 - Grants are on reimbursement basis and require supporting documents for all charges
- Annual inspections by CAL FIRE
- Annual and post-grant reporting
 - Climate and social benefits reports and site photos



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Valuable resources to consider

- **[Grant Guidelines!!!](#)**
- CAL FIRE Regional Urban Foresters
- Project Learning Tree
- Green Schoolyards America
 - California Schoolyard Forest System
- SelecTree
- California Grants Portal



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

CAL FIRE Regional Urban Foresters

Region 1 and 2- Julia Gowin

Region 3- Jessica Casas

Region 4- Greg Dion

Region 5- Henry Herrera

Region 6- Marco DeAnda





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Project Learning Tree

- Project Learning Tree is an environmental education curriculum geared at youth ages K-8
- Supplemental resources available for Pre-K and HS students
- PLT offers workshops to get educators trained in the “Explore Your Environment” guide that contains over 70 hands-on activities to get students outside in a variety of settings
- NGSS certified and explores a variety of subjects from math to art
- Who can benefit: anyone working with youth who wants more resources to get them to appreciate trees and the environment

https://ucanr.edu/sites/PLT_UCCE/

<https://www.plt.org>

Contact State Coordinators for more info

Nor Cal Jonelle Mason jmason@ucanr.edu

So Cal Cyndi Chavez crchavez@ucanr.edu

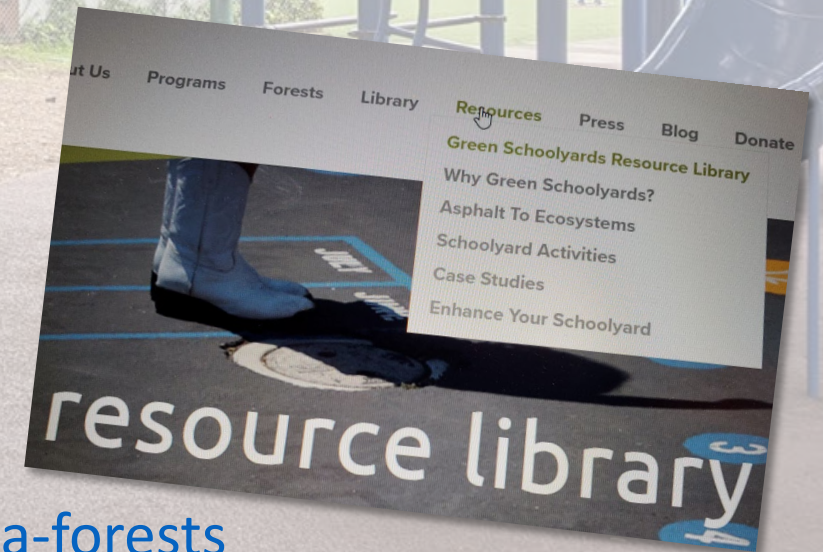
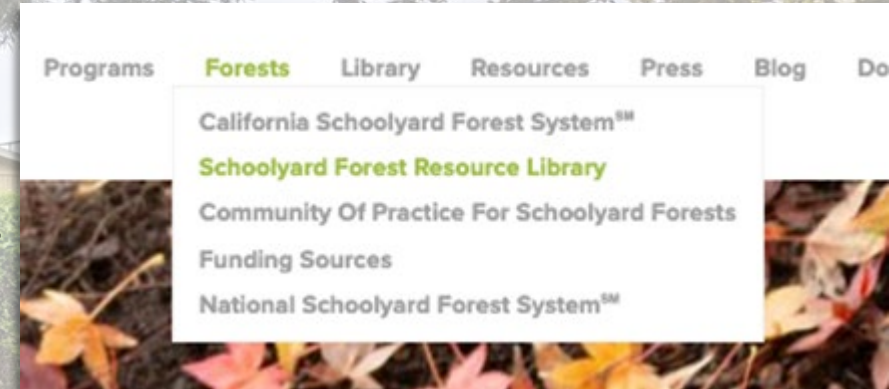




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Green Schoolyards America

- Helps school districts establish greening programs that transform their grounds into nature-rich places that improve children's health and learning and contribute to their communities' ecological and climate resilience
- California Schoolyard Forest SystemSM – Statewide initiative to increase tree canopy on public school grounds
- Schoolyard Forest Resource Library – To envision, create, and use greener schoolyards



<https://www.greenschoolyards.org/ca-forests>



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

SelectTree

SelectTree

A TREE SELECTION GUIDE

Enter a tree name...

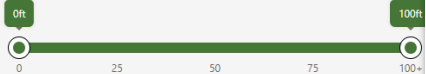
SEARCH PACIFIC ISLANDS
Click here to search trees in the Pacific Islands

SEARCH CHARACTERS
Search by height, color, etc.

SEARCH BY CHARACTERISTICS

TREE CHARACTERISTICS

MAXIMUM TREE HEIGHT



TREE SHAPE

Select...

FOLIAGE TYPE

Select...

VALLEY OAK

Quercus lobata

FAMILY Fagaceae

See all *Quercus*

See *Champion*

SYNONYMS



GENERAL INFO

A massive but graceful tree.

Native range: California

Horticultural use: Riparian

TREE CHARACTERISTICS

Tree shape: Rounded
Foliage type: Deciduous

Maximum tree height: 70 feet
Canopy width: 50 feet
Growth rate: ~24-36 in/year

Leaf arrangement and form: Alternate, Simple
Leaf/leaflet shape: Obovate
Leaf color: Green
Fall color: Yes

Flowers: Inconspicuous
Flowering time: Spring

Fruit: Medium Brown Acorn
Fruiting time: Fall or Winter

Bark: Dark Brown, Light Gray or Light Green, Blocky, Furrowed

Litter: Dry Fruit

SITE CONDITIONS

Planting area: Greater than 10'

SelectTree Water Use Rating: Medium

CONSIDERATIONS

Branch strength: Medium to Medium Strong

Root damage potential: Moderate

<https://selecttree.calpoly.edu>





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Future funding opportunities

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<https://www.grants.ca.gov>



CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Green Schoolyards Grants

Important dates

Application portal opens ~ Feb 16

Application deadline April 14 @ 3pm

Awards announced ~ late May

Grant Agreement distributed ~late June

Planning grant:

Start: when grant agreements are executed; summer 2023

End: 12 months after grant award

Implementation grant:

Start: when grant agreements are executed; summer 2023

End: March 30, 2026



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Thank you