



Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment

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Deputy Chief ~ Forest Environment



RI DEM Forest Environment

Main Focus Areas:

1. Federal Consolidated Grants Program

A. Fire Program

B. Health Program

C. Stewardship Program

D. Urban and Community Forestry Program

2. State Lands Management

A. Woodland Management

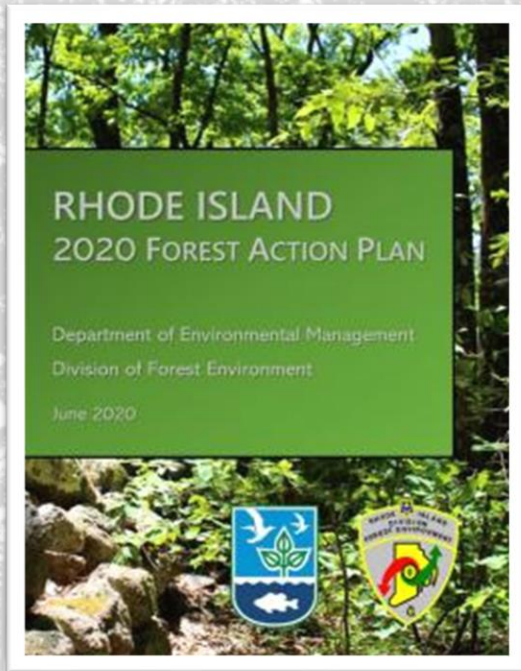
B. Forest Recreation Program - Trails

C. Forest Recreation Program - Roads



RI DEM Forest Environment

2020 Forest Action Plan



1. Establishes a vision for the management of RI's forest resources.
2. Provides goals, policies, and strategies focused on the management of tree resources.
3. Intended to advance local stewardship towards the twin goals of a healthy, sustainable forest economy and forest environment.



RI DEM Forest Environment

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- C. Stewardship Program
- D. Urban and Community Forestry Program

2. State Lands Management

- A. Woodland Management
- B. Forest Recreation Program - Trails
- C. Forest Recreation Program - Roads





RI DEM Forest Environment

Urban Forestry Program

- Community Assistance (Grants)
- RI Tree Council
- Education and Outreach



- Federal and Regional Partnerships
- USDA



**URBAN FORESTRY IN RHODE ISLAND:
EDGEWOOD, CRANSTON**



RI DEM Forest Environment Urban Forestry Program



- Annual Appropriations
- BIL Funding
- IRA Funding
- FY23 Congressionally Directed Spending
- SUFR Grant Funding
- EC4 Funding

RI DEM Forest Environment Urban Forestry Program



- **Annual Appropriations**

- \$300,000
- \$100k Increase for FY23 +
- Salary and Fringe for 1 FTE (Lou)
- \$55,000 RI Tree Council subaward
- \$150,000 Pass Through Grants
 - (Historically \$60,000)



RI DEM Forest Environment

Urban Forestry Program



- **BIL Funding**
- \$126,000/yr increase to base funding
- Salary and Fringe for 1 additional FTE
 - Volunteer Coordinator (requirement)
 - Contract employee (TNC)
 - Early 2024 Start date



RI DEM Forest Environment

Urban Forestry Program



- **IRA Funding**

- \$1.2 million

- (5 year spend down)

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

The USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded more than \$1 billion to fund projects that support urban communities through equitable access to trees and the benefits they provide. The funding was made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Urban and Community Forestry FY 2023 IRA Grant Allocations in Millions of Dollars



FY 2023 IRA State Allocation - \$250 Million Total

FY 2023 IRA Notice of Funding Opportunity Grants - \$1.13 Billion Total

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Urban Forestry Program



- **IRA Funding**
- Provides technical assistance for up to 8 municipalities/tribes
- Kick-start new urban forestry programs or enhance existing
 - Planning AND Planting
- Support for 2-3 years
- Staggered start times (winter '24, summer '24, winter '25)
- Partnership with Green Infrastructure Center (2 additional FTEs)

RI DEM Forest Environment Urban Forestry Program



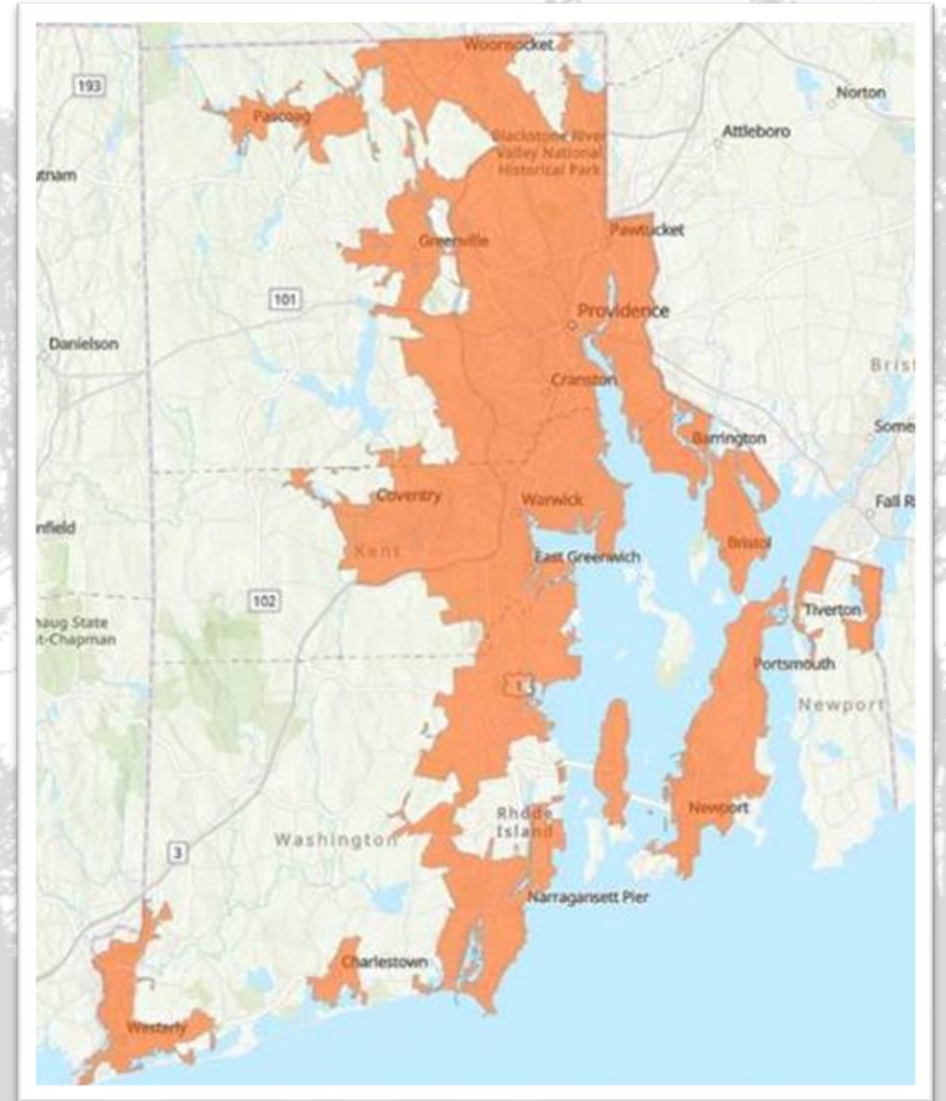
IRA Funding

Activities/Support	Inflation Reduction Act	Congressionally Directed Spending
Ordinance & Code Review	X	X
Create planning tools such as high-resolution canopy maps, plantable areas maps and stormwater benefits maps	X	X
Modules and resources for incorporation into emergency plans (including FEMA requirements for federally declared disaster)	X	X
Train residents and local groups about tree planting and tree care	X	X
Neighborhood level tree planting(s)	X	X
Engage with communities and provide insight into municipal planning process	X	
Design support for complex projects	X	
Organize and establish community advocacy efforts	X	
Increase city knowledge and capacity for tree care and maintenance	X	

RI DEM Forest Environment Urban Forestry Program



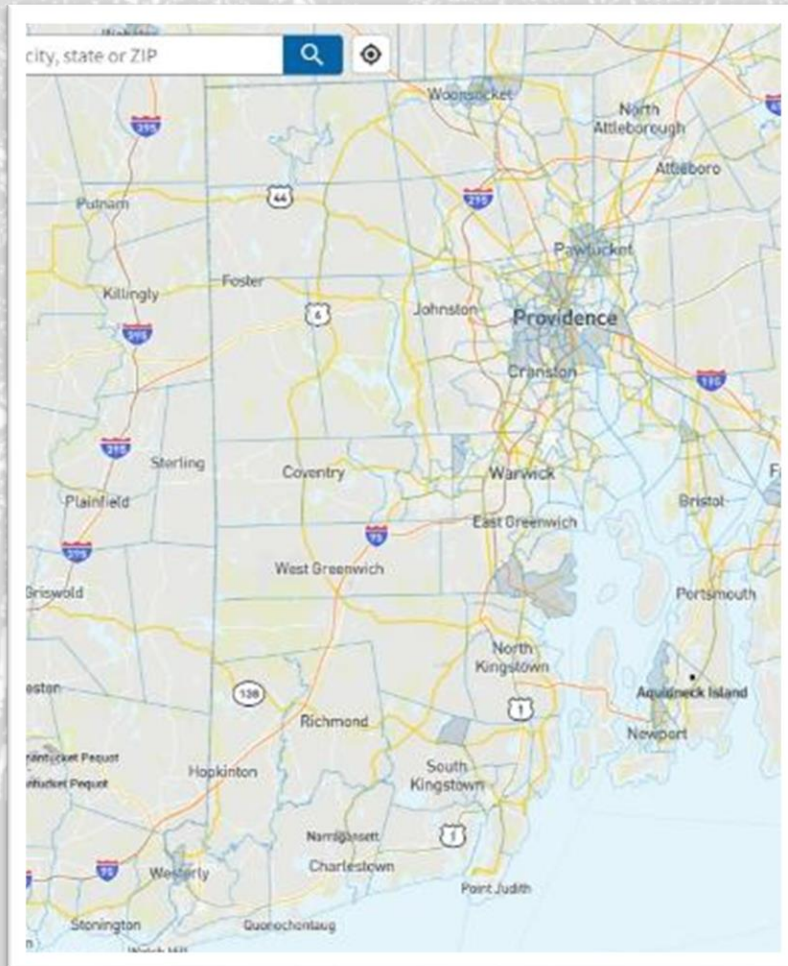
- **IRA Funding**
- Eligibility?
- Within US Census Urban Area
- Locality classified 'disadvantaged'



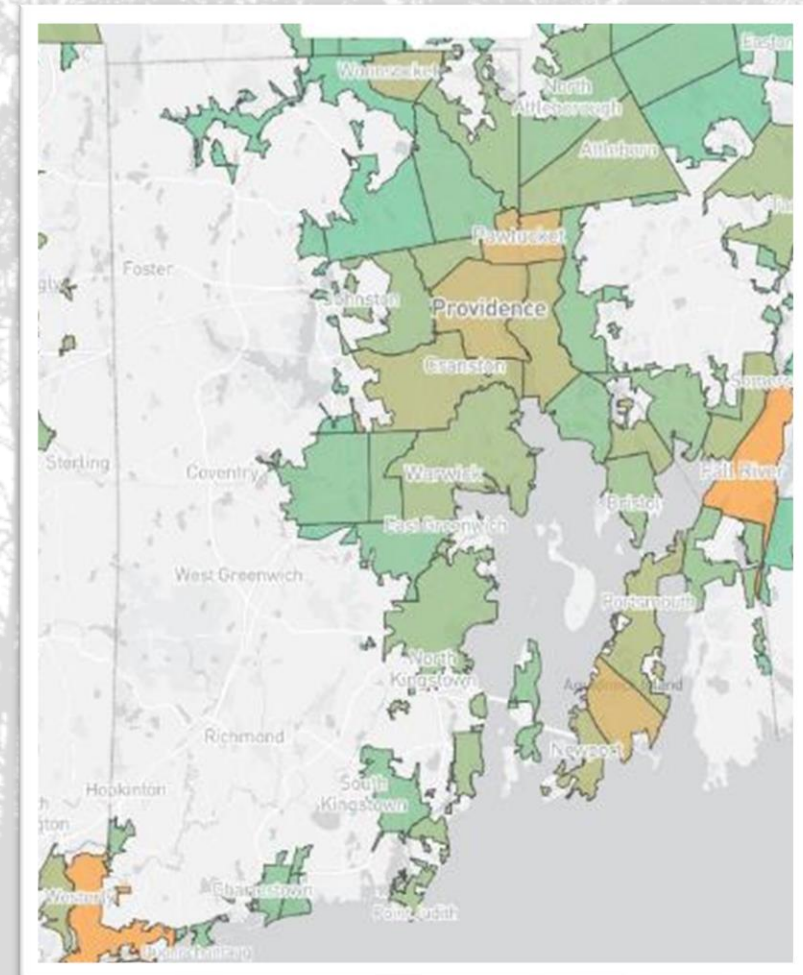
RI DEM Forest Environment Urban Forestry Program



CJEST TOOL



TREE EQUITY SCORE



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Urban Forestry Program



- **IRA Funding**

- **Evaluation Criteria**

Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CJEST)

Points based on disadvantaged population percentage (scaled)

Tree Equity Score

Points based on Score (scaled)

Additional points for applicants who represent a locality containing a Health Equity Zone.

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Urban Forestry Program



- **FY23 Congressionally Directed Spending**



\$300,000 to be used to leverage
IRA Funds

Will allow for spending outside of
the IRA constraints

RI DEM Forest Environment Urban Forestry Program



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Urban Forestry Program



- **State Urban Forest Resilience Grant (SUFR)**
- \$100,000 competitive grant
 - Partnership with PNPP and NTC
 - Utilized Tree Equity Score Analyzer to plan and implement tree planting in low score neighborhoods
 - Produced an Impact Certification for the projects
 - Published outcomes on the use of the TESA

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Urban Forestry Program



- **EC4 Funding**

- \$120,000

- Will be made available to improve urban sites for planting

- Asphalt removal, soil replacement, etc.

- Will help increase tree canopy in heavily hardscaped areas to provide better survivability.



THANK YOU