



# reeVitalize

A partnership to restore tree cover in Pa. communities

[www.treevitalize.net](http://www.treevitalize.net)

## Program Introduction



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



## How does TreeVitalize differ?

- Eligible applicants are municipalities and municipal entities within Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming counties.
- Partnership between DCNR, Penn State Extension Urban Forestry, and LHVA



## Local Representatives

- DCNR – John Maza
- Penn State Extension – Vinnie Cotrone
- LHVA – Stephanie Milewski & April Rogato

# Community Forest Benefits

- ✦ Cooler air temperature
- ✦ Building energy conservation
- ✦ Air quality improvement
- ✦ Water quality improvement
- ✦ UV radiation reduction
- ✦ Greenhouse gas reduction
- ✦ Aesthetics
- ✦ Noise reduction
- ✦ Wildlife habitat
- ✦ Social / physiological benefits
- ✦ Human health

# Problems Facing Community Forests

- Unwarranted Tree Removals
- Poor Horticultural Practices
- Construction Activities
- Conflicts with Built Infrastructure
- Insects, Diseases, Non-Natives
- Lack of Public Understanding
- Lack of Funding
- Lack of Public Policies to Protect Trees
- Lack of Trained Professionals
- Soils Modified/Degraded Health



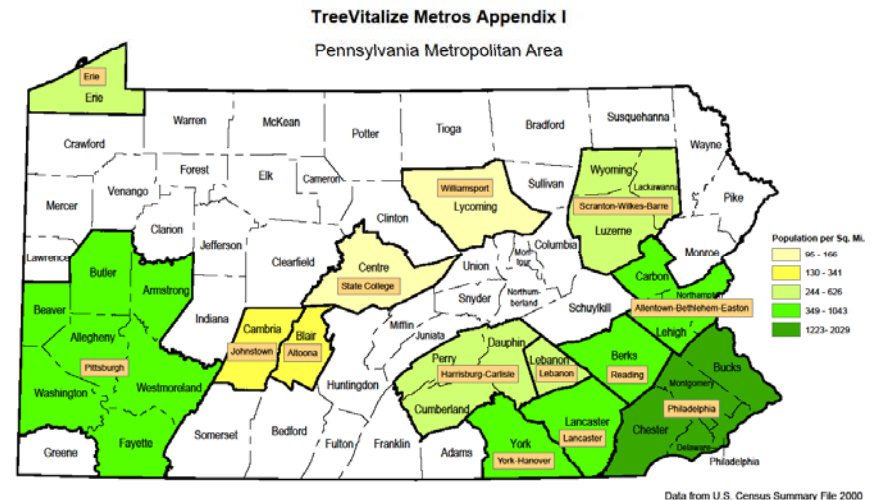


## How It Works:

- DCNR issues a block grant to county or regional government entity. Known as the TreeVitalize “Metro Partner”
- Metro Partner solicits applications for tree planting grants from municipalities.
- Funding is available for tree plantings located along streets, greenways and park settings
- DCNR, PSU & Metro Partner review and collaboratively award grants to municipalities
- Participation in Tree Tenders mandatory

## TreeVitalize Metros Eligibility

- Geographical
  1. Metropolitan areas (2006 census)
  2. Municipalities (entire) containing “urbanized” census tracts (i.e.. densely populated)
  3. Low canopy cover
- Part of a larger plan
- Means to ensure establishment
- Commitment to long term management





## What Can TreeVitalize Provide?



- Trees
- Training for community volunteers
- Mulch, soil and tree stakes
- Planting plan assistance
- Site preparation assistance
- Planting assistance



## Accomplishments:

- Since 2004 the program has planted 219,471 trees
  - Street trees, riparian buffer trees, public radio trees & home owner registry
- Trained 7,500 community volunteers

## Educational Component

- **“Tree Tenders”:** citizen volunteers (1 day)
  - Tree benefits
  - Tree biology
  - Urban stresses
  - Planting and pruning
  - Working with community & volunteers
- **“Tree Managers”:** community staff & elected officials (2 days)
  - Ordinances
  - Inventories
  - Community management plans
  - Tree law and liability





## Service Forester & Extension Urban Forester Duties

- Encourage municipalities in metro areas to apply
- Assist in development of planting plan if requested: species, location, utilities
- Onsite visit to review and approve/ amend planting plan
- Inspect and approve/ reject planting material before installation
- Sign off on acceptably completed planting
- Coordinate plans for Tree Tender & Tree Manager trainings with PSU
- Help teach at Tree Tender & Tree Manager trainings
- Help with set up and tear down for trainings
- Advise municipalities in steps toward a sustainable UF program



## Metro Partner Duties - LHVA

- Apply to DCNR for block grant
- Advertise TreeVitalize Program grants and workshops
- Accept project applications from municipalities
- Distribute project applications to Grant Review Team
- Hold meeting of Review Team to rank applications
- Award grants to municipalities
- Review reports and invoices submitted by applicants for completeness
- Provide final grant payment to applicants
- Request final Metro Partner grant payment form DCNR



## Municipal Responsibilities

- Submit project proposals to Metro Partner
- Ensure at least 2 staff members and 2 volunteers are trained Tree Tenders
- Develop planting plan with BOF or PSU Forester assistance
- Use Tree Vitalize nursery standard & species list provided to select and tag trees at nursery
- Organize planting team and logistics for planting event; engage trained Tree Tenders to assist
- Notify Forester when project has been completed
- Submit invoices and records to Metro Partner for payment
- Work with Forester and municipal staff on steps toward establishing a sustainable UF program in the community
- Ensure at least 1 staff person is a trained Tree Manager



# TreeVitalize Metro 2010 Grant

- February 1, 2011 Deadline
- Application is available at [www.lhva.org/treevitalize.html](http://www.lhva.org/treevitalize.html)

One Million Trees. We're Counting on you!





## Eligibility

### **Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming counties**

- Municipalities: city, borough, incorporated town, township, or home rule municipality
- Municipal agencies: municipal authorities, councils of government, and intergovernmental organizations



## How to Apply

1. Review the application materials at [www.LHVA.org/Funding](http://www.LHVA.org/Funding).
2. Check your project's eligibility.
3. Review the matching funds requirements.
4. Contact April Rogato at 963-6730 x 8200 to discuss your project.
5. Submit your completed application on-line to [arogato@LHVA.org](mailto:arogato@LHVA.org) and mail / drop-off a signed copy.



# Program Criteria

- Need for additional tree cover.
- Connection with or implementation of regional or local efforts.
- Evidence of municipal support (staff and resources)
- Evidence of a plan for community involvement in the project
- Commitment by municipality and volunteers to Tree Tender and Tree Management Training.



# Program Criteria

- Evidence of progress toward development of a long term sustainable urban forest management program. (i.e. a tree ordinance, an active shade tree commission, a street tree inventory, management plan, etc.)
- Community is currently recognized as Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Street tree versus park or greenway planting
- Adequate project budget.



# Eligible Expenses

- Tree supplies
  - stakes, ties, mulch, watering/gator bags
- Site preparation
- Tree-planting costs
- Signage
- Administrative costs directly related to implementation of project.

*Detailed description on page 10.*



## Match

- 50% of match must be cash.
- Non-cash contributions (donations) include:
  - Services
  - Labor
  - Materials

*Detailed description on page 10.*



## What size grant is available?

- Maximum in one year: \$25,000
- Maximum \$200 per tree

Example:

100 trees = maximum \$20,000 grant



# Responsibilities

- Assign a Project Coordinator.
- Attend Tree Tender Training:
  - Minimum **two** municipal staff
  - Minimum **two** volunteers
- Project on public property.
- Develop a planting plan to be approved by TreeVitalize Forester.
- Complete progress and final reports.

## Community Application for TreeVitalize Metros Funds

### **Project and Applicant Information:**

1. **Project Location:** Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Grant Amount Requested:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Number of Trees to be Planted:** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Legal Name of Applicant (Municipality):** \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Employer ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Official Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number (Daytime): \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Municipal Chief Elected Official (Mayor, Council President, Township Supervisor, etc.)**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Chief Municipal Management Staff (Borough Manager, Township Manager, etc.):**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Project Coordinator Name (Person in Charge of the Project):**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Coordinator's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number (Daytime): \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Dates:** Project Beginning and Completion Dates (must be completed within three planting seasons— Fall, Spring, Fall or Spring, Fall, Spring)  
Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_
10. **Payment Information:** Make check payable to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Send check to the attention of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number (Daytime): \_\_\_\_\_



# Project Narrative

- Introduction
  1. Demonstrate need for additional tree cover.
  2. Describe the regional impacts.
  3. Provide evidence of municipal support and commitment to long term maintenance.
  4. Outline the community involvement.
  5. Identify the commitment of staff / volunteers.
  6. Provide evidence of sustainable urban forestry management program.
  7. Tree City USA status.

**Project Budget:**

- o PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW the budget instructions provided on the previous page.
- o Total Costs must be broken out into categories below, using the forms provided.
- o The sum of the Total Cost in each category must always equal any Non Cash or Cash Matches provided by the applicant, plus the amount of Grant Funds requested (ie, Total Cost = Non Cash Match + Cash Match + Grant Funds)
- o Maximum grant = (\$200) x (number of trees to be planted) or \$25,000, whichever is less.
- o Grant funds are the funds to be paid from the grant.

**Paid Services and Labor**

Individual	Hours Worked	Hourly Rate	Total Cost	Non- Cash Match	Cash Match	Grant Funds
<b>Total Paid Services and Labor</b>						

**Volunteer Services and Labor**

Individual	Hours Worked	Hourly Rate	Total Cost	Non-Cash Match	Cash Match	Grant Funds
<b>Total Volunteer Services and Labor</b>						

**Equipment Costs**

Equipment	Hours Used	Hourly Rate	Total Cost	Non-Cash Match)	Cash Match	Grant Funds
<b>Total Equipment Costs</b>						

**Supplies & Materials-** Supplies needed to implement the project. Examples: trees, mulch, hand tools, gator bag, Recognition Sign

Item	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost	Non- Cash Match	Cash Match	Grant Funds
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Materials</b>						



	Total Costs	Total Non-Cash Match	Total Cash Match	Total Grant Funds
<b>Grand Totals</b>				



## *Questions?*

*Please feel free to contact me!*

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***DCNR, Bureau of Forestry***  
***Service Forester***  
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***570-945-7133***

***Vinnie Cotrone***  
***Penn State Cooperative Extension***  
***Urban Forester***  
***[vjc1@psu.edu](mailto:vjc1@psu.edu)***  
***570-825-1701***

***Stephanie Milewski, RLA***  
***Lackawanna Heritage Valley***  
***Trail Manager & Environmental***  
***Program Officer***  
***[smilewski@LHVA.org](mailto:smilewski@LHVA.org)***  
***570-963-6730 x 8203***

*Thanks to PHS & WPC for the use of their photos!*