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**DEC ANNOUNCES \$900,000 IN URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS**  
**Funding Will Help Support Tree Plantings and Other Projects Across the State**

Urban forestry grants totaling \$900,000 are being awarded to communities and organizations across New York, state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis announced today. The release of the list of awardees coincides with the annual New York State Urban and Community Forestry Conference taking place today at Cornell University in Ithaca.

“Urban forestry initiatives are key to promoting clean air, clean water, energy savings, habitat creation, and improved quality of life for New York residents,” Commissioner Grannis, said. “These grants build upon Governor Paterson’s interest in improving the environment across the state and will have a lasting impact by creating cleaner, healthier communities for both current and future generations to enjoy.”

Funding for the grants comes from the state’s Environmental Protection Fund to support a variety of projects involving community tree planting, tree inventories and management plans, as well as green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens and green roofs. A total of 47 recipients from cities, villages, towns and not-for-profit organizations across the state have been chosen.

Quick Start grants of \$1,000 each were awarded to 11 of the 47 communities to help fund the creation of local tree planting programs and Arbor Day celebrations. The grants provide funding for trees, soil, labor and materials needed to complete the projects. Awards will be matched by funds ranging from in-kind services, donations, and project-related purchases such as garden tools and additional trees.

Recipients were chosen from 128 applicants based on criteria that included the contributions the projects will have on the local environment. In addition to environmental and forestry components, reviewers considered how projects would contribute to environmental justice by factoring in population density, relative economic status, and outreach to underserved communities. Applicants were encouraged to form regional partnerships and submit proposals that help implement watershed protection and Smart Growth initiatives with green solutions.

**2007-2008 Small Community and Large City Urban and Community Forestry Grant Recipients:**

Albany County

City of Albany \$17,500: Distressed Neighborhood Tree Planting Program

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Broome County

City of Binghamton - \$20,000: Forestry Management and Streetscape Implementation Plan

Chemung County

City of Elmira - \$8,000: Citizen Tree Planting Program

Cortland County

City of Cortland - \$3,500: South End Neighborhood Tree Planting Project

Delaware County

Village of Delhi - \$17,300: Delhi Trees Program

Dutchess County

Village of Red Hook - \$13,610: Tree Pruning and Maintenance Program

Erie County

City of Buffalo - \$75,000: Pursuing the Urban Forestry Master Plan through Neighborhoods and Parks

Town of Lancaster - \$20,000: Tree Planting Project

Town of Tonawanda - \$20,000: 2008-09 Tree Planting Project

Town of Hamburg - \$5,740: Greening of the Parks

Jefferson County

City of Watertown - \$12,000: 2009 Community Reforestation Project

Kings County

City of New York - \$75,000: Brooklyn Botanical Garden Plaza Rain Garden

Monroe County

Town of Clarkson - \$5,979.17: Tree Inventory and Community Forestry Master Plan

Town of Irondequoit - \$16,000: Tree Risk Survey

Town of Greece - \$10,000: Annual Tree Planting Program

Nassau County

Nassau County - \$20,000: Urban Forest Master Plan

New York County

NYC Parks Foundation - \$25,000: Citizen Stewards: Training Volunteers to Maintain New York City's Street Trees

New York Restoration Project - \$75,000: Million Trees NYC Reforestation of New York City Housing Authority Properties

NYC Parks Foundation - \$63,000: Greenstreet Gardens and Stormwater Capture: Creating Sustainable City Streets

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Niagara County

City of Niagara Falls - \$20,000: Inventory of Trees and City Right-of-Ways

Oneida County

City of Rome - \$10,000: Municipal Tree Inventory (MTI) Phase II

Onondaga County

City of Syracuse - \$7,500: Eastwood Community Tree Planting

Onondaga County - \$75,000: Clinton/Near West Side Green Initiative

Ontario County

City of Geneva - \$20,000: Shadetree Planting Project

Orange County

City of Newburgh - \$11,900: Urban Tree-Steading

Otsego County

Milford Village - \$19,500: Community Forestry Program

Putnam County

Village of Cold Spring - \$5,071: Cold Spring Trees Project

Rensselaer County

Capital District Community Gardens - \$20,000: Municipal Street Tree Planting Program

Richmond County

New York City Greenbelt - \$75,000: Natural Area Inventory and Mapping

Saratoga County

City of Saratoga Springs - \$20,000: Urban and Community Forest Project

Schenectady County

ReTree Schenectady - \$10,000: Schenectady Tree Project

Stueben County

Village of Bath - \$5,460: Complete Street Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Suffolk County

Town of Babylon - \$20,000: Street Tree Inventory

Village of Greenport - \$12,000: Arbor Day (Tree Inventory and Management Plan)

Village of Patchogue - \$15,702: 2008 Village Tree Planting Project

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Ulster County

Village of New Paltz - \$9,956: Tree Management and Benefit Enhancement Project

**2007-08 Quick Start Grant Recipients:**

Albany County	Village of Vooheesville
Dutchess County	Village of Millerton
Nassau County	Inc. Village of Plandome Heights
Oneida County	Village Of Boonville
Oswego County	Village of Mexico
Putnam County	Town of Philipstown
Saratoga County	Town of Ballston
Schoharie County	Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District
Washington County	Town of Granville
	Village of Granville
	Village of Greenwich

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