



For Immediate Release

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**City Of Olean Receives a Grant from the
Department of Environmental Conservation for Urban Forestry**

December 22, 2020—Olean—William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean is pleased to announce that the City has received a \$32,750 grant to complete a tree inventory and management plan. The grant, awarded by the Department of Environmental Conservation, is part of \$1.4 million for urban forestry projects across the state to help communities inventory, plant, and maintain public trees. The grants are part of DEC’s Urban and Community Forestry Program, which works to increase public awareness of the importance of trees and helps communities develop and implement comprehensive tree management plans to create healthy forests while enhancing quality of life for residents.

“Healthy community forests provide a host of environmental, economic, and social benefits, including wildlife habitat, watershed protection, flood reduction, increased property values, and improved public health,” **said Commissioner Seggos**. “Governor Andrew Cuomo is investing in the health of New York’s communities through the State’s Environmental Protection Fund, providing crucial assistance for our state’s vital forests to thrive.”

“The City is thrilled to receive this grant. It will allow us to develop a comprehensive tree inventory that will detail the age, species, health and geographic distribution of our trees. Once the inventory is completed a tree management plan will be devised with input from our residents,” said Mayor Aiello. “The end result will allow us to properly maintain the trees that we have and plant new trees that will thrive for the next generation.”

“The City’s Office of Community Development and Department of Public Work’s Forestry Division have been very persistent and worked very hard to receive this grant and I thank Keri Kerper, Program Coordinator of Community Development, Bob Ring, Director of the Department of Public Works and City Forester Sue Cooper for their perseverance. It is another tool for us to use in Olean’s Renaissance as we revitalize and make Olean an inviting, walkable and greener community,” Mayor Aiello added.

The 38 projects to receive funding were selected from a total of 154 applications, ranked by cost effectiveness, lasting benefits, use of partnerships, inclusion of outreach and education, and support from local stakeholders. The urban forestry grants complement DEC’s ongoing initiatives to address invasive species, climate change, environmental degradation, environmental justice, and urban sprawl.

Over the last nine years, New York State has funded more than \$11.4 million in grants to support projects with a total value of more than \$18.3 million.

Grant recipients are listed by region:

CAPITAL REGION

Albany County

City of Albany - \$75,000; Tree Inventory

City of Watervliet - \$29,000; Tree Maintenance

Columbia County

City of Hudson - \$20,000; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Schenectady County

Town of Glenville - \$20,000; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

City of Schenectady - \$61,200; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Saratoga County

Village of Ballston Spa - \$26,555; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

City of Saratoga Springs - \$50,000; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

CENTRAL NY

Cayuga County

City of Auburn - \$30,000; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Onondaga County

Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County - \$48,957; Education

FINGER LAKES

Monroe County

Village of Brockport - \$28,609; Tree Maintenance

Wyoming County

Village of Attica - \$40,000; Tree Maintenance

LONG ISLAND

Suffolk County

Village of Head of the Harbor - \$50,000; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

MID-HUDSON VALLEY

Dutchess County

City of Beacon - \$35,996; Tree Maintenance

Town of Pawling - \$25,900; Town and Village Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Orange County

City of Newburgh - \$40,000; Tree Maintenance

City of Port Jervis - \$35,000; Tree Maintenance

Westchester

Village of Briarcliff Manor - \$25,076; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson - \$14,756; Tree Inventory and Management Plan
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson - \$40,000; Tree Maintenance
Village of Irvington - \$21,760; Tree Inventory and Management Plan
Town of Ossining - \$33,750; Tree Maintenance
Village of Ossining - \$38,000; Tree Planting

NEW YORK CITY

Bronx County

Bronx River Alliance, Inc. - \$14,438; Tree Planting
Woodlawn Conservancy Inc. \$56,250; Tree Maintenance
Woodlawn Conservancy Inc. \$35,000; Management Plan

Kings County

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Corporation, Inc. - \$48,660; Tree Inventory and Management Plan
Evergreens Cemetery Preservation Foundation - \$75,000; Tree Planting
Prospect Park Alliance - \$75,000; Tree Maintenance

NORTH COUNTRY

Franklin County

Village of Saranac Lake - \$12,800; Tree Inventory and Management Plan
Village of Malone - \$13,500; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Jefferson County

City of Watertown - \$50,000; Tree Maintenance

St. Lawrence County

Village of Canton - \$14,000; Management Plan

WESTERN NEW YORK

Cattaraugus County

City of Olean - \$32,750; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Erie County

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy Inc. - \$75,000; Tree Maintenance
Cornell Cooperative Extension Erie County - \$22,342; Education
Village of Depew - \$25,617; Tree Inventory and Management Plan
Town of Grand Island - \$50,000; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

Niagara County

City of North Tonawanda - \$50,000; Tree Inventory and Management Plan

For more information about DEC's Urban and Community Forestry Program, visit DEC's website.

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