



# Santa Rosa County

## Board of County Commissioners

**Sheila Fitzgerald, Special Projects/Grants Director**

6495 Caroline Street, Milton, FL. 32570-4978, Phone (850) 983-1848 / Fax (850) 983-1944

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Tony Gomillion  
FROM: Sheila Fitzgerald  
DATE: March 16, 2016  
SUBJECT: 2016 National Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the board approve a grant application in the amount of \$20,000 and authorization of all relevant documents for a tree planting demonstration project at the Bagdad Mill Site Park and authorize use of \$6,000 from the tree mitigation fund as a portion of the match requirement. Total matching funds in the amount of \$20,000 will be provided in the form of volunteer hours, county personnel hours, equipment, partner donations and other in-kind match. A resolution is required and is included in the agenda backup.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The primary purpose of the U&CF grant program is to develop and enhance urban and community forestry programs. Demonstration areas to show good urban forestry practices is an eligible use of grant funds. We are partnering with the Florida Forest Service, Long Leaf Alliance, UF/IFAS Extension Santa Rosa County, and the Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership, Inc. to complete this project. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2016 and the project implementation period is expected to begin in or after October 2016.

The proposed project includes planting of ten species of trees, (approximately 150) that are native to the Bagdad area. Funds will also be spent on mulch, fertilizer and associated delivery fees. Trees will be planted utilizing public works personnel and equipment, which will serve to meet a portion of the matching requirement.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval by the board, the grant application will be developed and submitted by the deadline. If awarded, the grant agreement will be brought back to the board for consideration at a later date.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**

**2016 URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM**

**SPECIAL TERMS, CONDITIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) grant funds provided through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service are administered in each of the fifty states through the office of the state forester.

The state foresters provide national leadership for the implementation of U&CF programs at the state level. The National Association of State Foresters works closely with the USDA Forest Service, members of Congress and national conservation organizations to provide for adequate U&CF funding, a responsible national U&CF policy and progressive strategies to manage and replant our nation's community forests.

The growth of our national population and the accompanying development of urban centers and the surrounding rural areas have resulted in the continual loss of natural areas and tree cover. Trees provide many benefits to people living in cities and towns including energy conservation through shade, wildlife habitat, decreased storm water runoff, cleaner air, production of oxygen, removal of carbon dioxide and increased property values. It is through these and other benefits that trees contribute to the health, safety and welfare of people living in cities and towns. Studies have shown that in our cities more trees are removed than are planted and that the average lifespan of a tree in inner city areas is only seven years.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of Florida's U&CF Grant Program is to provide financial assistance to local governments, Native American tribal governments, volunteer groups, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to initiate or enhance local urban and community forestry programs and improve the urban environment within the state of Florida. The state of Florida anticipates an allocation of **\$400,000** for fiscal year 2016. **However, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) has not received the federal funding to support this grant program at the time of issuance of this Request for proposal (RFP) and may have to delay contract execution until these funds are received.** The primary purpose of this U&CF grant program is not beautification through tree planting, but to develop and enhance urban and community forestry programs. Total funding available for demonstration or site specific tree planting projects is limited to 20% of available funds (**\$80,000**) and tree planting projects are limited to a maximum award of **\$20,000** per applicant.

The U&CF grant program is intended to help local governments, Native-American tribal governments, volunteer groups, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions get programs started and is not meant to be a continual funding source for staffing. The U&CF grant will fund staffing for no more than three grant years.

The US Forest Service has directed the FFS to focus on assisting communities to strengthen their urban forestry programs in the following four core areas:

1. Active involvement by community tree boards or citizen tree advisory groups.
2. Development of urban tree management plans based on current inventory data.
3. Program oversight by qualified professional staff or professional consultant.
4. Development of a tree ordinance that will enforce community tree care standards.

Addressing these four areas will involve education of citizens, local officials and tree care professionals. Encouraging volunteer and citizen group participation in these activities is also a key to program success. Some demonstration areas to show good urban forestry practices are also helpful and will be funded to a limited extent under this grant program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO ENTER INTO A GRANT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**

The Board of Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, in regular meeting duly assembled on Thursday, March 24, 2016, resolves as follows:

**WHEREAS**, trees are an important part of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Rosa County desires to apply for an Urban and Community Forestry Grant which would provide monies in which to help fund the Tree Planting Demonstration project at the Bagdad Mill Site Park, and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Rosa County wishes to enter into an Urban and Community Forestry Grant Memorandum of Agreement between the Santa Rosa County, Florida and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Santa Rosa County supports the development and installation of a tree planting project at the Bagdad Mill Site Park to further educate its residents and local tree care professionals on good urban forestry practices.

**Section 2.** Santa Rosa County authorizes the Chairman, or Vice-Chair in Chairman's absence, to enter into an Urban and Community Forestry Grant Memorandum of Agreement between Santa Rosa County, Florida and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners on a vote of \_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_ nays, and \_\_\_\_ absent, in regular session, this 24th day of March, 2016.

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**BY** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Jayer Williamson, Vice-Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Donald C Spencer, Clerk of Courts**