



Diane Nichols Tradd  
*Assistant City Manager/DPD Director*

Kevin E. Coughlin  
*Deputy Director*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 1/30/18 BY COUNCILOR ELLIOTT  
REQUEST CITY MANAGER APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM GREENING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM  
FROM THE STATE FOR PLANTING OF TREE PROGRAM

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) contacted the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to learn more about the Urban and Community Forestry Greening the Gateway Cities Program. This program is designed to reduce household heating and cooling energy use by increasing tree canopy cover in urban residential areas. The DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry Urban and Community Forestry crews, hired within local communities, plant trees in target neighborhoods to increase tree canopy cover for environmental and energy efficiency benefits. This program, concentrated in Environmental Justice neighborhoods, targets areas within gateway cities that have lower tree canopy, older housing stock, higher wind speeds, and a larger renter population. Trees are located in targeted planting zones in each city to maximize the energy efficiency benefits.

The program can operate in two ways: a DCR planting crew can come into a city and conducts the planting program, or it can be done through grants from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). EEA and DCR will work with interested municipalities to go through the application and participation processes when crews or grant funding are available. Lowell meets the criteria for participation in the Greening the Gateway Program as a Gateway City with Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Participating communities are not required to contribute matching funds to participate in the program but DCR staff indicated in-kind contributions do help strengthen the program.

At this time crews are working in several Gateway Cities, including two in close proximity to Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill. Fiscal year 2019 budget numbers for the Greening the Gateway Program are being finalized at this time. DPD and DCR staff have plans to reconnect once budget numbers have been finalized and there is more clarity about how many communities the program may be able to work with in the future.

DNT/ns  
3/2/18

cc: Yovani Baez-Rose, Neighborhood Planner