

department of planning and development

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024



How to Participate

To be eligible for this program, you must be a property owner within the qualifying area.

See the full map here:

<https://www.maurban canopy.org/town/lowell/>

By signing up, you agree to maintain the trees provided through the program in accordance with DCR's care instructions for a period of two years.

Signing up is easy!

Call GGCP at (617) 626-1516 or use the web form:

<https://www.maurban canopy.org/sign-me-up/>

Once signed up, DCR will schedule a time for a DCR Forester consultation for your property.

The GGCP was created with the goal of increasing the number of trees planted in urban residential areas of Massachusetts Gateway Cities, including Lowell.

Trees provided through the program not only beautify our city, but also offer numerous environmental benefits, including improved air quality and reduced energy costs.

Expanding Lowell's Green Canopy: Free Tree Plantings Now Available!

We are thrilled to announce that the Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP) has expanded its boundary in Lowell, making almost the entire city eligible for free tree planting. This initiative, aimed at increasing tree canopy cover in urban residential areas, is a collaborative effort between the City of Lowell, Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). CDBG has allocated over \$200,000 for tree plantings in the current fiscal year. Tree planting initiatives play a crucial role in creating a healthier and more vibrant urban environment.

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Small Business Expansion Loan Program



This program, funded through the City's Community Block Grant provides eligible small businesses and microenterprises with a \$30K forgivable loan in exchange for job creation and for occupying a commercial storefront in Lowell for a minimum period of three (3) years. The loan funds assist borrowers with operating costs such as rent, business insurance, and payroll. The newly created job(s) by the businesses assisted through this program must be made available exclusively to low-and-moderate income residents of Lowell. This program has become a successful tool in reducing ground-floor commercial vacancies in our commercial districts. The small businesses assisted are expected to create over twenty-five (25) full-time new jobs or full-time job equivalents (FTEs). This program helped reduce commercial vacancy by approximately 30,000 square feet.

Nibbana Café received a \$30K loan through the SBEL program. The loan funds assisted Nibbana with its expansion into a second location in Lowell. Despite opening their first location in Downtown during the pandemic, Nibbana quickly became one of the top coffee shops in Downtown! "The City of Lowell's Small Business Expansion Loan helps us during the slow season and time we needed most. The loan was critical to assist in my coffeeshop's expansion...We now have two locations in Lowell! When we first opened in Lowell, we had only two employees and occupied 500 square feet of space and now we have 9 employees and two locations. The City of Lowell's small business Expansion Loan was so crucial for our survival and growth. We cannot thank you enough." Romany Meas, Owner Nibbana Café, Lowell, MA



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