

Alaska Community Forestry Program
2019 Grants
Community Orchards or Food Forests

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry
550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501 / 907-269-8466 / <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

Forests are vital infrastructure, conveying many benefits to the humans and wildlife that occupy Alaska's communities. Forests clean the air and water, contribute to the livability of our cities and the health of those that live within. A food forest produces a variety of foods; improves the soil; attracts pollinators; and provides a diversity of habitat. If done properly, food forests become low maintenance, high value spaces that build community and increase local food security.

These grants will support the testing and demonstration of fruit trees (and possibly nut trees) that can be grown in Alaska. Applicants are encouraged to be creative when selecting tree species for their project. Trees may be planted in an orchard or in public landscapes throughout a community. The duration of this grant allows for an extended window to research and plan. For applicants working with schools, consider involving students in the research and design process. Be creative and thoughtful during the planning process. These projects will help us evaluate the success of different fruit trees and community orchard/food forest models, share results, and make recommendations.

Include as many plants in your forest or orchard as is appropriate for your location and resources. Consider planting a **food forest** that mimics a natural forest ecosystem. Include trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals to create the layers found in a forest. Bare root trees are less expensive, easier to transport and plant, and do not bring weeds to your site.

A food forest has some or all of these layers:

- Canopy – large fruit and nut trees make up the upper level;
- Low tree layer – small fruit trees on dwarfing root stocks;
- Shrubs – currants, berries, and hazelnuts can fill gaps between trees;
- Ground covers – low growing edible plants, herbs, and wildflowers;
- Vines and climbers; and
- Below ground – fungal communities that improve the soil, increase the nutrients available to trees and shrubs and support growth of beneficial mushrooms.

The project should:

- Increase public awareness of the benefits of community trees and forests;
- Demonstrate for the public how to select, plant, and care for fruit trees;
- Include broad community support; and
- Develop harvest guidelines so that the fruit is shared or donated for a specific purpose, fruit is harvested only when ripe, and plants are not damaged during harvest.

Requirements:

- Applicant must be a **government entity or nonprofit** organization with a current IRS 501(C)3 status in good standing.
- Applicants may apply for up to **\$2,000 to purchase trees**. Approximately \$10,000 is available to fund projects.
- A **one-to-one match** is required, e.g., a \$1,000 grant requires a \$1,000 match.
- The match may be cash, volunteer time, or in-kind donations such as trees, shrubs, mulch, or water hoses.
- The match **may not** include federal funds or services provided by federal funds.
- Grant funds **may not** be used to pay wages and the match **may not** be wages.
- Trees must be planted on **public land** and have a three-year **maintenance plan**.

- Projects must be completed, and reports submitted by **September 18, 2019**.
- Plant high quality trees that are appropriate for the site and meet the *American Standard for Nursery Stock 2014*. http://americanhort.org/documents/ANSI_Nursery_Stock_Standards_AmericanHort_2014.pdf
- Use *Plant a Tree: Alaska's Guide to Tree Selection, Planting, & Care* to plan and carry out your project. Request copies from the Community Forestry Program or see online at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/forestry/pdfs/community/publications/PlantATreeWeb2011.pdf>.

Proposal

Complete the application and explain how your project meets the Selection Criteria. Be creative and show how your community will benefit and how you will offer education and information to a broad audience.

Selection Criteria

1. How well does the project increase public awareness of the benefits of community trees and forests?
2. How well does the project demonstrate for the public proper fruit tree selection, planting, and care?
3. Does the proposal show that the project has broad community support?
4. Does the proposal describe a well-organized plan and budget that will meet its goals?

Application Process

Complete the two-page application. Proposals are due no later than **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2019**. Alaska Community Forestry staff and the Alaska Community Forest Council (citizens who advise the Division of Forestry) will review proposals and announce the grant awards no later than Thursday, January 31, 2019. The state and grantee will sign a grant agreement and funds will be paid to the grantee upon receipt of the final report.

For information and assistance

Please call if you need help with your proposal. We can help you write specifications to ensure that the trees you buy are of high quality, in excellent condition, and appropriate for your site. If you need help from an experienced fruit tree grower in your community, contact your nearest UAF Cooperative Extension Service office, the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, a Master Gardener, or a local garden center.

- Division of Forestry Community Forestry Program: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/news.htm>
- Landscape Plants for Alaska: <http://www.alaskaplants.org/>
- UAF Cooperative Extension Service: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>
- Cooperative Extension Service publication: Growing Tree and Bush Fruits in Alaska <http://www.uaf.edu/files/ces/publications-db/catalog/anr/HGA-00038.pdf>
- Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association: <http://www.apfga.org/>
- An internet search for “food forest” will lead you to information and examples from around North America.

Email proposal to:

Stephen Nickel
Alaska Community Forestry Program
stephen.nickel@alaska.gov
907-269-8466

OR

Mail or deliver proposal to:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
Community Forestry Program
550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program:

Help communities build effective, self-sustaining community forestry programs with strong local support.

Grants funds provided to the State of Alaska Division of Forestry from the USDA Forest Service