

W.M. Patrick Madden
Mayor



John Salka
Deputy Director of Public Information

Monica Kurzejeski
Deputy Mayor

Office of the Mayor
City Hall
433 River Street
Troy, New York 12180

Phone: (518) 279-7131
Fax: (518) 270-4546
john.salka@troyny.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | NOVEMBER 1, 2017

Mayor Madden: Troy Awarded \$100,000 Grant for City-wide Urban Forestry Inventory and Management Plan

TROY, NY – **Mayor Patrick Madden** today announced the City of Troy has been awarded two grants totaling \$100,000 from the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's** (NYS DEC) Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program to complete a two-phase citywide urban forestry inventory & management plan.

“Urban forests offer a number of benefits to communities like Troy: they improve air quality, lower temperatures, absorb rainwater and, in some cases, help reduce crime,” said **Mayor Patrick Madden**. “With the assistance of this important funding the City and our community partners can collaborate on opportunities to improve our street trees, parks and green spaces for the benefit and enjoyment of our residents and future generations. We applaud Governor Cuomo and our state legislature representatives for their commitment and investment toward initiatives that strengthen the health and vibrancy of our urban environment.”

The Urban Forestry Grant will be used to inventory Troy’s City-owned trees in order to develop a management plan to assist with decision-making around tree maintenance, including invasive species infestations. It also aids with planning and placement of site-appropriate tree species and reduces maintenance costs through appropriate urban forestry decision-making.

Partner organizations participating in the development of Troy’s Urban Forestry Inventory and Management Plan include **Audubon NY, Capital Roots, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County, Downtown Troy Business Improvement District, Rensselaer County Land Trust, the Troy Boys & Girls Club, Troy Rehabilitation & Improvement Program, and Troy’s Urban Forestry Advisory Board.**

The successful pursuit of this environmental grant assistance is the result of the administration’s experienced staff, specifically **City Grant Writer Laura Welles**, who utilized an innovative strategy to maximize the City’s opportunities to fully fund the inventory & management plan.

“The value of professional staff members like Laura Welles, whose experience and insight into the grant funding process played an essential role in obtaining this valuable funding, cannot be measured,” **Mayor Madden** added. “I extend my appreciation to Laura for her diligent work on behalf of the residents of Troy which secured valuable financial assistance for programs that support the continued growth and vibrancy of our diverse neighborhoods.”

The latest Urban Forestry Grants awarded to the City of Troy is a continuation of the Administration’s efforts to promote environmentally-conscious initiatives which enhance community green spaces and support healthy neighborhoods. Earlier this year, the City also received an \$100,000 grant from **NYS DEC’s** Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control Grant Program to address the infestation of an invasive insect, the emerald ash borer, in the City’s approximately 400 ash street trees which leads to tree deterioration and death. The available grant funding offsets costs for the city while providing for the treatment, removal and replacement of infected trees to reduce potentially dangerous and costly situations from falling branches and trees. The city partnered with **Habitat Garden Design, Magai Arboriculture and TAP, Inc.’s “Chico’s Fund,”** created to honor the Stephen “Chico” Christopher who led various green infrastructure projects in Troy, in the planning and implementation of the program.

Additionally, the City of Troy previously received a \$25,000 NYS Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the NYS DEC to support the planting of 100 trees throughout the City. The City successfully partnered with **Capital Roots** to implement the program during 2016 and 2017.

-30-

Follow Troy City Hall on Twitter: [@TroyCityHall](https://twitter.com/TroyCityHall)
Connect with us on Facebook: facebook.com/Troy518

MEDIA CONTACT:

John Salka, Deputy Director of Public Information
John.Salka@troyny.gov / (518) 279-7131