

Tree Planting Project Proposal

Shading Our Future: Tree Canopy Expansion for Climate Resilience and Campus Community

Award Specifics

\$25,000 for fiscal year 2026, ending June 30, 2026

Funding will be awarded to the Office of Sustainability account (2558369) and sub account (SI.03). All project expenses must be posted to both the account and sub account. All project expenses must follow all Fiscal-Year-End guidelines to ensure that all project expenditure is posted in Period 12. Funding does not roll over beyond the awarded fiscal year.

Project Summary

This proposal outlines a collaborative tree-planting initiative designed to increase shade in key pedestrian and bike-commuting areas across campus. The project aims to mitigate urban heat, encourage active transportation, and foster informal social interaction, strengthening the Wildcat community.

The team will plant approximately 40, twenty-five gallon size, native, drought-tolerant shade trees. Planting locations will be prioritized based on areas that currently lack shade but are heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists. These trees will help create shaded walking routes, comfortable bike parking areas, and inviting social gathering spaces. This strategic approach is intended to maximize impact and enhance the campus's heat resilience.

To encourage hands-on involvement and environmental awareness, the project will include two community tree-planting events during the 2025 - 2026 academic year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The spring event will coincide with the inaugural Arbor Day Tree Celebration on April 24th. These events will provide inclusive opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to come together, plant trees, and engage in discussions on topics such as climate resilience, native species, and urban ecology.

By integrating environmental planning, resilient design, and community engagement, this initiative will improve campus livability, and deliver lasting environmental and social benefits for the University community.

Purpose & Objectives

- **Urban Heat Mitigation:** Trees will be planted in low canopy cover areas to reduce solar exposure and surface temperatures.
- **Walkability:** Shaded pathways and walking routes will promote pedestrian activity, comfort, and connectivity.

- **Placemaking:** The effort will contribute to the character of campus landscapes, increasing shaded walking routes, cycling facilities and encourage informal gathering.
- **Involvement:** Engage students at various stages of the project including the planning and participation in community outreach events.

Project Partners & Leadership

The initiative will be led by the University of Arizona's Landscape Architect, in collaboration with campus partners including Planning, Design & Construction (PD&C), the Office of Sustainability University Facilities Services (UFS)- Facilities Management (FM) and the Campus Arboretum.

The Landscape Architect and UFS Director of Operations will serve as project managers and advisors for overall project management, installation coordination/logistics and for contracting with outside contractors, if needed. They will also provide management of funds with reporting to the project financial advisor, provide regular project reports and performance evaluations.

Process & Implementation

1. Post-Award Coordination:

- U of A Landscape Architect will collaborate with UFS for logistics on site preparation, including irrigation modifications and minor site improvements.
- U of A Landscape Architect will collaborate with FM for preliminary budget estimates and schedule logistics.
- U of A Landscape Architect will collaborate with FM & PDC for utility locations and clearances, coordination for plans reviews, permits and approvals and campus notifications to relevant departments (if needed)

2. Planning Phase:

- U of A Landscape Architect will lead development of planting locations emphasizing shade in pedestrian areas and group gathering spaces that area lacking existing trees.
- U of A Landscape Architect & FM will coordinate on preparation of work scope, budget allocations and installation timeline per installation area.
- U of A Landscape Architect will track real time costs per area to adjust or forecast future phases, installation areas, number of trees and any potential additional programmed events.

3. Engagement Activities:

- Coordination and engagement with the Campus Arboretum.
- The Office of Sustainability with student volunteers will facilitate 2 tree planting events on campus (fall/spring) including - "1st Annual Arbor Day Tree Celebration" in April 2026 to

maximize visibility and engage participation from students, administration representatives and the greater Tucson community.

Budget Estimate

Project Award:	\$25,000
Trees and delivery:	\$15,000
Educational materials and signage:	\$1,000
FM services and irrigation:	\$6,000
Miscellaneous materials / fees:	\$1,000
<u>Contingency:</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
Project total:	\$25,000

Evaluation & Reporting

The U of A Landscape Architect will coordinate with project partners to provide project evaluations and reports summarizing the implementation and success of the project.

- Student planting event surveys
- Tree survival tracking (informal performed by U of A Staff – FM & PDC) Creation of a digital map or photo log of planted trees (with EGIS)
- Submit a Final Report at the close of the project to the Campus Sustainability Fund, highlighting the project’s success, challenges, and impacts.

