



# The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)- What's included for Trees?

## Introduction to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

The Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act both significantly recognize the value of trees and provide funding for their planting and care. The IIJA, signed into law on November 15, 2021, recognizes trees as critical infrastructure and provides funds for infrastructure improvement, maintenance, and protection. The IRA, signed into law on August 16, 2022, supports the planting and protection of trees and seeks to combat climate change by allocating tree-related funding to the Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Forest Service, and Housing and Urban Development.

## Department of Transportation (DOT) – IRA and IIJA

### IIJA – Section 11406: Healthy Streets Program

**\$100 million** authorized per year through 2026

- Establishes grants for eligible entities' projects that (1) deploy cool pavements and porous pavements and (2) expand tree cover.
  - Eligible entities include states, metropolitan planning organizations, units of local government, tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations working in coordination with any of the prior entities.
- Grant dollars can be used to:
  - Conduct an assessment of urban heat islands to identify hot spot areas of extreme heat or elevated air pollution.
  - Conduct a comprehensive tree canopy assessment.
  - Conduct an equity assessment by mapping tree canopy gaps, flood-prone locations, and urban heat island hot spots.
  - Purchase of trees, site preparation, planting of trees, ongoing maintenance and

monitoring of trees, and repairing of storm damage to trees, with priority given to projects in neighborhoods with lower tree cover or higher maximum daytime summer temperatures compared to surrounding areas.

### **IIJA – Section 11509: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

**\$500 million** authorized for use over five years, with **\$150 million** for Planning Grants and **\$350 million** for Capital Construction Grants.

- Funds allocated for capital construction are treated as Title 23 funds, which may be used for park elements, including plants, trees, roadside development, and landscaping if they are in a right of way or on adjoining scenic lands. These provisions may be applied through Title 23 Section 319 and Title 23 Part 752.
- Title 23 Section 319 funds can be used to:
  - Improve strips of land necessary for the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of scenic beauty (including the enhancement of habitat and forage for pollinators) adjacent to such highways.
  - Encourage pollinator habitat and forage development and protection on transportation rights-of-ways.
- Title 23 Part 752 funds can be used to:
  - Support landscape development that includes landscaping and highway planting programs within the right-of-way of all federally funded highways or on adjoining scenic lands.
  - Support the growth of rural areas' new and major reconstructed highways through appropriate landscaping for the adjacent environment.
  - Support plant establishment periods for survival in the highway environment. The language allows urban landscaping to be extended to a three-year period.

### **IRA – Section 60501: Neighborhood Equity Access and Equity Program**

**\$1.893 billion for competitive grants**

- To improve walkability, safety, and affordable transportation and to build or improve complete streets, multi-use trails, regional greenways, and active transportation networks and spines.
- Includes noise barriers, reducing surface transportation-related air pollution, reducing or managing stormwater run-off, and reducing or mitigating urban heat island hot spots.
- Includes identifying, monitoring, and assessing air quality, emissions of transportation GHG in hot spot areas of extreme heat, elevated air pollution, gaps in tree canopy coverage, and flood-prone transportation areas.

**\$1.11 billion for grants** for projects in disadvantaged and underserved communities.

## **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – IRA**

### **Section 60201: Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants**

**\$2.8 billion in grants**

- To support community-led air and other pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation. This may include investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient

technologies and related infrastructure and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.

- Objectives can include:
  - Mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events.
  - Climate resiliency and adaptation.
  - Facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

**\$200 million** to remain available until September 30, 2026, to provide technical assistance to eligible entities related to grants awarded under this section.

## Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – IRA

### Section 30002: Green Resilient Retrofit Program

**\$837.5 million** for the cost of providing direct loans, the costs of modifying such loans, and for grants.

**\$4 billion** CDBG to fund projects on eligible properties that:

- Improve energy or water efficiency.
- Enhance indoor air quality or sustainability.
- Implement the use of zero-emission electricity generation, low-emission building materials or processes, energy storage, or building electrification strategies.
- Address climate resilience.

## United States Forest Service – IIJA and IRA

### IIJA – Section 40803: Community Wildfire Defense Program

**\$1 billion** for use over the next five years.

- Selected CWDG projects will either:
  - Develop or revise a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).
  - Implement wildfire risk reduction projects described within a CWPP.
- Priority for CWDG funding will be given to proposals that serve:
  - Wildland-urban interface communities that are low-income or have been impacted by a severe disaster.
  - Areas of high or very high wildfire hazard potential.

### IRA – Section 23003: Urban and Community Forestry Assistance.

**\$1.5 billion** in funding for competitive grants under the U&CF program.

- Eligible Entities:
  - States, Tribes, Insular areas, cities, communities of 2500+, and nonprofits.
- Eligible Activities:
  - Tree planting and related activities.
  - Broad authority to plant, protect, and maintain tree cover in public and private spaces.

- o Wood utilization, workforce development, education, technical assistance, planning.
- Priorities
  - o Communities under the Justice40 umbrella.