**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[Insert Date]

[Organization] Contact:

[Name]

[Phone]

[Email]

City of New Orleans Contact:

communications@nola.gov
(504) 658-4945

**[Organization Name] Joins the City of New Orleans to Expand Urban Forestry and Workforce Development**

**[CITY, State] (Month XX, 2024) –** [Organization Name] is proud to announce its partnership with the City of New Orleans as a subgrantee of the City’s $8 million Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) grant from the USDA Forest Service. This grant, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, supports efforts to plant trees, expand the urban tree canopy, and develop workforce training programs in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

As a subgrantee, [Organization Name] will [insert specific organizational plans, such as planting trees, training local residents, or engaging the community in urban forestry initiatives]. These activities align with the goals outlined in the [City’s Climate Action Plan](http://www.nola.gov/climate-action), which calls for a community-wide goal to plant 40,000 new trees by 2030 and to establish 10% canopy coverage in all neighborhoods.

“[Insert quote from organization representative about the impact of being a subgrantee],” said [Representative’s Name, Title]. “[Additional details about the organization’s commitment to the project and its anticipated outcomes].”

Some areas of the city are considered “heat islands” due to lack of greenspace and can be nearly nine degrees hotter than other areas. The City’s tree canopy currently covers just 18.5% of the community, down from nearly 30% prior to Katrina in 2005. This canopy coverage is much lower than comparable southern cities, including Memphis (37%), Austin (38%), and Atlanta (47%).

The City of New Orleans, through its Department of Parks & Parkways and Office of Resilience & Sustainability, will lead the overarching implementation of the UCF grant. The partnership with [Organization Name] and other subgrantees is essential to help meet the goals of the City’s [Climate Action Plan](https://nola.gov/climate-action/). The funding will also allow for workforce development organizations to expand their programming to meet the growing demand for forestry professionals needed to grow and maintain the city’s tree canopy. For more information about the City of New Orleans’ UCF award, visit <https://nola.gov/next/parks-parkways/topics/trees/nocturnl/.>

For more information about [Organization Name]’s role in this initiative, visit [Website Link] or contact [Contact Information].

###

**About [Organization Name]**[Insert boilerplate text with information about the organization, its mission, and programs.]

**About the Department of Parks & Parkways**
The Department of Parks & Parkways is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in New Orleans by maintaining and beautifying public green spaces, fostering sustainability, and preserving the city’s iconic urban forest. For more information, please visit <https://nola.gov/next/parks-parkways/home/>.

**About the Office of Resilience & Sustainability**The Office of Resilience & Sustainability leads New Orleans’ climate action and resilience planning efforts, addressing environmental challenges through innovative programs and community partnerships. Since 2022, ORS has secured over $131 million in federal awards to implement the City’s Climate Action Plan goals. For more information about ORS or these federal awards, please visit <https://nola.gov/resilience-sustainability>.

**About the Urban and Community Forestry Program**
The Urban and Community Forestry Program of the USDA Forest Service supports urban tree-planting, urban forest planning and management, and related activities, particularly in disadvantaged communities, by awarding grants to local projects with funding from the Inflation Reduction Act.The award for the City of New Orleans was one of the 385 awards made across the U.S. and territories, including four awards in Louisiana. [More information about the Urban and Community Forestry Program can be found here.](https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-invests-1-billion-nearly-400-projects-expand-access-trees-and-green-spaces)