



CONSUMERS ENERGY
FORESTRY OPERATIONS
2026 COMMUNITY STREET & BOULEVARD TREE PLANTING
GRANT PROGRAM

in association with the

MICHIGAN FORESTRY & PARK ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPLICATION DUE DATE JULY 17, 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Consumers Energy Company – Forestry Operations Department has established the Community Street & Boulevard Tree Planting Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to assist local municipalities with tree planting projects that focus on appropriate selection of tree species and planting locations on public streets and/or boulevards.

Administration of the grant application process and review will be conducted by the Michigan Forestry and Park Association (MFPA). Correspondence regarding the grant application and review should be directed to Becky Wildenthal, MFPA by email to cetreplantinggrants@gmail.com.

This is a reimbursement grant program. Grant monies awarded under this program will be paid only upon evidence of completion for approved projects. A maximum of 15 trees (\$3,000) may be awarded to a single municipality for the calendar year 2026, subject to the total number of accepted projects. If the total accepted applications exceed the program's maximum amount of \$100,000, grant awards and project scopes will be proportionally reduced so as not to exceed the maximum \$100,000.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit the original application electronically to Becky Wildenthal at cetreplantinggrants@gmail.com. **Applications will be accepted from local municipalities within Consumers Energy's electric service area only.**

The grant application must demonstrate that funded trees will be planted within the municipality's streets and boulevards open to the public and shall conform to the "Right Tree – Right Place" principles described below.

All projects must be completed by November 6, 2026, to permit time for verification and issuance of grant monies. Consumers Energy will not defer completion times since grant monies must be payable in the 2026 calendar year.

Applications must include a detailed list of the tree species (including variety and cultivars, if applicable), site map of planting locations, and attached pictures of proposed planting locations that include any overhead facilities and are labeled with the corresponding location on the attached site map. **Please keep photo sizes reduced to 3MB.**

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

Projects eligible for funding under Consumers Energy's Community Street & Boulevard Tree Planting Grant Program are tree planting projects on public streets and boulevards. Reforestation, parks, school property and privately-owned property projects will not be considered eligible. Reimbursement shall be \$200 per tree and a maximum of \$3,000 per municipality.

The tree species selected must be appropriate for the planting location, including consideration for overhead and underground utilities. A list of some species acceptable for planting under or near utility lines and the minimum distance trees are to be planted from utility infrastructure are listed in Table 1 and illustrated in Diagram 1. Native tree species purchased from Michigan nurseries are encouraged. Planting stock must be obtained from a nursery stock dealer or grower certified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture or must be accompanied by a Michigan Department of Agriculture certificate.

All planting projects must comply with minimum planting stock standards. Base standards are [American Standards for Nursery Stock \(ANSI Z60.1\)](#) and the [Michigan Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act \(Public Act 189, 1931\)](#) and later versions as published.

The following tree species WILL NOT be eligible for reimbursement due to their invasive nature:

Black Locust – *Robinia pseudoaccacia*
Tree of Heaven – *Ailanthus altissima*
Norway Maple - *Acer plantanoides* – all varieties and cultivars
Flowering Pear – *Pyrus spp* – all varieties and cultivars
Black Alder – *Alnus glutinosa*
Russian Olive - *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

RATING CRITERIA:

Applications will be rated on several criteria including “Right Tree – Right Place” plantings, replacement plantings for the removal of large trees that were growing under power lines, community size, geographic location, tree species selection, and tree planting plan. Consumers Energy reserves the right to refine or alter the criteria at any time. Consumers Energy reserves the right to accept projects and/or to limit the amount of recommended funding by the Michigan Forestry & Park Association at its sole discretion.

GRANT AWARD AND EXECUTION OF CONTRACT:

Grants will be awarded to the recommended proposals and are subject to annual funding limits established by Consumers Energy which may cause a reduction in the grant recommendation awarded. Official notification should be made within four weeks of the application closing date. Grant recipients will receive grant documents for processing following the initial notification of approval.

Awarded grant monies will only be paid upon evidence of completion of project. Projects must be completed by **November 6, 2026**. Representative after photos of completed projects labeled with the corresponding location on your provided map and signed or electronically signed agreements shall be emailed to Becky Wildenthal at cetreplantinggrants@gmail.com as verification of completion. Agreements without *signatures* will not be eligible for monetary disbursement. If circumstances arise that require you to amend a planting site, please note the amended site and include BEFORE and AFTER pictures. **Please keep photo sizes reduced to 3MB.**

Projects receiving funds must acknowledge the support of Consumers Energy through advertisement or news release in local print, broadcast media or social media and shall be provided by either copy or link with completion paperwork.

If your municipality is active on social media, please be sure to tag us when talking about your Tree Planting Grant! You can find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/ConsumersEnergyMichigan](https://www.facebook.com/ConsumersEnergyMichigan)), X (Formerly Twitter) (@ConsumersEnergy), Instagram (@ConsumersEnergy), or LinkedIn (@ConsumersEnergy).

The applicant agrees that Consumers Energy reserves the right to publish the names of Grantees and the amount of awarded grants along with the number of trees planted utilizing awarded grant money.

If your municipality needs volunteers, contact your local Consumers Energy Community Affairs partner to inquire about event coordination.

Table 1 – Species List of Recommended Trees with Size

Common Name		Scientific Name		Size	Michigan native	Drought Tolerant	Shade Tolerant	Wet Soils tolerant	Hardiness Zone	Planting Distance from Overhead Electric Distribution Lines
Bladdernut	American	<i>Staphylea</i>	<i>trifolia</i>	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	None
Crabapple	Flowering	<i>Malus</i>	<i>spp.</i>	S			Yes		4	None
Dogwood	Cornelian	<i>Cornus</i>	<i>mas</i>	S					4	None
Dogwood	Flowering	<i>Cornus</i>	<i>florida</i>	S	Yes				5	None
Dogwood	Kousa	<i>Cornus</i>	<i>kousa</i>	S		Yes			5	None
Dogwood	Alternate leaf	<i>Cornus</i>	<i>alternifolia</i>	S	Yes				3	None
Hawthorn		<i>Crataegus</i>	<i>spp.</i>	S	Yes	Yes		Yes	5	None
Hop Tree	Common	<i>Ptelea</i>	<i>trifoliata</i>	S	Yes				5	None
Lilac	Japanese Tree	<i>Syringa</i>	<i>reticulata</i>	S					4	None
Magnolia	Saucer	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>soulangiana</i>	S					5	None
Magnolia	Star	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>stellata</i>	S					5	None
Maple	Amur	<i>Acer</i>	<i>ginnala</i>	S		Yes			3	None
Maple	Japanese	<i>Acer</i>	<i>palmatum</i>	S			Yes		4	None
Maple	Mountain	<i>Acer</i>	<i>spicatum</i>	S	Yes				2	None
Maple	Paperbark	<i>Acer</i>	<i>griseum</i>	S					5	None
Maple	Striped	<i>Acer</i>	<i>pensylvanicum</i>	S	Yes		Yes		3	None
Maple	Tartarian	<i>Acer</i>	<i>tartaricum</i>	S		Yes	Yes		3	None
Maple	Trident	<i>Acer</i>	<i>buergerianum</i>	S		Yes			6	None
Nannyberry		<i>Viburnum</i>	<i>lentago</i>	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	None
Pawpaw		<i>Asimina</i>	<i>triloba</i>	S	Yes		Yes		5	None
Pine	Mugo	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>mugo</i>	S					5	None
Plum	American	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>americana</i>	S	Yes				3	None
Redbud	Eastern	<i>Cercis</i>	<i>canadensis</i>	S	Yes				4	None
Serviceberry	Downy	<i>Amelanchier</i>	<i>arborea</i>	S	Yes	Yes	Yes		3	None
Serviceberry	Hybrids	<i>Amelanchier</i>	<i>hybrids</i>	S		Yes	Yes		4	None
Amur	Corktree	<i>Phellodendron</i>	<i>amurese</i>	M					4	20 Feet
Birch	River	<i>Betula</i>	<i>nigra</i>	M	Yes				4	20 Feet
Buckeye	Ohio	<i>Aesculus</i>	<i>glabra</i>	M	Yes				5	20 Feet
Cherry	Japanese Flowering	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>serrulata</i>	M					5	20 Feet
Cherry	Sargent	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>sargentii</i>	M					4	20 Feet

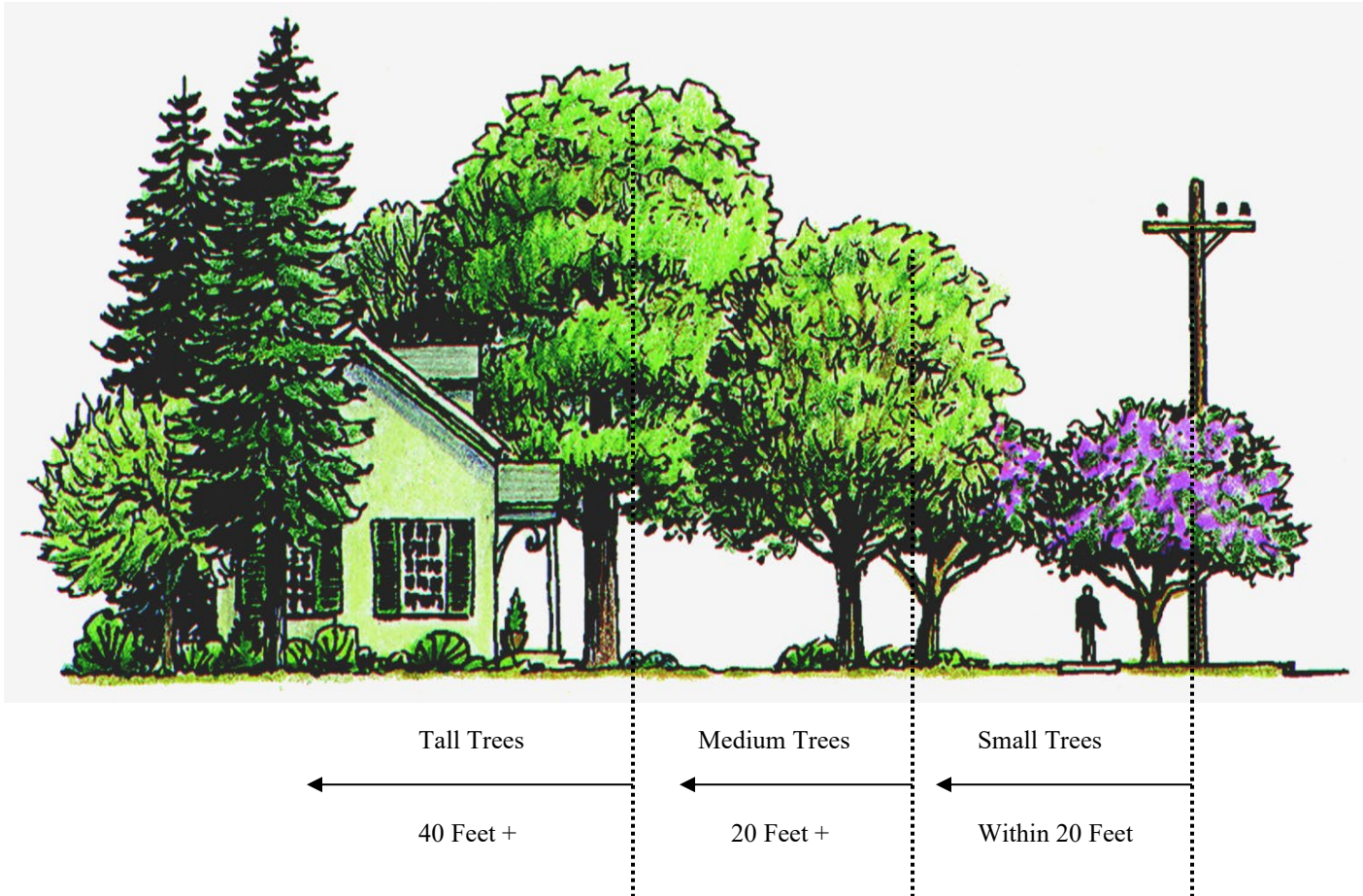
Common Name		Scientific Name		Size	Michigan native	Drought Tolerant	Shade Tolerant	Wet Soils tolerant	Hardiness Zone	Planting Distance from Overhead Electric Distribution Lines
Golden Raintree		<i>Koelreuteria</i>	<i>paniculata</i>	M		Yes			4	20 Feet
Maple	Hedge	<i>Acer</i>	<i>campestre</i>	M		Yes			5	20 Feet
Persimmon	Common	<i>Diospyros</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	M	Yes				5	20 Feet
Spruce	Black	<i>Picea</i>	<i>mariana</i>	M	Yes			Yes	3	20 Feet
Arborvitae		<i>Thuja</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	L	Yes	Yes		Yes	3	40 Feet
Baldcypress		<i>Taxodium</i>	<i>distichum</i>	L				Yes	5	40 Feet
Basswood		<i>Tilia</i>	<i>americana</i>	L	Yes	Yes	Yes		4	40 Feet
Beech	American	<i>Fagus</i>	<i>grandifolia</i>	L	Yes				4	40 Feet
Beech	European	<i>Fagus</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Birch	Asian White	<i>Betula</i>	<i>platyphylla</i>	L					3	40 Feet
Birch	Yellow	<i>Betula</i>	<i>alleghaniensis</i>	L	Yes				3	40 Feet
Blackgum		<i>Nyssa</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>	L	Yes		Yes	Yes	5	40 Feet
Butternut		<i>Juglans</i>	<i>cinerea</i>	L	Yes				5	40 Feet
Catalpa	Northern	<i>Catalpa</i>	<i>speciosa</i>	L		Yes			5	40 Feet
Cedar	Eastern Red	<i>Juniperus</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	L	Yes	Yes			4	40 Feet
Chestnut	spp.	<i>Castanea</i>	<i>spp.</i>	L					5	40 Feet
Cottonwood		<i>Populus</i>	<i>deltoides</i>	L	Yes			Yes	4	40 Feet
Dawn Redwood		<i>Metasequoia</i>	<i>glyptostroboides</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Douglas-fir		<i>Pseudotsuga</i>	<i>menziesii</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Elm spp.	DED resistant cultivars	<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>spp.</i>	L		Yes			4	40 Feet
Fir	Balsam	<i>Abies</i>	<i>balsamea</i>	L	Yes				3	40 Feet
Fir	various species	<i>Abies</i>	<i>spp.</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Ginkgo		<i>Ginkgo</i>	<i>biloba</i>	L		Yes		Yes	4	40 Feet
Hackberry		<i>Celtis</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	L	Yes		Yes	Yes	4	40 Feet
Hazel	Turkish	<i>Corylus</i>	<i>colurna</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Hearnut	Japanese	<i>Juglans</i>	<i>ailantifolia</i>	L					5	40 Feet
Hemlock	Eastern	<i>Tsuga</i>	<i>canadensis</i>	L	Yes		Yes		3	40 Feet
Hickory	Bitternut	<i>Carya</i>	<i>cordiformis</i>	L	Yes				5	40 Feet
Hickory	Pignut	<i>Carya</i>	<i>glabra</i>	L	Yes				5	40 Feet
Hickory	Shagbark	<i>Carya</i>	<i>ovata</i>	L	Yes				5	40 Feet
Hickory	Shellbark	<i>Carya</i>	<i>laciniosa</i>	L	Yes				6	40 Feet
Honeylocust	Thornless Cultivars	<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	L		Yes		Yes	4	40 Feet
Horsechestnut		<i>Aesculus</i>	<i>hippocastanum</i>	L			Yes		5	40 Feet

Common Name		Scientific Name		Size	Michigan native	Drought Tolerant	Shade Tolerant	Wet Soils tolerant	Hardiness Zone	Planting Distance from Overhead Electric Distribution Lines
Katsura Tree		<i>Cercidiphyllum</i>	<i>japonicum</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Kentucky Coffeetree		<i>Gymnocladus</i>	<i>dioica</i>	L		Yes			5	40 Feet
Larch	Eastern	<i>Larix</i>	<i>laricina</i>	L	Yes			Yes	3	40 Feet
Larch	European	<i>Larix</i>	<i>decidua</i>	L					5	40 Feet
Larch	Japanese	<i>Larix</i>	<i>leptolepis</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Linden	Littleleaf	<i>Tilia</i>	<i>cordata</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Linden	Silver	<i>Tilia</i>	<i>tomentosa</i>	L			Yes		4	40 Feet
Planetree	London	<i>Platanus</i>	<i>X acerifolia</i>	L					5	40 Feet
Maple	Red	<i>Acer</i>	<i>rubrum</i>	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	40 Feet
Maple	Sugar	<i>Acer</i>	<i>saccharum</i>	L	Yes		Yes		3	40 Feet
Oak	Burr	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>macrocarpa</i>	L	Yes	Yes			4	40 Feet
Oak	Chinkapin	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>muehlenbergii</i>	L	Yes	Yes			5	40 Feet
Oak	English	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>robur</i>	L					5	40 Feet
Oak	Northern Red	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>rubra</i>	L	Yes				4	40 Feet
Oak	Pin	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>palustris</i>	L	Yes	Yes		Yes	5	40 Feet
Oak	Scarlet	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>coccinea</i>	L	Yes	Yes			5	40 Feet
Oak	Shumard	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>shumardii</i>	L	Yes	Yes		Yes	5	40 Feet
Oak	Swamp White	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>bicolor</i>	L	Yes		Yes	Yes	4	40 Feet
Oak	White	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>alba</i>	L	Yes				4	40 Feet
Pine	Red	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>resinosa</i>	L	Yes	Yes			3	40 Feet
Pine	White	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>strobus</i>	L	Yes				3	40 Feet
Pine	Various species	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>spp.</i>	L						40 Feet
Poplar	Yellow	<i>Liriodendron</i>	<i>tulipifera</i>	L	Yes				5	40 Feet
Scholar Tree		<i>Sophora</i>	<i>jacponica</i>	L		Yes	Yes		4	40 Feet
Spruce	White	<i>Picea</i>	<i>glauca</i>	L	Yes				3	40 Feet
Spruce	Various species	<i>Picea</i>	<i>spp.</i>	L						40 Feet
Sweetgum		<i>Liquidambar</i>	<i>styraciflua</i>	L					5	40 Feet
Sycamore	American	<i>Platanus</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	L	Yes				5	40 Feet
Tupelo	Black	<i>Nyssa</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>	L	Yes				4	40 Feet
Turkish Tree Hazel		<i>Corylus</i>	<i>colurna</i>	L		Yes			5	40 Feet
Walnut	Black	<i>Juglans</i>	<i>nigra</i>	L	Yes	Yes			5	40 Feet
Walnut	English	<i>Juglans</i>	<i>regia</i>	L					5	40 Feet
Yellowwood		<i>Cladrastis</i>	<i>kentykeia</i>	L					4	40 Feet
Zelkova	Japanese	<i>Zelkova</i>	<i>serrata</i>	L		Yes			5	40 Feet

Diagram 1. [National Arbor Day Foundation "Right Tree Right Place"](#)

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Plant Taller Trees Away from Overhead Electric Distribution Lines



Graphic created by the National Arbor Day Foundation and used by permission.