

Review - (6220) Urban Forest Grant Program Review	
Status	
Visible From	7/1/2019
Visible To	12/31/2019
Request Overview	
Name	TreeFolks
Project Title	Austin Environmental Heroes Program
Request Date	6/28/2019
Requested Amount	69,647.85
Program Start Date	6/17/2019
Program End Date	8/2/2019
Review and Feedback	
Yes/No	Undecided
Suggested Funding Amount	\$0.00
Reviewer Comments	
Review Long Notes	

74-2569827

Website

http://www.treefolks.org

Contact Information

Organization Primary Contact (Examples: Executive Director, CEO, President, Fundraising Chair)

First Name

Anna

Last Name

Mackey

Title

Operations Director

E-mail

anna@treefolks.org

Personnel Qualifications

Identify the names, qualifications, and contact information for all personnel who will be managing this project. State the primary work assigned to each person and the percentage of time each person would devote toward each work assignment. Identify keypersons by name and title.

Anna has a BS in Recreation Management from Oklahoma State University and a passion for preserving public land for future generations. Responsible for all organization financial management, support for all programs, grant writing, and management. Anna oversees all organization operations.

Resumes of Key Staff

Provide resumes describing relevant experience of key staff listed above.

Project Information

Request Information

Project Title

Austin Environmental Heroes Program

Project Categories

Please select all subcategories that apply to your project:

Growing

Tree Establishment

Caring

Tree Care

Informing

Public Education

Inspiring

If your project crosses multiple categories, specify below what percentage of your project falls under each (growing, caring, informing, inspiring)

This pilot project falls under the UFGP Categories Tree Planting, Tree Care/Maintenance and Education & Promotion, Public Education.

Request Amount

State the amount requested from UFG for this project.

69647.85

Project Description and Objectives

Describe the intent of the project and how it would benefit Austin's urban forest. Provide a clear and detailed statement of the project's objectives and include the associated project category and subcategory.

The Austin Environmental Heroes program is a six-week summer program, piloted in 2018, that promotes service, professionalism, environmental stewardship, and personal responsibility through caring for Austin's trees and waterways. This program combines the energies of TreeFolks and Austin Youth River Watch, each of which have decades of experience in their sectors. Green-collar jobs training in tree watering and maintenance is coupled with environmental education in riparian restoration and water quality testing to foster an ecological awareness of the connections between urban forests and our water supply, while helping alleviate the stress on municipal tree plantings over the hot summer months.

In 2017-2018, Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) planned on only a few public park plantings, while Austin Independent School District (AISD) struggled to fund irrigation systems even in schools with engaged PTA groups. Neighborhood groups experience a similar pressure during the summer. The AEH program can help by providing supplemental watering to trees that are no longer on the PARD watering schedule.

TreeFolks and AYRW propose to continue the AEH program into summer 2019 after adjusting logistics and metrics based on lessons learned during 2018. The program combines a high school youth job corps with an intensive summer environmental education experience. This programming is meant to teach high school students to combine practical tree care skills with environmental knowledge, financial responsibility, life-skills development, and career training. National models, including Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), demonstrate great success in their ability to facilitate municipal tree plantings by helping to maintain them..

AYRW has been working with at-risk youth in their service learning focused environmental education program since 1992. Their students are known as "River Watchers" because they learn about water quality measures and environmental factors that affect riparian health. The program serves over 120 students each year, and River Watchers have had a nearly 100% high school graduation rate since the program's inception. Since 2014, AYRW students have performed riparian restoration projects that include re-planting native species, invasive plant removal, building green infrastructure and other activities that support healthy rivers. Students generally do not enter the program with strong interests in STEM or the environment, and yet among the graduates, two-thirds continue in environmental or STEM fields of work or study.

The AEH summer program combines AYRW's record of success in youth environmental education with TreeFolks' focus on urban forest maintenance to mentor a new generation of urban forest stewards.

Program Objectives:

- 45-50 students enrolled, with at least 45 students completing the Austin Environmental Heroes program.
- Program is inclusive of students from all backgrounds, and will increase an understanding of environmental issues and a sense of environmental and community stewardship.
- Facilitating the completion of service-learning activities and projects that: (1) help local authorities monitor environmental conditions; and (2) assist local public and private environmental agencies in actively improving environmental conditions.
- Facilitating the development and training of the next generation of culturally and racially diverse environmental stewards and STEM professionals.

Approach and Methods

Describe the specific process(es) that will be utilized to achieve project objectives.

This model adds tree watering and tree education to the AYRW summer program that has proven to be successful since 1992.

The Austin Environmental Heroes (AEH) summer program will enroll 45-50 high school students, each of which work one day per week and participate in enrichment activities on weekends. The AEH summer program will support 2 planting sites per week on City of Austin Joint Use Parks. Each tree will receive 20-30 gallons of water, and the entire root zone will be nourished by careful hand-watering. Reclaimed water is delivered to the site through the active pump system on TreeFolks' watering trailer.

The six-week program will run from mid-June to early August, and the summer stipend will equal \$350 per student if they attend all watering and water quality testing days. The stipend not only provides an incentive (while especially enabling youth from underserved communities to participate), it also facilitates the financial responsibility and life-skills aspects of the youth development program.

Activities such as water quality testing, STEM/environmental seminars, life-skills instruction, social and emotional learning, and STEM/environmental career exposure are paired with "adventure days" canoeing, rock-climbing, and other outdoor activities designed to enhance collaborative skills. Students are able to choose between stipends or community service hours for their environmental stewardship service. Ultimately, we seek to pair high-impact service with college and life-skills readiness for the AEH participants.

Project Start Date

June 17, 2019

Project End Date

August 02, 2019

Timeline

Provide the time frame from initiation to completion of the project. This should include milestones to assess progress.

The AEH summer program takes place between June 17 and August 2, 2019 with a mid-summer break during July 1-5. There are 2 different crews of 5-10 students attending each day for a total of 8-10 crews, 2-3 vans/pickups, 1 tree-watering truck, and 45-50 total students in the program.

Programming will last six weeks. The first week will serve as an orientation for all students participating, and the following five weeks will consist of tree watering, water quality testing, and adventure days. Three days of the week (M, T, W) will be spent tree watering and water quality testing. Generally one day of the week (TH) will be an adventure day, and one day of the week (F) will be a staff day for administrative duties.

For the two overnight camping trips, the adventures will be over two days (TH-F). Some of the adventure days include tree-climbing, canoeing, and rock-climbing.

Supporting Documents

Upload documents that support your application, including maps, pictures and diagrams.
AEH Objectives & Outcomes .pdf

Attachments

Supporting Documents

Project Budget

Provide a detailed budget table of costs, including all supplies, materials, and any other associated expenses. Include costs that are to be provided or paid for by other revenue sources to show in-kind contributions to the project. This can be in the form of materials and labor. The current, nationally recognized value of volunteer time can be found here: https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

AEHBudget2019.pdf

Bids

If your proposed grant includes a line item for contracted work or materials totaling \$3,000 or more (per item), we require three bids be included with your application.

AEH 2019

Objective & Outcomes	Programs & Methods	Metrics & Methods of Measurement
<p>In 2019, between 45-50 students will be enrolled in the Austin Environmental Heroes summer program, and at least 45 students will complete the program.</p>	<p>Well-established connections with our target audience, underserved high school students.</p>	<p>Registration and attendance records.</p>
<p>Facilitating the completion of service-learning activities and projects that enhance environmental and STEM career awareness for students while assisting: (1) local authorities in monitoring environmental conditions, and (2) local public and private environmental agencies in actively improving environmental conditions.</p> <p><u>Tree Sites Watered, # of Trees</u> Two sites watered Dobie Middle School: 58 trees Blackshear Elementary: 26 trees</p> <p><u>Water Quality Data Collected</u> 15+ water quality data sets recorded and shared with the City of Austin, LCRA, and the general public.</p>	<p>Service-learning activities that include monitoring, analyzing, and reporting the conditions of tree and stream sites.</p> <p>1) Trees watered 3 days/week for 5 weeks. An average of 30-35 trees watered each day. An estimated 20-30 gal/tree/day</p> <p>2) 15-20 sites tested for: air and water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen levels, nitrate levels, specific conductance, and turbidity; and/or E. coli levels to track potential sources of contamination.</p>	<p>Number of watered trees counted and logged each day. Tree health conditions of each site recorded each day during watering include: maintenance needs (mulch, pruning, etc) and obvious signs of decay or death. Number of completed water quality data sheets, and published data sets.</p>
<p>Create a program that is inclusive of students from all backgrounds and will increase an understanding of environmental issues and STEM comprehension, a sense of environmental and community stewardship in diverse populations.</p>	<p>Targeted outreach to schools with students from diverse backgrounds within Austin city limits. Educate students about the challenges the environment faces with tasks focused on teamwork and communication.</p>	<p>Pre-program quiz that touches on Urban Forestry, Riparian Restoration, and Water Quality Testing. Post-program quiz of the same concepts. Students' demographic information, including income level and ethnic identity, collected during registration</p>
<p>Facilitating the development and training of the next generation of culturally and racially diverse environmental stewards and STEM professionals.</p>	<p>Target audience of students are primarily from underrepresented and underserved populations, who do not traditionally have access to high quality STEM/environmental programming such as the Austin Environmental Heroes program.</p>	<p>Post-assessment (exit survey) of interest and awareness of STEM/environmental careers. Students' demographic information, including income level and ethnic identity, collected during registration.</p>

Austin Environmental Heroes Budget 2019

Austin Environmental Heroes Budget	Rate	Hours	Grant
Program Coordination - TreeFolks	\$16	667	\$10,700
Program Coordination – AYRW, 4 staff	\$68	667	\$33,120
Stipends for up to 50 students (6 weeks)	\$350	6 wks	\$17,500
Truck and Water Trailer Maintenance			\$1,500
Gas for truck			\$600
Gas for 2-3 vans each day -AYRW			\$3,000
Food - AYRW			\$1,500
Marketing and Outreach			\$1,000
Insurance			\$727.85
Totals			\$69,647.85

Budget Justification:

1. Program Coordination – TreeFolks (16 weeks). The TreeFolks summer coordinator is a temporary position that implements the program and provides guidance to the AEH students. This staff member works with TreeFolks' Urban Forestry Program Manager, PARD, and other tree planting partners to visit sites, secure water, arrange transportation, drive the bus, and offer support to the AEH program. Also included in this line is \$300 of bookkeeping support to track the grant.
2. Program Coordination – AYRW (16 weeks). AYRW coordinators work with the TreeFolks coordinators to deliver the program directly to AEH students as part of a comprehensive summer program in environmental education. Together, all coordinators will provide transportation to AEH students, facilitate service activities, and implement educational activities. In addition, the AYRW coordinators are the enrichment coordinators and will train the TreeFolks program coordinator in best practices for working with youth.
3. Stipends. Each AEH student is paid a \$350 stipend for the summer, his is based on attendance records.
4. Gas – Fuel for the vans and for any truck/trailer arrangement that may be required to transport students/staff, water, and equipment.
5. Food – Lunch will be provided each day. All meals will be provided to students on two overnight camping trips.
6. Marketing and outreach – Outreach to schools to fill program, summer t-shirts for students and staff.

Sydney Tafolla

210-773-5030 | sjtafolla@gmail.com; sydney@treefolks.org

- Proficient in Microsoft Office and similar programs; experience in ArcGIS and other surveying and mapping programs.
- Knowledgeable in native flora and fauna as well as invasive species.
- Great communication; self-motivated; organized and responsible; adaptable; goal oriented

Education

Texas Lutheran University Fall 2012 to Spring 2016 – Bachelor’s in Biology Minor in
Winston Churchill High School *Class of 2012*

Experience

TreeFolks

May 2018 – Present - CTP & Volunteer Coordinator

Coordinate 10-15 volunteer tree planting events from October to March as well as additional volunteer opportunities; communicate with community partners such as the City of Austin, Travis County, Keep Austin Beautiful and AISD; maintain records to track volunteer hours, donated materials or services; offer support to all TreeFolks staff in regards to volunteer management

Asplundh Tree Expert Co.

May 2017 – May 2018 – Work Planner

Conduct inspections on public & private property to ensure that Austin Energy facilities are clear of vegetation; accurately identify trees and execute problem solving skills in order to mitigate any dangerous situations around power lines; communicate directly with property owners to inform them what type of work was to be done on their property; create work orders for crew members to complete and direct them as needed

City of Austin Urban Forestry

August 2016 to May 2017 – Forestry Technician

Hands on duties that included pruning, planting and maintaining trees on public parkland; used both hand tools and power tools to maintain trees; worked in a crew setting to complete different tasks

Texas Campaign for the Environment *May 2016 to August 2016 – Community Organizer*

Organized, educated, and engaged diverse communities in local and statewide non-voting environmental issues through door-to-door canvassing

Water Oriented Recreation District

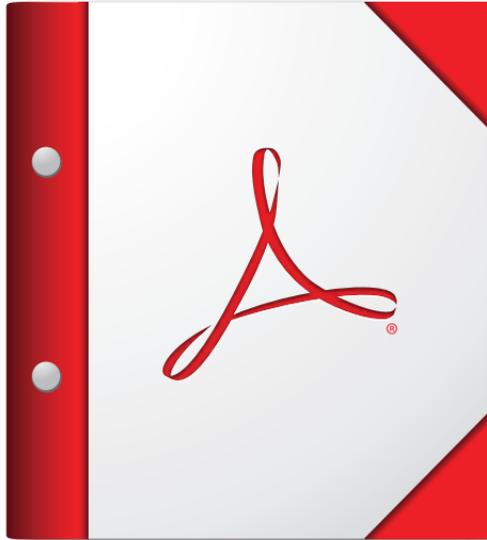
June 2013- August 2013 – Intern

Conducted a survey analysis of litter control methods on the Guadalupe river in Comal county; provided information on the effectiveness of current methods and suggested new methods to implement within the county to combat litter in the river; presented findings and information to the WORD board of directors as well all colligate peers

Sydney Tafolla Bio:

Tree Planting & Volunteer Coordinator: Sydney Tafolla

Sydney Tafolla Graduate Cum Laude from Texas Lutheran University with a Bachelors in Biology and a dual Minor in Environmental Studies and Geography. Her background in arboriculture includes working as a Forestry Technician in the Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry division as well as a contractor for the Austin Energy Forestry division. She is currently the Community Tree Planting and Volunteer Coordinator for TreeFolks.



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