



ODOT accepting applications for community tree planting grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."

So goes an old proverb. Now is also an excellent time for interested state and local governments to apply for "Round Fourteen" of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's annual Tree Grant Program.

State or local government agencies (e.g., city parks departments, public works, municipal hospitals), public schools and universities and tribal nations are eligible for a portion of \$435,000 in funding from the federal Transportation Enhancement Program. Applicants must have a federal employer tax identification number. Individuals, corporations and nonprofit groups are not eligible.

Deadline for application is 4 p.m. Friday, July 9, with grants awarded in the fall.

Grant applications and instructions are available online at ODOT's Web site, www.okladot.state.ok.us. Click "Highway Beautification" and follow the Tree Grant Program link.

A five-judge panel will evaluate the plans and visibility of the proposed site, the site's need for improvement and the adequacy and cost effectiveness of the proposed plan, maintenance program and budget.

The project's impact on transportation beautification is of primary importance. Projects on highway rights of way will receive highest judging scores, followed by those on city, county or tribal roads, and then projects in parks, public walkways or connecting trails.

Grants range from \$1,875 to \$25,000 with a 25 percent local match and may be used to purchase and install trees, large shrubs and drip irrigation systems or gater bags on public property or right of way along any public roadway or transportation corridor.

The Tree Grant Program, administered by ODOT, began in 1997 by a congressional act. More than 250 grants have been awarded since the program's inception.

For more information about applying, visit the Web site or call ODOT's Beautification Office at 405-521-4037.

--www.okladot.state.ok.us--

(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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