

Introduction

In October 2018, Hurricane Michael caused widespread devastation in southwest Georgia destroying homes, businesses, and city infrastructure - including thriving community trees. To help restore the many environmental, economic, and social health benefits that trees provided in these storm-struck Georgia communities, the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Georgia Tree Council (GTC), working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, are offering a special edition of the Georgia ReLeaf Program. Through this program, we will work with eligible communities and organizations in southwest Georgia to restore community tree canopy impacted by Hurricane Michael by providing free trees for residents to plant around their homes.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the **Southwest Georgia ReLeaf Program** are to:

- 1) Reestablish and improve the tree canopy in southwest Georgia communities
- 2) Restore the environmental, economic, and social health benefits provided by trees in these communities.
- 3) Provide tree care education and training
- 4) Help sustain health and diversity in Georgia's urban forests

Program Overview

Communities and organizations in southwest Georgia are encouraged to plan and host tree distribution events at which homeowners and residents will be given small containerized trees to plant in their yards. GFC and GTC will provide the trees at no cost. The trees will be in 5 gallon containers and consist of a variety of species and sizes at maturity (over-story, mid-story, and understory). GFC will provide educational materials such as flyers detailing species information, links to instructional planting videos, and other tree care information that can be provided to homeowners and residents.

Eligible Organizations

Non-profit organizations, units of local government (city, town, county), or educational institutions located in the following southwest Georgia counties:

Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Colquitt, Cook, Crawford, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Houston, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marion, Miller, Mitchell, Peach, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Seminole, Stewart, Sumter, Taylor, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Webster, Wilcox, Worth

Project Timeframe

- Application must be e-mailed to marylynne@gatreecouncil.org by **August 6, 2021**.
- Recipients will be notified by August 31, 2021. Approved projects can begin only after agreements are signed by the project organizer and the Georgia Tree Council.
- **Events must occur between October 15, 2021 and February 27, 2022.** (Georgia's Arbor Day will be February 18, 2022)

Project Specifics

- Applicant organizations plan a tree distribution/giveaway event and submit an application providing details of the proposed event such as:
 - a) Event date – Indicate the preferred date and an alternative.
The event must occur between October 15, 2021 and February 27, 2022.
 - b) Event time – Indicate the start and end time of the event
 - c) Event location – Indicate the proposed site/address of the event. If the event will take place at multiple locations, please list all locations.
 - d) Project Partners – List any partner organizations involved in the project.
 - e) Marketing/Social Media – Describe how the event will be publicized. Include any information about how participants will be selected (i.e. pre-registration, proof of residency, first come first served, etc.)
 - f) Tree Request - Total number of trees requested from GFC/GTC. How many trees do you propose to distribute? Indicate the approximate number of each type/size/species of tree requested. Species may vary based on availability.
 - g) Event plan – Describe the overall plan for the event including items such as pre-event tree care, staffing, and distribution of trees and educational materials.
 - h) Liability waiver – submit a completed, signed liability waiver.
- GFC/GTC will work with organizers of approved projects to finalize details including determining the total number and species of trees provided by GFC, arranging for delivery or pickup of the trees, and obtaining educational materials produced by GFC.

E-mail completed applications to marylynne@gatreecouncil.org by August 6, 2021.

Questions?:

Contact Mary Lynne Beckley at 470-210-5900 or
Joan Scales at 478-733-2604 jcales@gfc.state.ga.us



| Southwest Georgia ReLeaf Tree Giveaway Application | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--|
| APPLICANT INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
| Organization Name | | | | | | | |
| FEI Number | | 501(c)3 status: | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | | |
| PROJECT MANAGER (All correspondence will be directed to this contact.) | | | | | | | |
| First Name | | | | Last Name | | | |
| Title | | | | | | | |
| Mailing Address | | | | | | | |
| City | | County | | State: | | Zip: | |
| Work Phone | | | | Cell Phone | | | |
| E-Mail Address | | | | | | | |
| Web Site | | | | | | | |
| PROJECT INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
| Preferred Event Date | | | | Event time (start & end) | | | |
| Alternative Date | | | | Event time (start & end) | | | |
| Event Location (If multiple events, list all locations) | | | | | | | |
| Project Partners (List any partner organizations) | | | | | | | |
| Marketing/Social Media (Describe how the event will be publicized. Include any information about how participants will be selected, i.e. preregistration, first come first served, proof of residency, etc.) | | | | | | | |

For more space, use Page 8 at end of application

| Applicant Organization: | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| BREAKDOWN OF TREES REQUESTED <i>(Number and species of tree subject to change based on availability)</i> | | |
| Type of Tree | Species | Number Requested |
| Overstory | Swamp White Oak <i>(Quercus bicolor)</i> | |
| Overstory | Shumard Oak <i>(Quercus shumardii)</i> | |
| Overstory | Black Tupelo “Black Gum” <i>(Nyssa sylvatica)</i> | |
| Midstory | Chinese Pistache <i>(Pistacia chinensis)</i> | |
| Midstory | Florida Maple <i>(Acer floridanum)</i> | |
| Midstory | Frontier Elm <i>(Ulmus carpinifolia x parvifolia ‘Frontier’)</i> | |
| Midstory Evergreen | Little Gem Magnolia <i>(Magnolia grandiflora ‘Little Gem’)</i> | |
| Midstory Evergreen | Carolina Sapphire Cypress <i>(Cupressus arizonica ‘Carolina Sapphire’)</i> | |
| Understory | Forest Pansy Redbud <i>(Cercis canadensis ‘Forest Pansy’)</i> | |
| Understory | Natchez Crapemyrtle <i>(Lagerstroemia indica ‘Natchez’)</i> | |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES REQUESTED | | |



Applicant Organization:

EVENT PLAN

(Describe the overall plan for the event including items such as pre-event tree care, staffing, and distribution of trees and educational materials.)

Use the space below and additional sheets as needed.



LIABILITY WAIVER

_____ hereby releases
(Organization name)

the Georgia Tree Council and the Georgia Forestry Commission from any liability associated with contractors, volunteers, local government employees or other persons working on a project funded by the Southwest Georgia ReLeaf Program.

Printed Name
of Authorized
Representative:

Signature:

Title:

Date:



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact their local Community Forester from the Georgia Forestry Commission or the Georgia Tree Council as appropriate to obtain assistance or information from local and state resources.

Georgia Tree Council

www.gatrecouncil.org

Georgia Forestry Commission

GaTrees.org

International Society of Arboriculture

www.isa-arbor.com

Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Program

www.ArborDay.org



Extra Space if needed:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for providing extra space if needed.