



23

COMMUNITY MITIGATION FUND

2023 Projects of Regional Significance Grant Application Bid No. Bid No. BD-23-1068-1068C-1068L-81256

All completed applications must be sent by January 31st to be considered for funding for the 2023 Grant Round. Please submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov.

For more detailed instructions as well as the 2023 Application Guidelines please visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

I. Project Summary	
Legal Name of Applicant:	Town of Saugus
Project Name (Please limit to 5 words):	Saugus Clean Region Urban Biosphere (SCRUB)
Amount Requested:	\$100,000
Brief Project Description (approx. 50 words):	<i>Please use this space to provide a high-level overview of what your project entails.</i>
	<p>The project involves native shade tree plantings in the public way along regional urban heat islands (e.g. Route 1) and near MBTA bus stops to provide shade and improved air quality for surrounding communities and public transportation ridership, including Encore employees and patrons.</p> <p>Approximately 750 urban tolerant trees will be installed in various locations to be determined according to maximum shade tree benefit and minimal interference with traffic or businesses.</p>

II. Applicant Contact Information	
Please provide below the manager for this grant and any other individuals you would like to be copied on all correspondence.	
Grant Manager:	Chris Reilly
Email Address:	creilly@saugus-ma.gov
Telephone Number:	774-271-5379
Address:	298 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01960
Contact II:	
Role:	
Email Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Address:	

Contact III:
Role:
Email Address:
Telephone Number:
Address:

III. Detailed Project Description & Mitigation

1)

A) Please describe in detail the impact that is attributed to the operation of a gaming facility. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e. surveys, data, reports)

The increase in travel demand in the project area associated with Encore has been documented. According to the first **Public Safety Impact Report** mandated by the Encore license, over 3 million people visited the facility in the first 6 months of operation. Many of these patrons traveled by car or bus, increasing the air pollution and associated heat island effects in the region, especially along traffic corridors such as Route 1. In Saugus those who used public transportation to get to and from Encore, whether for recreation or work, require bus transit, which is obviously regional in its scope. Given the operational challenges the MBTA has experienced service was sometimes inconsistent or sporadic, leaving riders waiting on the side of hot roads and pavement without protection from air pollution or the elements.

B) Please describe how this is a regionally significant project including the overall project goals and what communities or other entities are beneficiaries of the project.

Effective measures that reduce heat island effects and provide carbon sinks for air pollution have long included shade tree plantings, especially in relation to regional benefits. The State operates its Greening The Gateway Cities Program, which includes Everett, exactly on this premise. More prominently the Chicago Region Trees Initiative precisely outlines all the regional benefits of a localized tree planting program.

A scientific body of literature has established that heat islands and air pollution have environmental impacts that easily migrate from their point source. Urban plumes of both heat and air pollution that are generated by destination related traffic, especially along high capacity arterials like Route 1, have been tracked for hundreds of miles depending on atmospheric conditions. Temperature inversions over these extended areas can quickly result in dangerous

heat and air quality conditions across borders and throughout regions for prolonged periods of time.

The ability of shade trees to protect individuals in direct sunlight for long periods is well established. Their additional ability to absorb enormous amounts of heat trapping gases such as carbon dioxide that are principally generated by traffic, particularly during periods of congestion that coincide with both commuter and Encore peak period demand, is also well documented. Just as air pollution spreads from its source beyond borders, so do the benefits of carbon dioxide depleting and oxygen producing flora. In addition trees act as a sink for absorbing not only storm water surface runoff and flooding but storm water pollution as well, thereby improving water quality both in regional ground water aquifers and river sheds and estuarine environments.

People traveling to and from the numerous federal, state, and local recreational amenities throughout the immediate region, including from Encore, would stand to benefit by improved air quality and protection from shade tree plantings. It is also evident that much of the arterial traffic on Route 1 comes and goes daily from the wider region, so benefits provided in Saugus accrue directly to the surrounding communities.

2) *(If applicable)* Please explain how this impact was not anticipated in the Applicant's Host or Surrounding Community Agreement.

The anticipated impacts from Encore were largely expected to involve traffic congestion, public safety and economic competition. More recently environmental conditions and hazards, including heat related events, have gotten more extreme and the need for mitigating measures to address environmental impacts has become more acute. Saugus has recently completed a Municipal Vulnerability Assessment Study that has confirmed this.

3) Please describe what the Applicant is proposing and how the mitigation request will address the impact indicated.

The project will involve the purchase of approximately 750 indigenous shade trees deemed best for the area conditions and long-term survivability. The installation locations will be concentrated along Route 1 in the public way to address urban heat island effects that are produced by both the traffic and pavement, and at MBTA bus stops throughout Town that are exposed to the elements. The shade trees will improve air and ambient temperate quality along Route 1 and the immediate region by sequestering carbon dioxide from traffic and cooling the pavement and surroundings in the shade.

Shade trees installed elsewhere will allow protection from the midday sun as public transit riders wait outdoors at bus stops for bus service. Many workers from Environmental Justice Communities on which Encore depends can't afford private transportation to their jobs and sometimes put their health at risk during extreme conditions due to their reliance on open air

public transportation like bus service. This shade tree project will provide vital protection for service dependent populations exposed to extreme and extended weather events, including potentially life saving mitigation.

4) For all Transportation Construction Applications, the applicant should consult with MassDOT and the appropriate regional planning agency to obtain input on the project and identify opportunities for regional efforts. The results of this consultation should be included in this section of the application.

IV. Scope, Budget, and Timeline

Applicant: Town of Saugus	Vendor Code: VC600019169
Total Grant Amount Requested: \$100,000	Estimated Total Project Cost: \$100,000

Scope of Work

Please include below a breakdown of the proposed work. The project scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

Activity	Responsible Agent	Product
Shade Tree Needs Assessment	DPW/Planning Staff/Tree Warden	Shade Tree Gaps Analysis
Shade Tree Plan	DPW/Planning Staff/Town Manager	Shade Tree Planting Plan
Procurement	Planning Staff/Town Manager	Project Bid/Selection
Contract Implementation	DPW/Town Manager	Contract Execution, Start
Project Scope	Contractor/DPW	Tree installations/care
Project Completion/Close Out	DPW	

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the budget of your project. Include any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation as an attachment. In determining the funding request, please round up to the nearest hundred dollars.

Please provide the estimate and percentage of the costs projected to be funded from other federal, state, local or private contributions (Applicants may include contributions from gaming licensees).

Please indicate, through a commitment letter or otherwise, how such other funding will be available for the project. In the absence of a final commitment to such funding, please provide detail on any process needed to secure any non-CMF funding.

Timeline	Description of Purchase/Work	QTY	Budget
09/23-12/23	Tree Planting Needs Assessment Survey of shade tree planting priority areas		
01/24-2/24	Development/Adoption of Tree Planting Plan		
3/24-4/24	Bid for Project		
4/24-5/24	Contractor selection and mobilization		\$10,000
6/24-7/24, 9/24-10/24	Tree plantings and care		\$90,000
	TOTAL:		\$100,000

Funding Source	Description of Purchase/Work	QTY	
In Kind Services	DPW monitoring and Inspection of contract		
Federal			
State	MBTA/MADOT Consultations		
Local Match			

V. Waiver

If you are applying for a waiver, please submit the Waiver Form with your application. The form can be found at www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/

Are you applying for a waiver?

Yes

No

VI. Please provide a brief description of each attachment.

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VII. Applicant Certificate

On behalf of the aforementioned Applicant/municipality/governmental entity I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this Application.

Scott C. Crabtree CM

1-31-2023

Signature of Responsible Municipal
Official/Governmental Entity

Date:

Scott C. Crabtree

(print name)

Town Manager

Title: