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# Bob Skiera Memorial Fund Building Bridges Initiative Grant Program

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## Introduction

Bob Skiera was an urban forestry pioneer, known for his ability to communicate the needs and benefits of the urban forest and helped build bridges of trust and cooperation between urban foresters and other urban planning and management professionals. He was a past President of both the International Society of Arboriculture and the Wisconsin Arborist Association, served memorably as a Milwaukee City Forester and is a member of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame.

Established jointly by TREE Fund, the Skiera Family, Wisconsin Arborist Association and the International Society of Arboriculture, The Bob Skiera Memorial Fund now provides financial support for the “Building Bridges Initiative”. The Initiative is intended to help arborists and urban foresters communicate the value of trees and urban forests through engagement via collaborative research and other projects with public works officials, risk assessment professionals, civil engineers, wildlife researchers, soil scientists and others. The maximum award value of grants under the Building Bridges Initiative is \$30,000, with \$25,000 provided annually by the Bob Skiera Memorial Fund and \$5,000 provided annually by the John White Memorial Fund.

Note: The 2024 Building Bridges Initiative Grant(s) will be focused on research to facilitate or engage interactions between urban forest managers, arborists, and other professionals committed to maximizing value/use of the urban forest resource. Suggested areas of investigation (this list is not all-inclusive) might include:

- Quantitative and/or qualitative analysis of urban forest benefits to humans and communities;
- Policy formation and program implementation;
- “Nature Based Solutions”;
- Ecosystem services;
- Etc.

TREE Fund welcomes research proposals and applications from a wide range of academic and technical disciplines, of both a qualitative and a quantitative nature. TREE Fund does not fund the following types of projects, and will not accept applications for such work:

- Grants to individuals;
- Projects that are primarily municipal tree surveys or assessments;
- Tree planting programs;
- Studies of individual tree species for the primary purpose of agricultural or timber/forest planting yield;
- Commercial tree- or soil-related product testing primarily for the benefit of the company that manufactures the product.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

<b>Grant Cycle Open:</b>	August 1, 2024
<b>Last Day to Request Letter of Inquiry:</b>	September 15, 2024
<b>Grant Application Due:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Announcement of Grant Recipient:</b>	Late December, 2024

The first step to apply for this grant is to send an email containing a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) of no more than 100 words describing your project title and concept to [treefund@treefund.org](mailto:treefund@treefund.org) between August 1, 2024 and September 15, 2024.

### LOI Requirements:

- No more than 100 words
- Include project title and concept
- Identify Principal Investigator and Institution who will be contracted for the work
- Note you wish to apply for the Bob Skiera Grant Program

If your LOI is approved, TREE Fund will send you a numbered application form for your use. Information for the Application Requirements can be

[found here](#). You may not apply without such a numbered application form. TREE Fund determines on whether an LOI meets the application criteria are final and not negotiable.

## **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

Application Requirements can be [found here](#).

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

It is TREE Fund's explicit desire that research findings eventually be freely and widely available to any and all parties who may benefit from the author's work. At the same time, TREE Fund recognizes the importance of academic and professional journal publications and will work with grant recipients to ensure that findings are disseminated in a manner that is cognizant of all parties' schedules and needs. Recipients should inform TREE Fund when funded research findings are published or presented at conferences so that these accomplishments can be widely publicized. Recipients should also recognize the support provided by TREE Fund in their articles or presentations related to the funded project. Recipients are strongly encouraged to publish findings to relevant professional journals, i.e. *Arboriculture and Urban Forestry*, *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, *Arboricultural Journal*, *Trees: Structure and Function*, *Journal of Horticultural Science and Biotechnology*, *Plant Pathology*, *Hortscience*, *Horticultural Science*, *Sustainable Development*, *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Journal of Urban Health*, *Environment and Urbanization*, *Urban Ecosystems*, etc.

## **Past Bob Skiera Memorial Fund Building Bridges Initiative Grant Program Awards**

2023 was awarded to JD Brown with University of Virginia, School of Architecture on project, "Valuing Retention of Mature Trees."

2022 was awarded to Dr. Richard J. Hauer on project, "Connecting and Creating Municipal Forestry Bridges to Build Urban Forest Resources"

2021 was awarded to Lindsay Darling with The Morton Arboretum on project, "Identifying social barriers to equitable tree planting and quantifying potential benefits to overcoming them" Lindsay presented a TREE Fund Webinar in September 2023, but the recording unfortunately was uncaptured. See [Research Report Here](#)

