

# NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program (NJUCF)





# NJ Forest Service Programs



- State Lands Management
- Forest Health
- Climate & Carbon





# NJ Forest Service Programs



- Education (Forest Resource Education Center)
- Nursery
- Big & Heritage Tree







# NJ Forest Service Programs



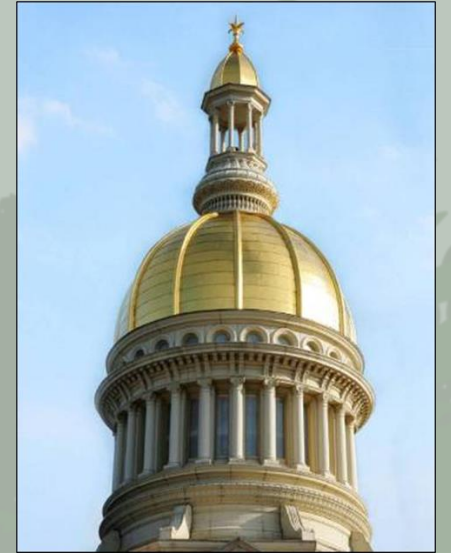
- Private Lands
- No Net Loss
- Urban & Community Forestry



**NJ URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY**



# NJ Shade Tree & Community Forestry Assistance Act (N.J.A.C. 13:1L-17.1 et. seq.)



- Establishes the expanded role of the State's Urban & Community Forestry Program
- Provides the necessary basis for local governments to **reduce or eliminate liability** associated with local tree care programs and shade tree commissions
- Establishes the NJ Community Forestry Council
- Created the Treasure Our Trees license plate







# Urban Tree Benefits

1

Trees capture runoff, lessening the impact of floods

2

Trees mitigate urban heat island through shade and transpiring leaves.

3

Shade protects pavement from the sun, increasing road service life

4

Presence of trees increases property values

5

Trees filter out pollutants released by combustion engines.

6

Shoppers are likely to stay in areas with canopy cover.





# Urban Tree Liabilities

## NOTE

The creation of a local urban forestry program helps maximize tree benefits while minimizing tree liabilities.

1

The fruits from trees may create nuisances by remaining on sidewalk and attracting wildlife.

2

Trees require maintenance such as watering and pruning.

3

Trees can be hazards: causing damage to property and bodily harm.

4

Trees can release pollen: the cause of seasonal allergies.

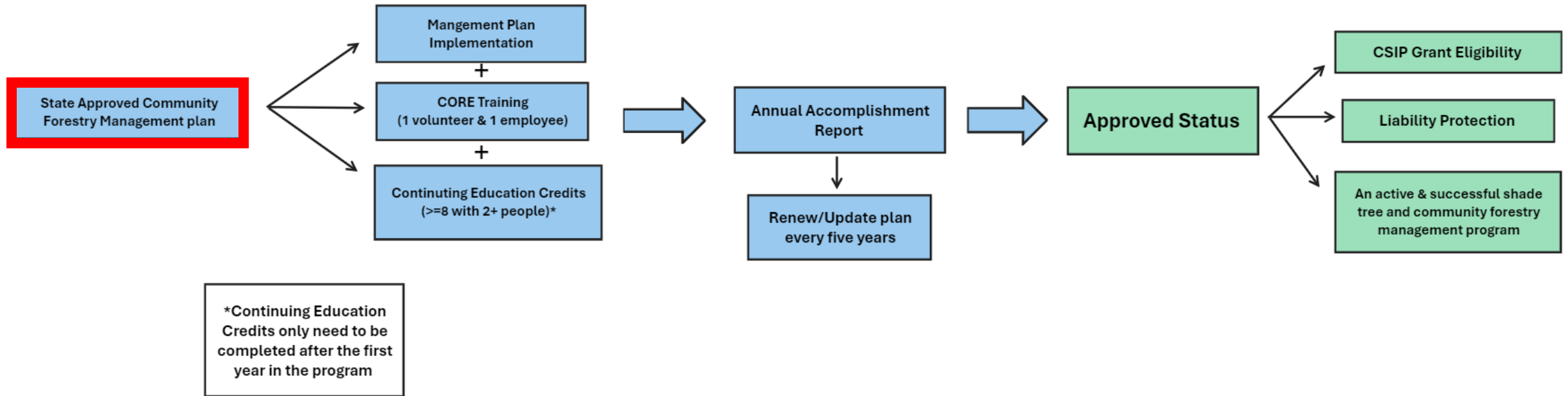
# Accreditation Program

## Planning

## Training & Education

## Management & Reporting

## Benefits





# Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Covers 5 Years of Urban Forest Management

## 1. Introduction & Background

- i. Mission Statement, Goals, General Community Info
- ii. Tree Population Data/Trends  
\*Tree Inventory Required\*

## 2. Community Forestry Program Capacity

- i. Program Administration, Partnerships, Budget...

## 3. Community Engagement and Well-Being

- i. Past/present/future community involvement
- ii. Local Urban Forest Benefits

## 4. Plan Implementation

- i. Specific Goals & Action Items

### Community Forestry Program

CFMP Guidelines

January 2024



State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
NJ Forest Service

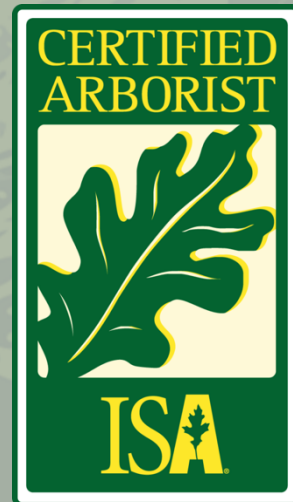
NJ Forest Service | Mail Code 501-04, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 | 609.292.2532 | [www.communityforestry.nj.gov](http://www.communityforestry.nj.gov)

*CFMP Guidelines Found at  
[www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/urbanandcommunity/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/urbanandcommunity/)*

*Or type "NJUCF" into search bar*

# Who develops CFMPs/Inventories?

The NJUCF recommends CFMPs are written by Qualified Professionals





# **Funding- 2024 Green Communities Grant**

**Provided funding to Local Governments to hire a contractor for...**

## **Inventory + CFMP Development**

**Up to \$20,000 with 25% match**

## **CFMP Development**

**Up to \$5,000 with 25% match**

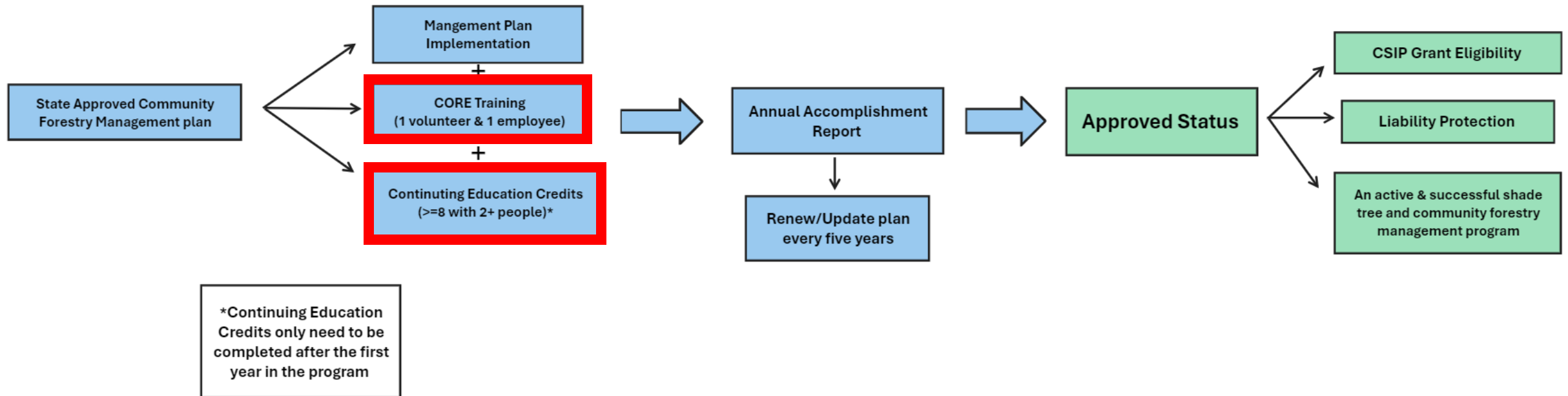
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# Training & Education

- **CORE Training (2 individuals-Volunteer and Employee)**

- Never expires, follows the individual
- Spring Session: Online via Rutgers Core
- Fall Session: In-Person at NJ Shade Tree Federation

Conference



# Training & Education

- Continuing Education Units (CEU's)
  - At least 8 CEUs between at least 2 individuals
  - Conferences, Classes, Webinars



Duke Farms



ANJEC

Local Environment Matters



PUTGERS  
Continuing Studies

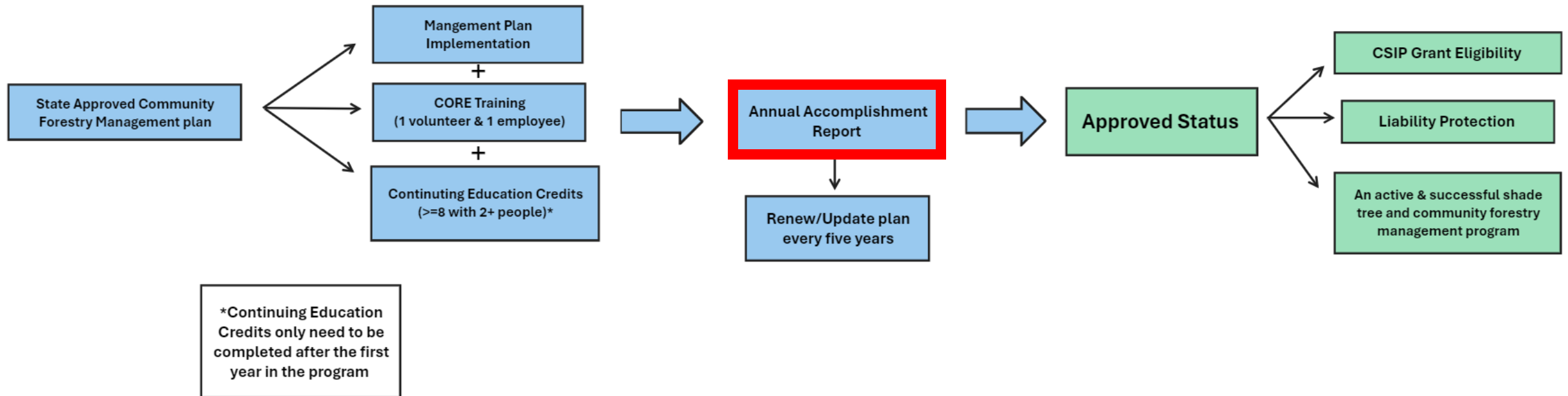
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# Annual Accomplishment Report (AAR)

Due by February, 15 of the following year.

2025 AAR is due February of 2026

Posted on NJUCF Homepage

Submitted Via Email

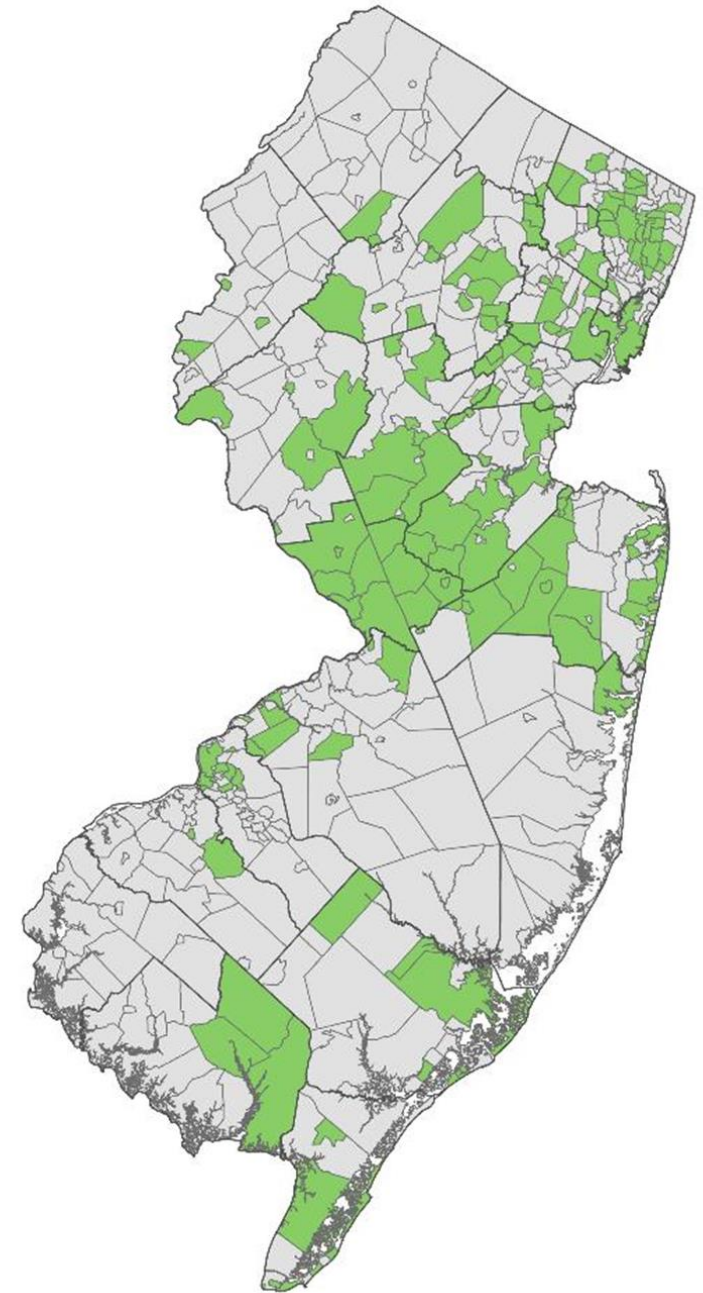
Communityforestry@dep.nj.gov

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry<br>2023 Annual Accomplishment Report |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Instructions: Complete all fields of this form to the best of your ability and submit to New Jersey &amp; Community Forestry (NJUCF) via email to <a href="mailto:Rachael.Vannatta@dep.nj.gov">Rachael.Vannatta@dep.nj.gov</a>. Note: lines &amp; boxes indicate fillable fields.</i>                                                                                  |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| <i>Prior to submitting, please ensure that all sections are complete, and the last page of the AAR is signed (electronic signatures are accepted and encouraged). It is strongly recommended to use Adobe to fill out and sign the document.</i>                                                                                                                          |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| <i>This annual report is separate from the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Application. If you wish to apply to Tree City USA in addition to NJUCF Accreditation, please visit their website: <a href="http://arborday.org/treecity">arborday.org/treecity</a>. Please note that questions #6, #8, and #10 relate directly to the current Tree City USA Standards.</i> |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| <b>Part I: Community Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| 1. Reporting on Year: 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | 2. Date of Report Submission:                                              |  |                                                                                     |
| 3. Community Name: (Please make a selection)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| <b>If applicable</b> , in future years, would your community prefer to complete <u>one</u> application for both NJ Urban & Community Forestry and Tree City USA Recognition? (Select One)                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| 4. City Forestry Contact: (This person is the primary contact for NJUCF outreach & other correspondence)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| Title:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | Organization:                                                              |  |                                                                                     |
| First Name, Last Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| Phone Number:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | Email:                                                                     |  |                                                                                     |
| Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| City, State, Zip:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| 5. Municipal/County Department Responsible for tree management:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
| Title:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | Organization:                                                              |  |                                                                                     |
| First Name, Last Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |
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| City, State, Zip:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |                                                                            |  |                                                                                     |

# New Jersey Urban and Community Forests

- **151 communities** have an active plan for their urban forest.
- Approximately **85%** of NJ's population lives under a managed canopy.
- **416 communities** have a local tree advocacy or advisory group.

NJUCF Accredited Communities



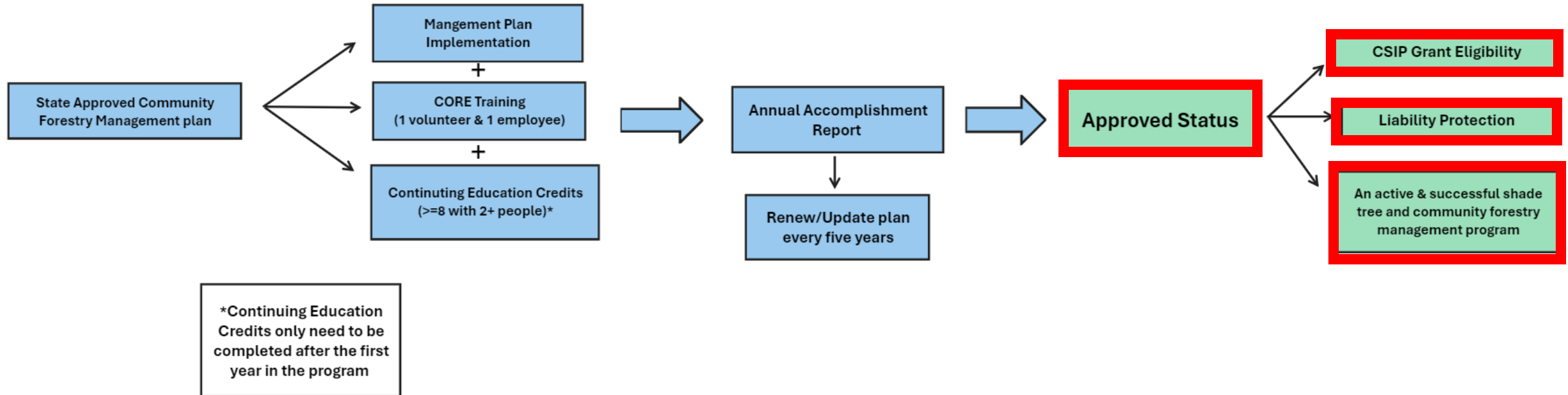
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# Liability Protection

- **Municipal Employees are covered by the Tort Claims Act**
- **Shade Tree Assistance Act: NJUCF Accredited Status protects volunteers from Liability**



# Stewardship Grant Eligibility

Accredited Communities are eligible to apply for NJUCF grants to fund...



Tree Planting



Tree Maintenance/Removal



Tree Inventory



# Successful Shade Tree Program

- Healthy, Safe, and Sustainable Tree and Forest Resource
- Self-Sustaining Local Urban and Community Forestry Program





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