



METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

Community Tree Planting Grant Program

Community Development Committee

Gillian Greenberg

February 3, 2025



2024 Legislative Session

Establishes new Council program

New Minn. Stat. 473.355, subd. 2 (a):

- The Metropolitan Council must establish a grant program to provide grants to cities, counties, townships, and implementing agencies



Legislative purpose



Purposes of the program


1. Removing and planting shade trees on public land to provide environmental benefits;
2. Replacing trees lost to forest pests, disease, or storms; and
3. Establishing a more diverse community forest better able to withstand disease and forest pests.

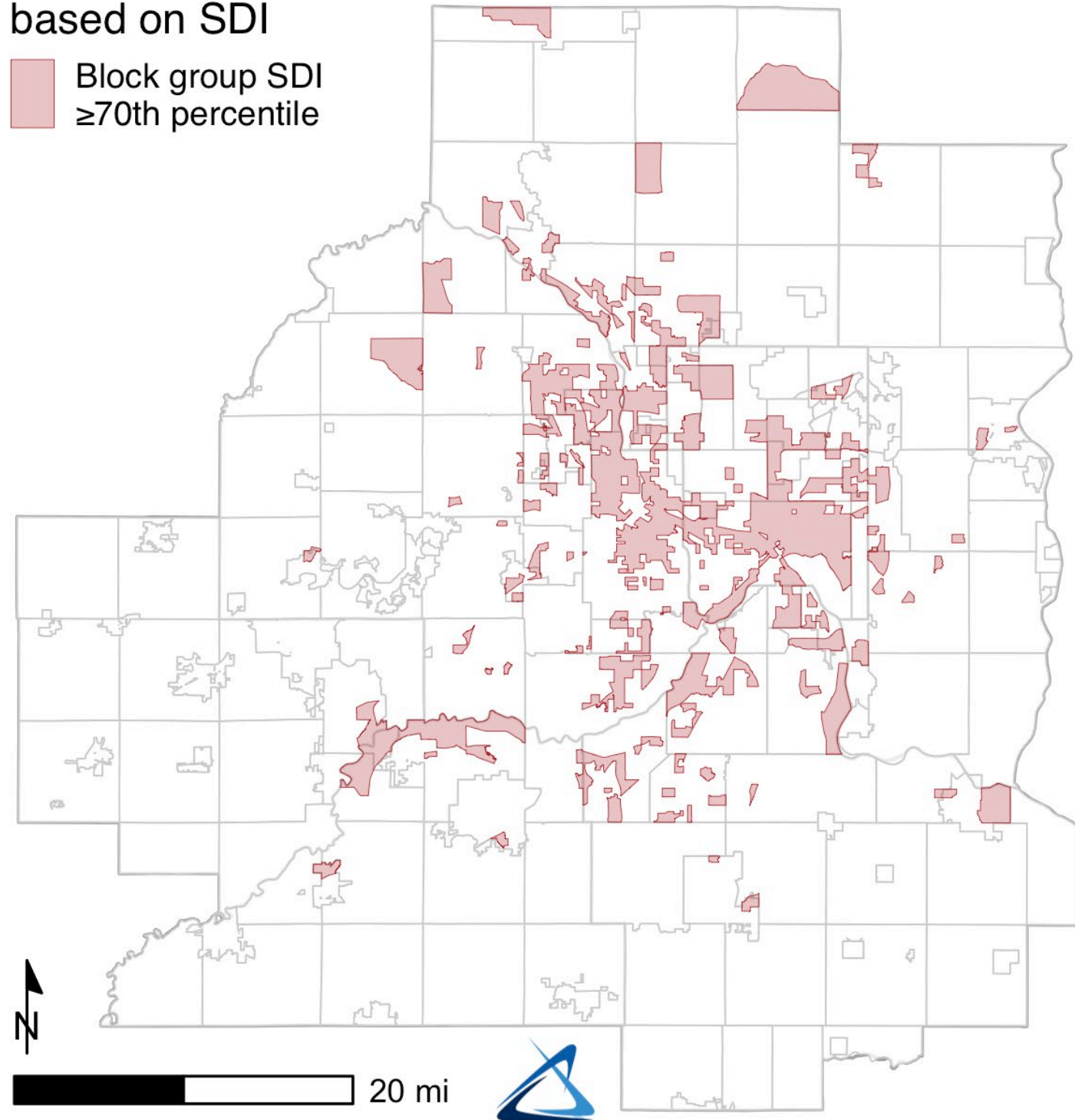
Legislatively directed priority

1. Projects removing and replacing ash trees that pose significant public safety concerns; and
2. Projects located in a census block group with a supplemental demographic index score in the 70th percentile or higher within the state of Minnesota.

Supplemental Demographic Index

Prioritization based on SDI

 Block group SDI \geq 70th percentile

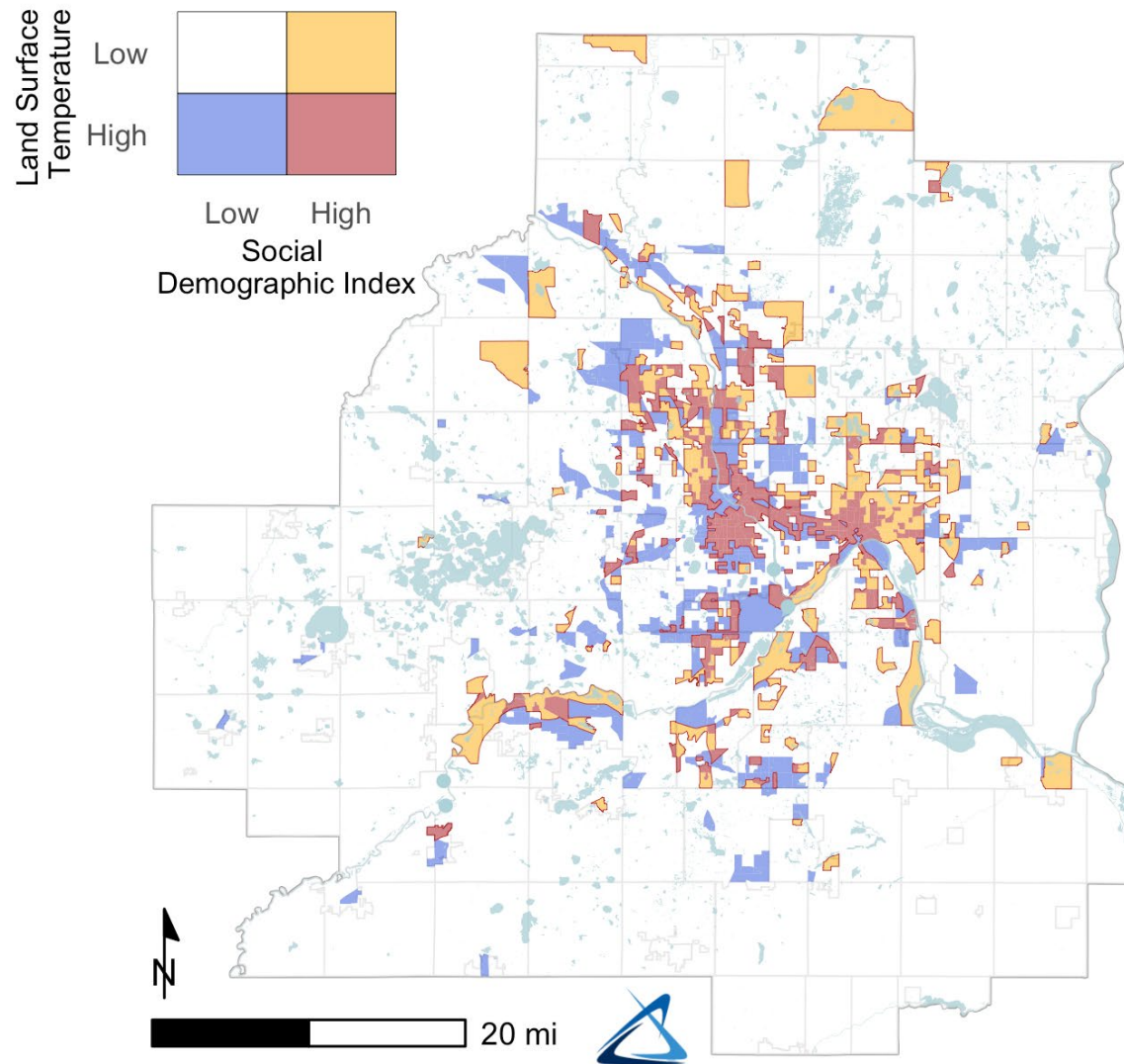


Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Potential Points
Project Overview	20
Project Serves Vulnerable Residents	20
Project Serves Residents Experiencing Urban Heat Island Effects	20
Tree Canopy Health and Resilience	20
Communication and Collaboration	20

Geographic Priorities

Combined Priority Areas



Priority Categories	Number of Communities
Communities with census blocks in both priority categories	76
Communities with just SDI priority census blocks	21
Communities with just Heat Island priority census blocks	17
Communities with no priority census block	65

Next Steps & Timeline



Timing	Milestone
February 12, 2025	Council authorization of NOFA
March 5, 2025	Application window opens
April 18, 2025	Application window closes
Spring 2025	Review team evaluates applications
Late Spring 2025	Grant agreements are sent out

Council Action

Authorize the attached Notice of Funding Availability for the Community Tree Planting Grant Program





Gillian Greenberg

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