



# Community Tree Planting Grant Program

Community Development Committee

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# 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.

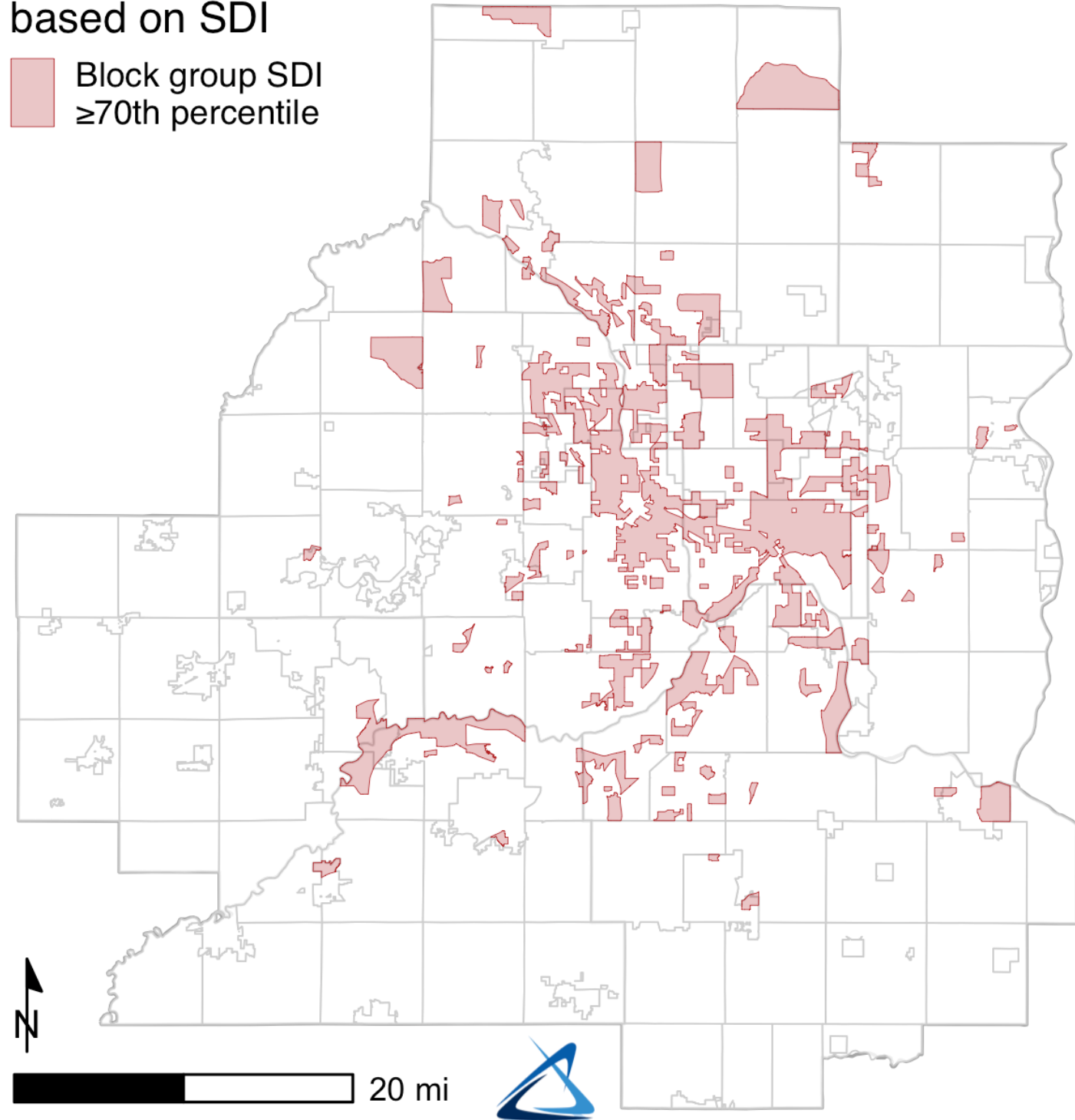
# Legislatively directed priority

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 Areas Experiencing Urban Heat Island	20
Tree Canopy Improvement	20
Communication and Collaboration	20

# Next Steps & Timeline

- Focus group with local governments
- Return for approval in February
- Open grant opportunity in late winter
- Review applications in spring
- Award funding in late spring



# Discussion



- Does the draft NOFA reflect the priorities that we previously discussed?
- Do the scoring criteria align with your priorities?
- Do you have other thoughts or concerns?



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