



2025 Community Tree Planting Grants Funding Recommendations

Community Development Committee

Gillian Greenberg

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Program Purpose



As set in state statute:

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.

Program Priorities

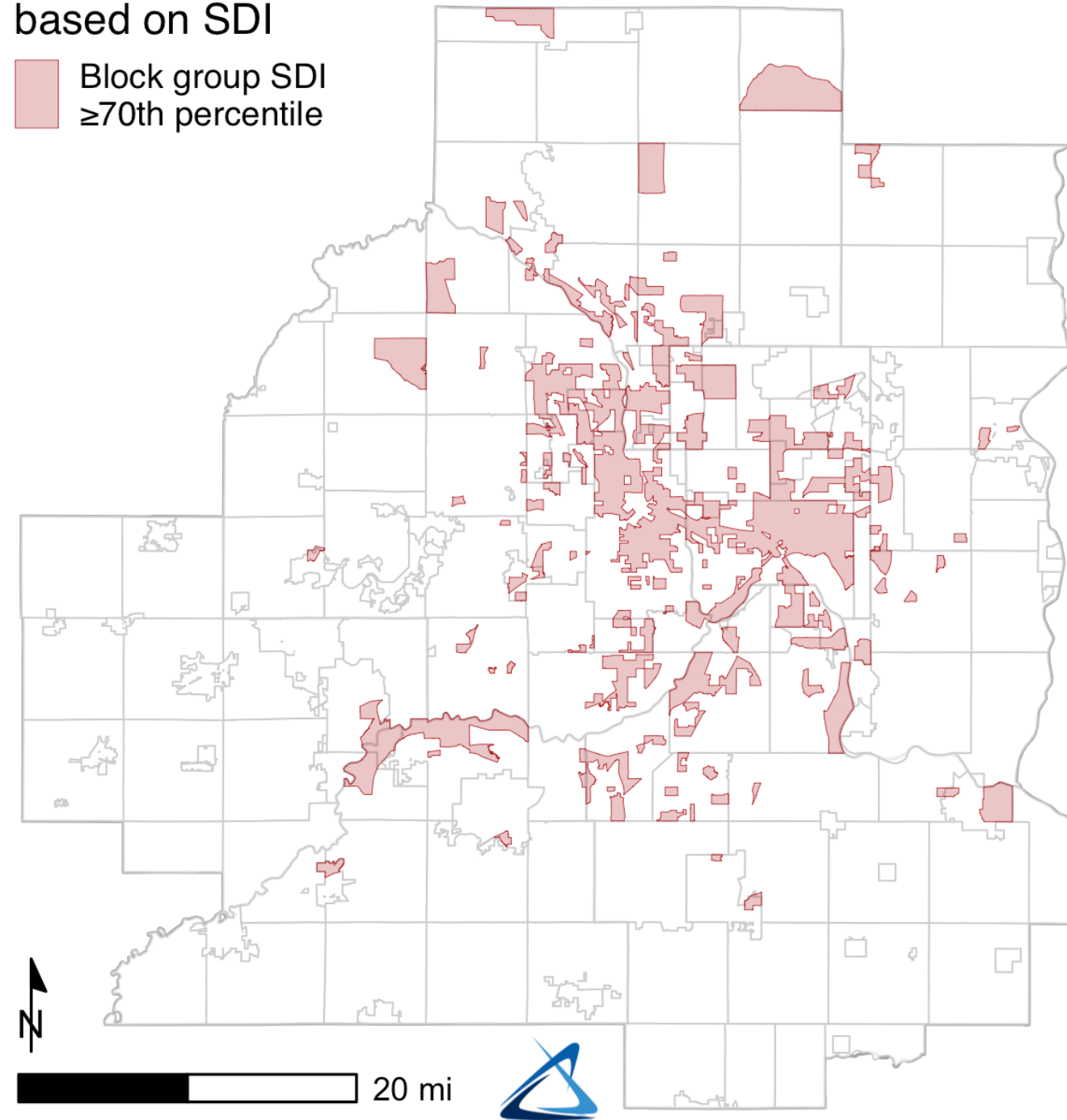
As set in State statute:

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.

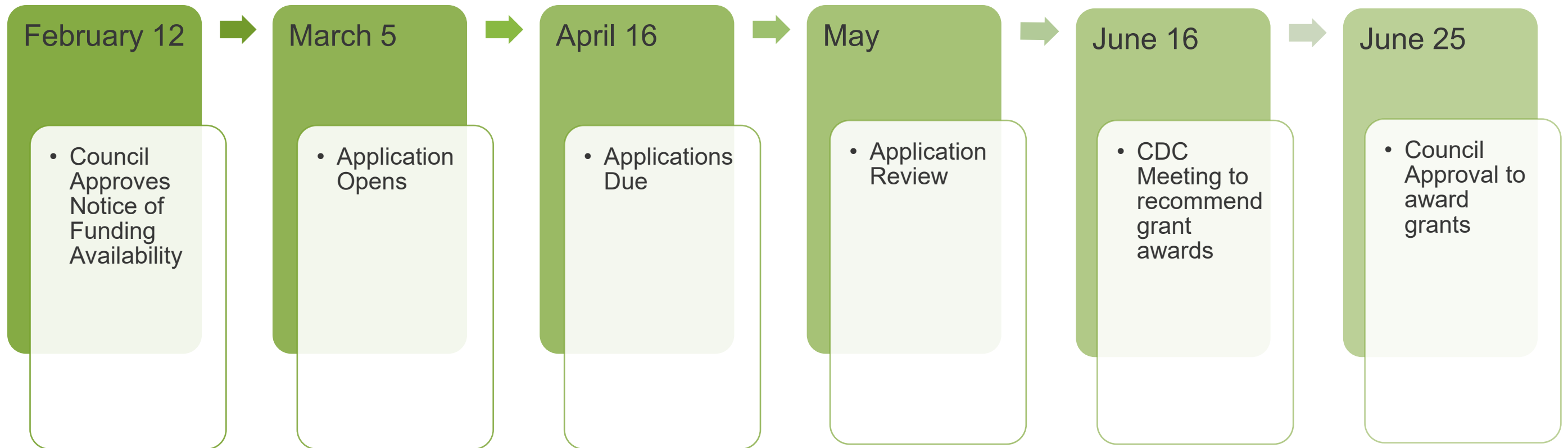
Supplemental Demographic Index

Prioritization
based on SDI

Block group SDI
≥70th percentile



Program Process



Evaluation Criteria

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

Summary of Applications

Applications Received

- 31 applications received
 - 27 cities, 3 counties, 1 township
- \$5,537,897.94 in funds requested
 - Application requests ranged from \$14,000 to \$500,000



Review Process



Internal and Panel Review

- Internal review for completeness and eligibility
- Six-member review panel composed of:
 - Two Council members
 - One Equity Advisory Council member
 - Representatives from the MN Department of Natural Resources, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, and Great River Greening

Projects Recommended for Funding

Applicant	Project Name	Recommended Award Amount
City of Anoka	Sunny Acres Area Urban forest Restoration and Enhancement Project	\$83,100
City of Blaine	Remove and replace 39 ash trees in priority neighborhoods within the City of Blaine	\$94,880
City of Brooklyn Center	Brooklyn Center Right-of-Way and Heritage Center Canopy Improvements	\$142,350
City of Coon Rapids	Grow Urban Coon Rapids	\$94,500
City of Maple Grove	Rice Lake Neighborhood Ash Tree Project	\$82,825
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Minneapolis target area ash tree removal completion and replanting project	\$454,407
City of Minnetonka	Minnetonka Tree Planting Program	\$277,215
City of Oakdale	Diseased ash tree removal and replacement tree planting in public spaces and rights of way	\$174,543
City of Ramsey	Majesty of the Commons – Ash Replacement and Community Collaboration	\$84,255
Ramsey County	Pierce Butler Route Tree Canopy Improvement Project	\$171,050
City of Roseville	City of Roseville EAB Mitigation	\$251,796
City of Saint Louis Park	Park Canopy Restoration Project	\$72,383
City of Vadnais Heights	Vadnais Heights Urban Canopy Program	\$220,196
City of West Saint Paul	West St. Paul Tree Canopy Improvement Project	\$296,500
	Total Award Amount	\$2,500,000.00

Reflections on the new program

Lots of interest and learnings

- Applications included high quality projects from across the region and across community types
- Most applicants strove to reflect program priorities in projects
 - Communities without any areas prioritized by the supplemental demographic index could not be competitive for this round of funding in the program structure
- Scoring criteria could further emphasize the program priorities to ensure funding reaches communities with greatest need

Further reflection on the process, early program impact, and future of the program coming later this year

Council Action

2025 Funding Recommendation

That the Metropolitan Council award 14 Community Tree Planting Grants totaling \$2,500,000, as shown in Table 1 of the Business Item.





Thank you

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