



2025 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING GRANTS CRITERIA AND SCORING EXPLANATION

Evaluation Criteria	Application Components	Points	Evidence
Project Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application clearly describes project Application and timeline demonstrate (1) readiness to take on the project of the proposed scope and (2) commitment and demonstrated capacity to maintain and care for planted trees 	Project Description Budget 3-Year Maintenance Plan Project Timeline	20	0 – 5 Project clarity and feasibility
			0 – 5 Demonstrated readiness to take on the project of the proposed scope
			0 – 5 Demonstrated expertise and capacity to achieve the desired outcomes
			0 – 5 Demonstrated commitment to and an effective plan for tree establishment and maintenance
Communications and Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application outlines communication strategies that directly relate to project accomplishments, activities, or both, and multiple forms of communication are listed with potential to reach the public Application outlines any intended collaboration or partnership with community organizations, neighborhood organizations or other partners 	Project Description	20	0-10 Demonstrated plan to thoughtfully communicate with residents throughout project timeline
			0-10 Degree to which applicant is collaborating with relevant community partners and stakeholders
Project serves vulnerable communities* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application clearly lists the prioritized census block groups with vulnerable communities served by the project Planning and collaboration clearly serve and include vulnerable communities Application demonstrates clear and tangible impacts for vulnerable communities 	Project Site: Community Characteristics Project Map and Site Spreadsheet	20	0-10 Degree to which the project is focused on census block groups prioritized by the Supplemental Demographic Index
			0-10 Demonstrated project outcomes are informed by and will benefit vulnerable communities

<p>Project serves residents that experience extreme heat**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application clearly lists the prioritized census block groups experiencing extreme heat served by the project • Planning and collaboration clearly serve and include residents living in areas experiencing extreme heat • Application demonstrates clear and tangible impacts for residents living in areas experiencing extreme heat 	<p>Project Site: Community Characteristics</p> <p>Project Map and Site Spreadsheet</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>0-10</p>	<p>Degree to which the project is focused on census block groups experiencing extreme heat, as measured by Land Surface Temperature</p>
<p>Tree Canopy Health and Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application describes if and how the project will address ash trees posing public safety concerns • Application describes how the project will improve tree canopy health and resilience, and/or improve tree species diversity 	<p>Tree Canopy Health and Resilience</p> <p>Intended Tree Species List</p> <p>3-Year Maintenance Plan</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>0-10</p>	<p>Degree to which the project emphasizes addressing ash trees posing public safety concerns</p>
			<p>0-10</p>	<p>Demonstrated consideration of species diversity and canopy health in project design and species selection</p>

*Defined in statute as serving census block groups with a Supplemental Demographic Index score in the 70th percentile or higher in Minnesota. See Scoring Factors Map.

**Defined as census block groups in the 70th percentile or higher for land surface temperature in the region. See Scoring Factors Map.

Review Process

Council staff will conduct a preliminary review of all proposals to ensure completeness and eligibility. In the event of overwhelming interest, Council staff may conduct an initial review based on the evaluation criteria.

Legislative Priorities

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

Complete proposals will be reviewed by a review team using the scoring rubric above. Each application will be reviewed, scored, and ranked in one of three tiers:

- 1) applications meeting both legislative priorities,
- 2) applications meeting just one priority, or
- 3) applications meeting neither priority.

Funding will be awarded in ranked order to applications in the first tier. As funds remain, awards may then be made to applications in the second tier (meeting one priority) in rank order, and finally to ranked applications in the third tier (meeting neither priority). No application receiving fewer than 50 points will be awarded funding, regardless of tier.