

# GROWING SHADE INTERACTIVE TOOL

*User Guide*



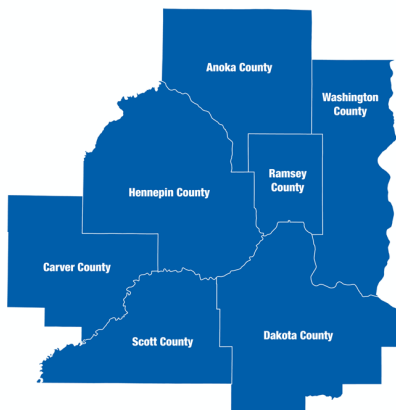
METROPOLITAN  
C O U N C I L

The Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region

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The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

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## Introduction

### *What the Growing Shade Interactive tool does*

The Growing Shade project recognizes that trees provide critical ecosystem services and are important components of both natural and built environments. With a desire to create healthy places for people to live (mitigate heat islands and/or reduce home cooling costs, reduce localized flooding risk, improve mental health, etc.) and a resilient future (carbon sequestration, biodiversity, etc.), building or enhancing tree canopy cover is an actionable step.

This interactive provides stories and data to identify areas where an enhanced tree canopy could have a disproportionately positive benefit for people and environment. Stories provide a narrative to contextualize the importance of this work within our region. Users can customize data variables to reflect specific priorities towards identifying tree planting opportunities. Data is also provided towards helping stakeholders evaluate other considerations involved with tree plantings, such as cost-benefit analysis and species considerations.

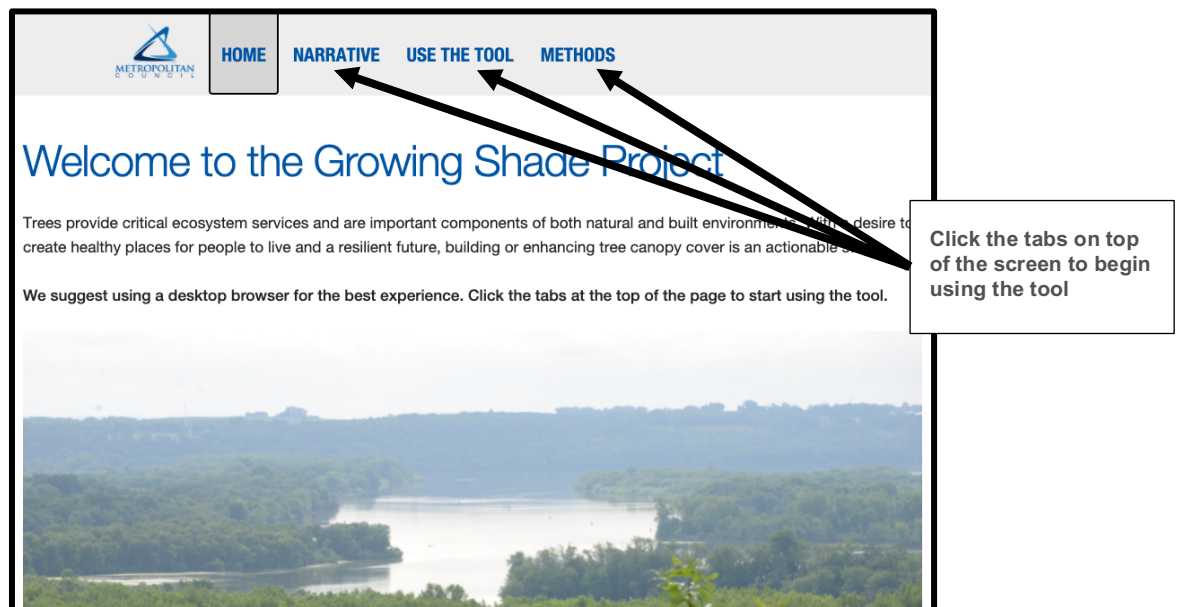
### *What the Growing Shade Interactive tool cannot do*

Users can create valuable, data-driven analyses through this tool. Our experience and research tells us that data cannot substitute for engagement with prioritized stakeholders to understand community-specific concerns or opportunities. The on-the-ground knowledge of residents and the expertise of practitioners are valuable sources of information necessary to enhance and refine the shared understanding of this data.

## User Interface

### *“Home” tab*

On the home page, find a general overview about what this tool does, and ways in which you might find this tool useful. To begin using the tool, notice the tabs on the top of the screen. This document goes through each tab in detail.



### *“Narrative” tab*

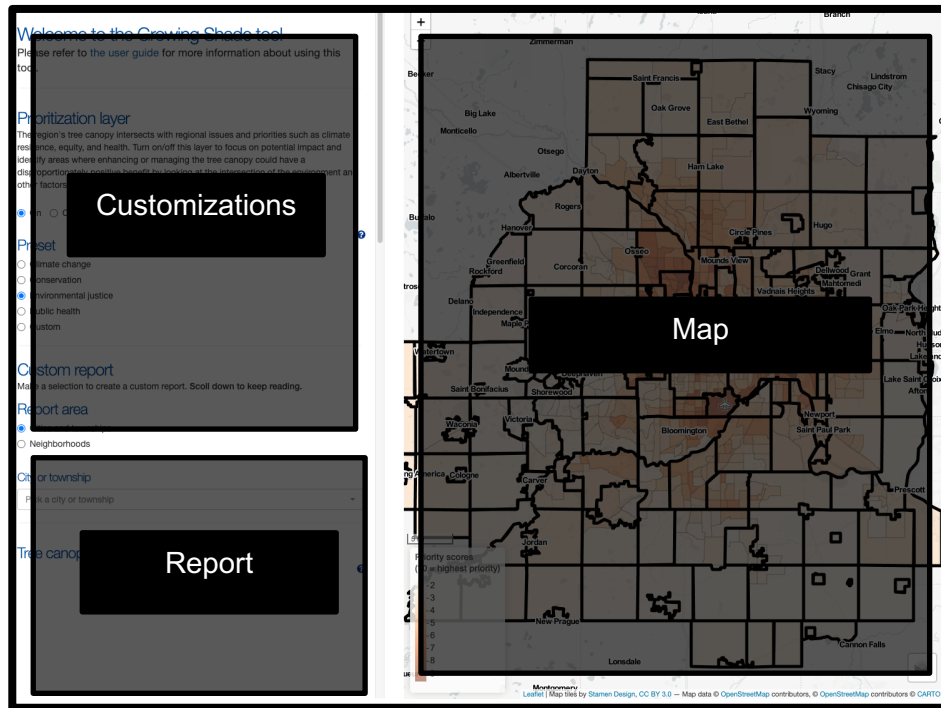
This tab shares stories about the intersections of Minnesotans and the tree canopy. People whose work and passions impact the tree canopy. And people who are impacted by the tree canopy.

Scroll down to explore these stories.

### *“Use the tool” tab*

This tab allows users to explore Census data at the intersection of trees and people in detail. This page has three main components: 1) a place for users to customize the analyses, 2) a map of tree canopy prioritization and existing canopy cover, 3) a user-generated report.

**\*\*NOTE: You MUST select the NAME of a city or neighborhood from the dropdown to have the whole functionality of the tool\*\***



This is a bit about how you actually start using the tool. What to click on, etc.

Click for information about using this tool.

### Welcome to the Growing Shade tool

Please refer to [the user guide](#) for more information about using this tool.

#### Prioritization layer

The region's tree canopy intersects with regional issues and priorities such as climate resilience, equity, and health. Turn on/off this layer to focus on potential impact and identify areas where enhancing or managing the tree canopy could have a disproportionately positive benefit by looking at the intersection of the environment and other factors.

☒ On ☐ Off

#### Preset

☐ Climate change  
☐ Conservation  
☒ Environmental justice  
☐ Public health  
☐ Custom

#### Custom report

Make a selection to create a custom report. Scroll down to keep reading.

#### Report area

☒ Cities and townships  
☐ Neighborhoods

#### City or township

Pick a city or township

#### Tree canopy summary

Use the buttons or scroll to zoom in and out.

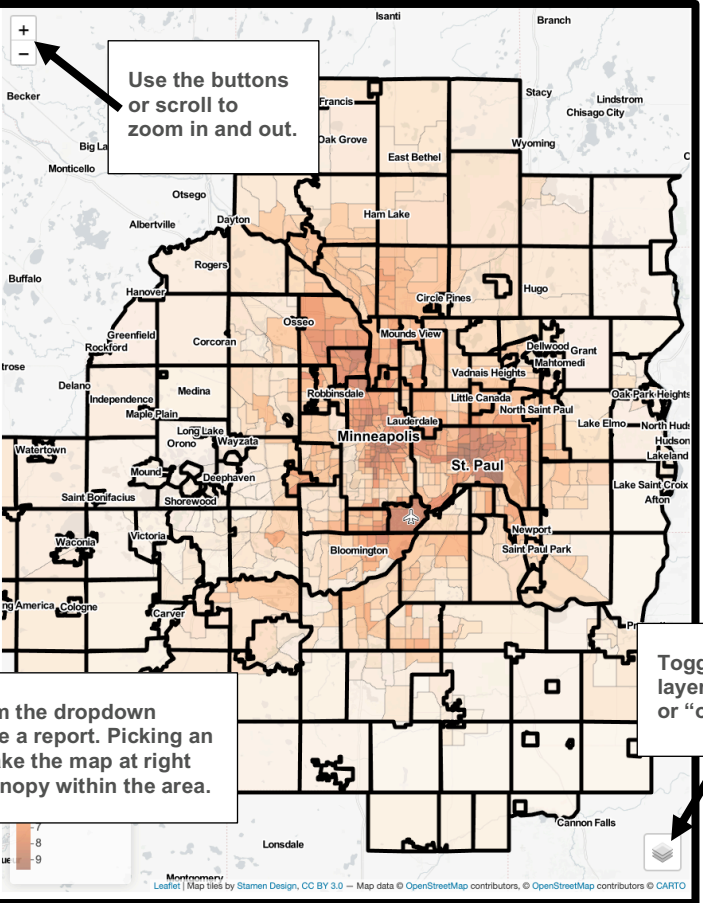
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Select a preset (or "custom") to show a tree prioritization layer. Click the question mark for more information.

Pick an area from the dropdown menu to generate a report. Picking an area will also make the map at right show the tree canopy within the area.

Toggle map layers "on" or "off".



Becker  
Big Lake  
Monticello  
Otsego  
Albertville  
Dayton  
Rogers  
Hanover  
Greenfield  
Rockford  
Delano  
Independence  
Maple Plain  
Long Lake  
Orono  
Wauwatosa  
Shorewood  
Victoria  
Waconia  
Saint Bonifacius  
Shorewood  
Carver  
Lonsdale  
Isanti  
Francis  
Oak Grove  
East Bethel  
Harm Lake  
Wyoming  
Stacy  
Lindstrom  
Chicago City  
Hugo  
Circle Pines  
Mounds View  
Corcoran  
Osseo  
Robbinsdale  
Lauderdale  
Little Canada  
North Saint Paul  
Lake Elmo  
North Hudson  
Lakeview  
Lake Saint Croix  
Afton  
Cannon Falls

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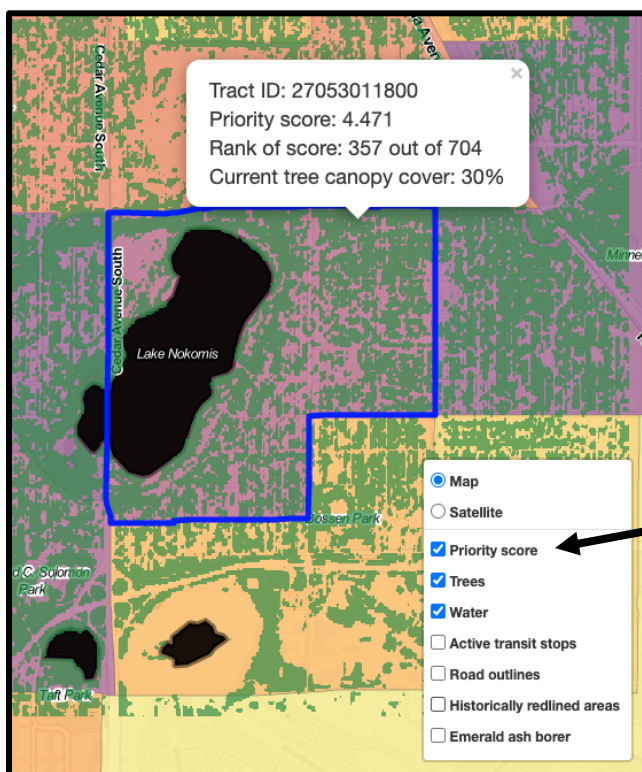
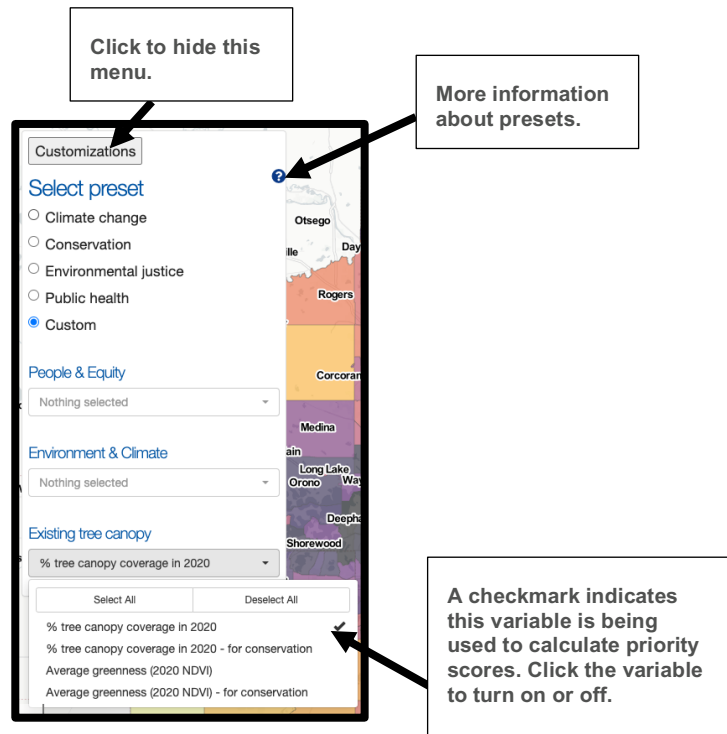
Minneapolis-St. Paul  
Leaflet | Map data by Stamen Design, CC BY 3.0 — Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, © OpenStreetMap contributors © CARTO

This is old.....

To customize the map, select a “preset” on the left of the screen to create a tree canopy enhancement or maintenance priority layer. Selecting “custom” activates several drop down menus from which inputs can be selected. Click on a variable to turn in “on” or “off” – a “check mark” indicates that the input is being used to calculate priority scores.

Click the question mark for more information about the presets and priority scoring.

You can also drag this box around the map, or click on the “Customizations” box on the top to “hide” this menu.



Click on an area in the map for more information. A popup tells you some information, and a layer showing the existing tree canopy is created (in green). The blue box shows the outline of the area which is selected.

Toggle layers on or off. Please note that “Priority score” MUST be “on” to get more information about any area.

Pan around the map and zoom in. Click on any area to get more information about the selected geography. Clicking on an area also activates the tree layer, which shows where current tree canopy is.

Toggle layers on and off using the layer menu and the bottom right of the screen.

If you wish to use a map in a report or for other purposes, we recommend taking a screenshot of your preferred view.

### *“Methods” tab*

This tab provides information about how the data was collected and processed.



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