

GROWING SHADE INTERACTIVE TOOL

User Guide

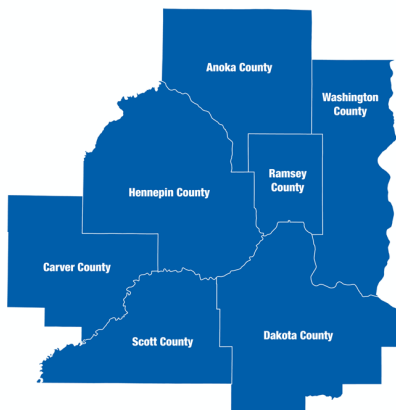


METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

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

Metropolitan Council Members

Charlie Zelle	Chair	Raymond Zeran	District 9
Judy Johnson	District 1	Peter Lindstrom	District 10
Reva Chamblis	District 2	Susan Vento	District 11
Christopher Ferguson	District 3	Francisco J. Gonzalez	District 12
Deb Barber	District 4	Chai Lee	District 13
Molly Cummings	District 5	Kris Fredson	District 14
Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson	District 6	Phillip Sterner	District 15
Robert Lilligren	District 7	Wendy Wulff	District 16
Abdirahman Muse	District 8		



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.

On request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats to people with disabilities. Call Metropolitan Council information at 651-602-1140 or TTY 651-291-0904.

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.

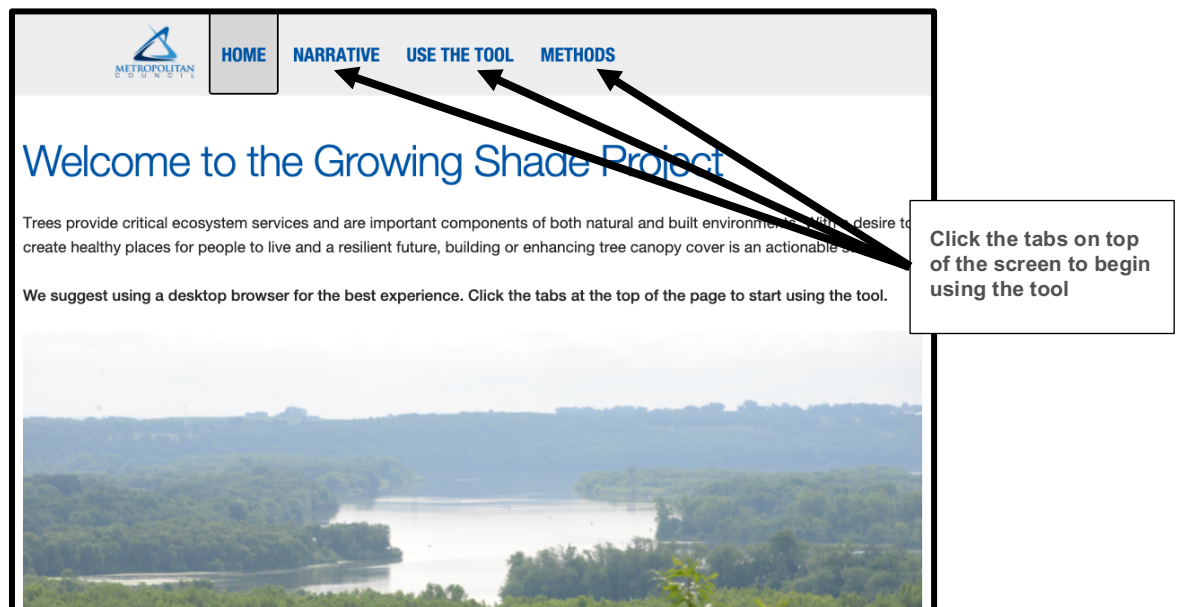
What the Growing Shade Interactive tool cannot do

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.



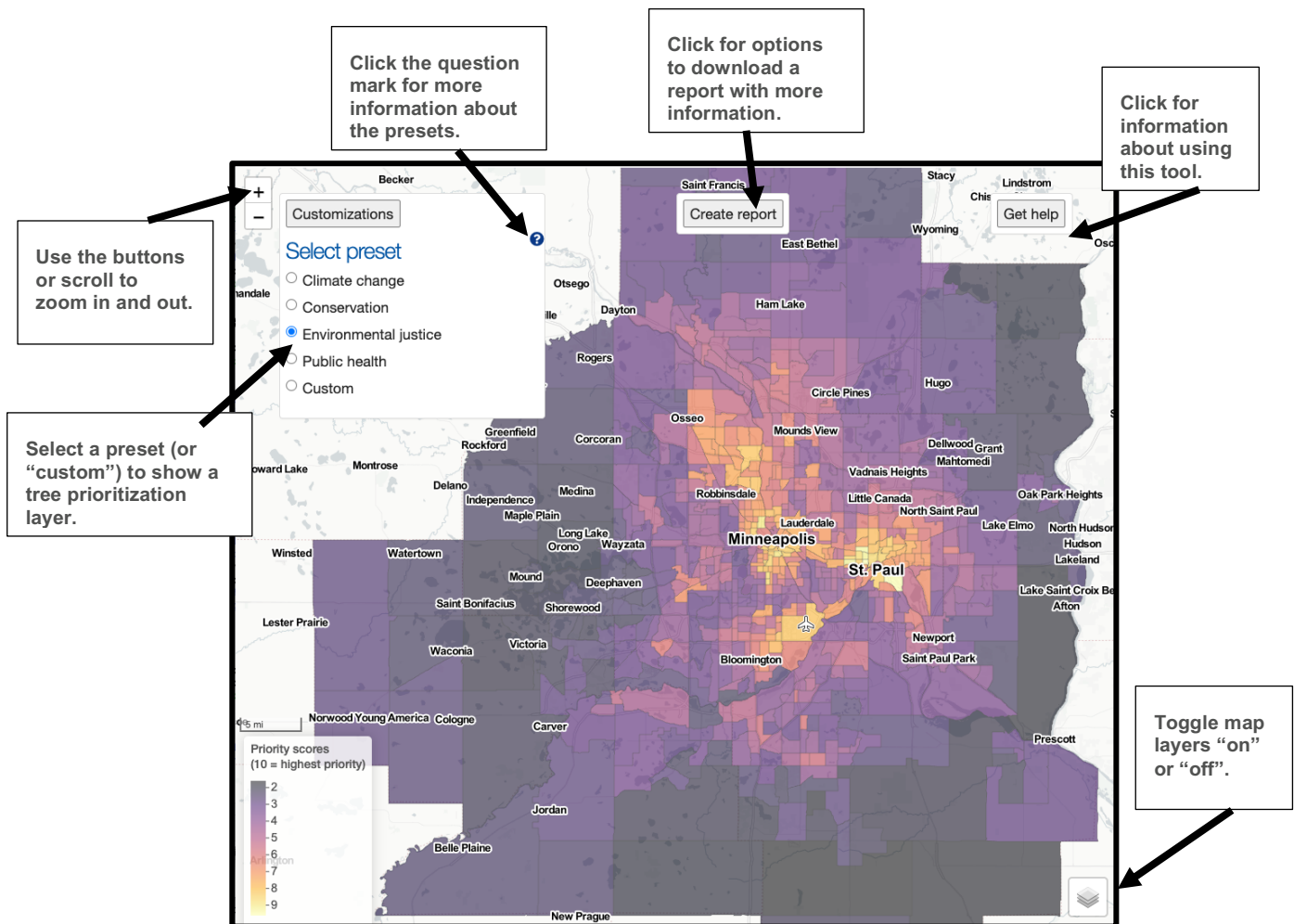
“Narrative” tab

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

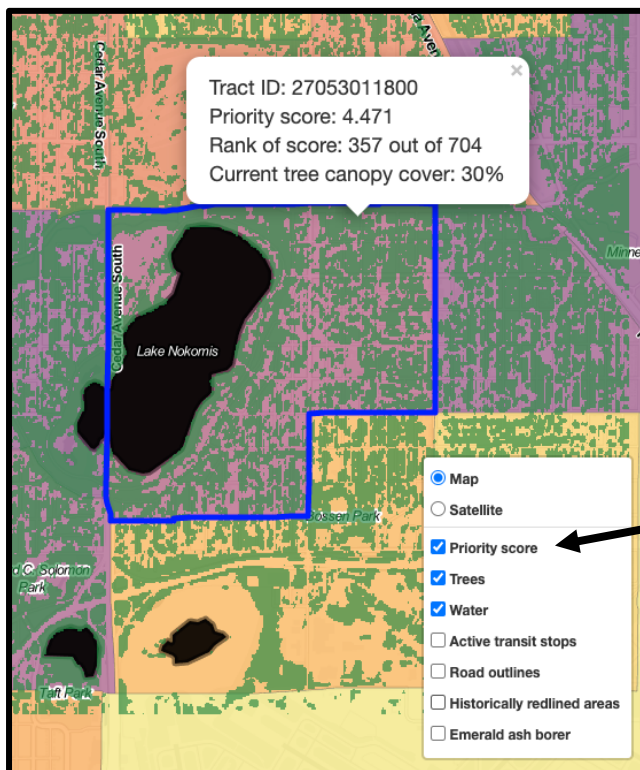
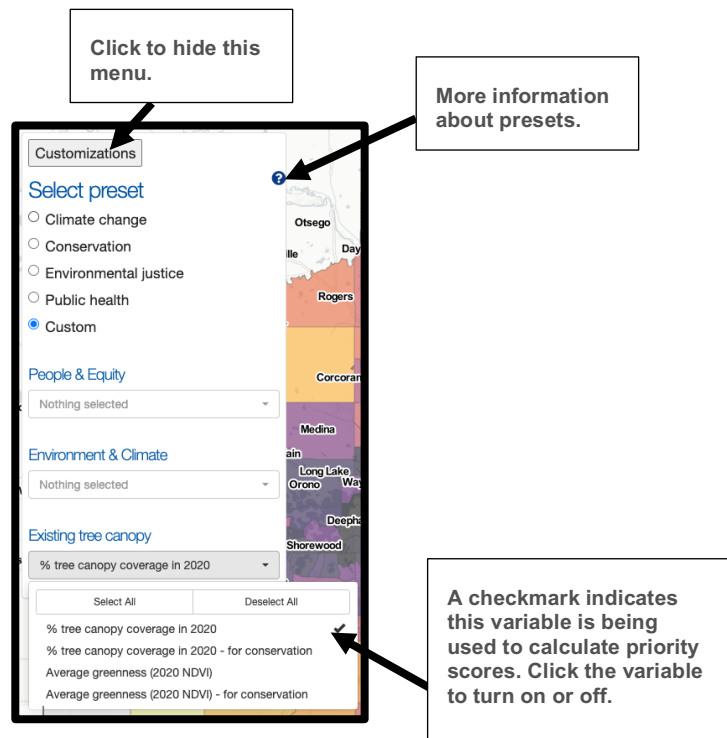
This tab allows users to explore Census data at the intersection of trees and people in detail.



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.



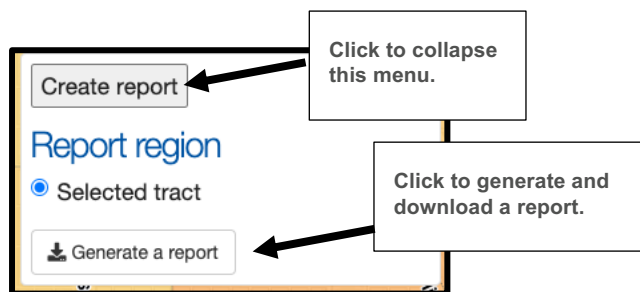
Click on an area in the map for more information. A popup tells you some information, and a layer showing the existing tree canopy is created (in green). The blue box shows the outline of the area which is selected.

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.



Once an area is selected and you have seen more information about it, you will be able to generate a report containing more information. Please note that the download may take longer for large areas. The download will fail if no area on the map has been selected.

“Methods” tab

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



390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805

651.602.1000
TTY 651.291.0904
public.info@metc.state.mn.us
metro council.org

Follow us on:
twitter.com/metcouncilnews
facebook.com/MetropolitanCouncil
youtube.com/MetropolitanCouncil