# Metropolitan Council logo

# Background

[Growing Shade](https://metrotransitmn.shinyapps.io/growing-shade/) is a new tool for improving the equity and sustainability of the Twin Cities region through tree canopy enhancement and preservation. Equity and sustainability are two outcomes of the Thrive 2040 regional policy plan which Growing Shade makes actionable. Growing Shade can be accessed at: <https://metrotransitmn.shinyapps.io/growing-shade/> or at <https://metrocouncil.org/growingshade>.

Growing Shade is predicated on the fact that trees help the region thrive. Benefits from trees include cooler temperatures, improved air quality, cleaner stormwater, improved mental health, and enhanced biodiversity. Enhancing and preserving tree canopy cover is an actionable step to create healthy and resilient places.

Trees additionally connect to regional issues and priorities. Public health, environmental justice, climate change, and natural resource conservation all intersect with the tree canopy. Growing Shade provides tree planting efforts and ongoing maintenance with new perspectives, rigorous science, and thoughtful synthesis.

Growing Shade combines **local stories** and an **interactive mapping tool** to inform tree canopy enhancement and preservation.

* **Local stories** educate andexplain considerations for enhancing and preserving the tree canopy. The following stories are profiled.
  + Equity. Frogtown Green advocates for environmental justice through tree planting.
  + Restoration. Lower Phalen Creek Project is healing Dakota culture and land through restoration.
  + Preservation. Washington Conservation District works to preserve and restore forests.
  + Education. Brooklyn Center Community Schools engage youth in creating greenspace.
  + Maintenance. Tree Trust emphasizes the importance of tree care and maintenance.
* The **interactive mapping tool** uses priority layers to synthesize data and identify areas where planting, preserving, and maintaining trees can yield multiple benefits in the community. Customizable reports for cities, townships, unorganized territories, neighborhoods, and individual census block groups contain the following information:
  + Tree canopy status. Compare the tree canopy within a selected area to the region average.
  + Prioritization. Understand that the benefits of planting a tree depend on its location.
  + Race and income disparities. Contextualize the inequitable distribution of trees.
  + Temperature. Learn about the potential for cooling summer temperatures with trees.

# Trivia Answers

Q: What percent tree canopy cover does your community have?

A: The table shows the average tree cover across each CTU in the 7-County metro region. Most communities have multiple Census block groups which fall within CTU boundaries, the block group with the lowest tree cover and the block group with the highest tree cover are also displayed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CTU Name** | **Average tree (%)** | **Lowest block group tree (%)** | **Highest block group tree (%)** |
| Afton | 35.8% | 19.9% | 36.9% |
| Andover | 43.3% | 28.6% | 50.6% |
| Anoka | 31.2% | 17.4% | 51.4% |
| Apple Valley | 37.1% | 11.5% | 53.5% |
| Arden Hills | 38.3% | 34.0% | 53.0% |
| Bayport | 33.6% | 17.6% | 35.5% |
| Baytown Twp. | 29.3% | 27.9% | 35.4% |
| Belle Plaine | 22.0% | 12.4% | 25.4% |
| Belle Plaine Twp. | 7.7% | 12.4% | 25.4% |
| Benton Twp. | 9.5% | 7.2% | 10.5% |
| Bethel | 47.4% | 39.7% | 39.7% |
| Birchwood Village | 62.5% | 60.6% | 60.6% |
| Blaine | 36.7% | 15.2% | 52.2% |
| Blakeley Twp. | 23.3% | 17.1% | 17.1% |
| Bloomington | 38.7% | 7.9% | 60.9% |
| Brooklyn Center | 25.9% | 10.1% | 37.3% |
| Brooklyn Park | 28.4% | 14.1% | 47.9% |
| Burnsville | 39.8% | 14.2% | 59.2% |
| Camden Twp. | 13.5% | 9.9% | 13.7% |
| Carver | 40.3% | 15.3% | 35.6% |
| Castle Rock Twp. | 8.1% | 8.1% | 14.2% |
| Cedar Lake Twp. | 19.5% | 17.0% | 19.2% |
| Centerville | 36.8% | 30.3% | 43.7% |
| Champlin | 40.5% | 31.3% | 45.8% |
| Chanhassen | 40.9% | 25.4% | 54.7% |
| Chaska | 34.6% | 23.4% | 49.0% |
| Circle Pines | 48.6% | 39.5% | 53.7% |
| Coates | 3.0% | 13.2% | 13.2% |
| Cologne | 10.1% | 10.5% | 10.5% |
| Columbia Heights | 29.1% | 14.8% | 46.2% |
| Columbus | 41.3% | 37.8% | 46.0% |
| Coon Rapids | 39.6% | 18.6% | 54.7% |
| Corcoran | 17.2% | 14.8% | 21.1% |
| Cottage Grove | 25.7% | 16.5% | 49.4% |
| Credit River | 31.9% | 28.0% | 32.7% |
| Crystal | 31.6% | 10.0% | 46.0% |
| Dahlgren Twp. | 15.2% | 15.3% | 35.6% |
| Dayton | 29.2% | 25.0% | 31.7% |
| Deephaven | 56.7% | 55.1% | 58.7% |
| Dellwood | 50.5% | 51.5% | 57.5% |
| Denmark Twp. | 20.0% | 19.9% | 35.3% |
| Douglas Twp. | 8.2% | 8.0% | 8.0% |
| Eagan | 40.4% | 18.6% | 58.0% |
| East Bethel | 42.9% | 40.4% | 47.9% |
| Eden Prairie | 40.9% | 18.4% | 57.0% |
| Edina | 41.2% | 5.4% | 55.3% |
| Elko New Market | 29.0% | 22.2% | 22.2% |
| Empire Twp. | 11.1% | 8.1% | 29.7% |
| Eureka Twp. | 13.6% | 8.1% | 15.5% |
| Excelsior | 35.7% | 37.3% | 48.3% |
| Falcon Heights | 28.2% | 15.3% | 40.6% |
| Farmington | 20.6% | 11.5% | 36.6% |
| Forest Lake | 36.9% | 26.2% | 49.0% |
| Fort Snelling (unorg.) | 19.7% | 13.5% | 30.1% |
| Fridley | 28.7% | 11.6% | 51.7% |
| Gem Lake | 49.5% | 39.1% | 46.1% |
| Golden Valley | 39.8% | 23.1% | 54.4% |
| Grant | 36.5% | 28.5% | 51.5% |
| Greenfield | 24.0% | 19.4% | 30.4% |
| Greenvale Twp. | 10.1% | 9.2% | 9.2% |
| Greenwood | 54.6% | 48.3% | 48.3% |
| Grey Cloud Island Twp. | 47.0% | 30.8% | 30.8% |
| Ham Lake | 45.1% | 37.5% | 52.7% |
| Hamburg | 13.1% | 8.7% | 8.7% |
| Hampton | 11.9% | 7.7% | 7.7% |
| Hampton Twp. | 6.2% | 7.7% | 7.7% |
| Hancock Twp. | 4.7% | 7.2% | 7.2% |
| Hanover | 33.9% | 25.9% | 25.9% |
| Hastings | 38.5% | 12.3% | 44.2% |
| Helena Twp. | 13.4% | 13.5% | 24.7% |
| Hilltop | 14.7% | 15.0% | 15.0% |
| Hollywood Twp. | 9.7% | 9.9% | 13.7% |
| Hopkins | 30.9% | 8.8% | 52.3% |
| Hugo | 29.6% | 27.3% | 35.9% |
| Independence | 25.4% | 20.7% | 28.8% |
| Inver Grove Heights | 42.2% | 21.4% | 53.7% |
| Jackson Twp. | 23.9% | 17.9% | 34.2% |
| Jordan | 30.7% | 23.5% | 32.2% |
| Lake Elmo | 29.6% | 25.6% | 41.0% |
| Lake St. Croix Beach | 52.9% | 48.2% | 59.8% |
| Lakeland | 44.6% | 42.8% | 48.8% |
| Lakeland Shores | 52.5% | 42.8% | 42.8% |
| Laketown Twp. | 23.3% | 20.1% | 47.1% |
| Lakeville | 29.9% | 8.1% | 51.1% |
| Landfall | 17.2% | 40.1% | 40.1% |
| Lauderdale | 31.5% | 20.4% | 42.6% |
| Lexington | 37.7% | 31.5% | 33.9% |
| Lilydale | 51.2% | 50.2% | 56.0% |
| Lino Lakes | 37.9% | 26.3% | 52.9% |
| Linwood Twp. | 48.4% | 47.3% | 50.5% |
| Little Canada | 36.0% | 21.8% | 46.0% |
| Long Lake | 36.8% | 26.9% | 43.3% |
| Loretto | 19.3% | 28.3% | 28.3% |
| Louisville Twp. | 32.0% | 17.9% | 34.2% |
| Mahtomedi | 50.0% | 46.9% | 58.7% |
| Maple Grove | 33.6% | 11.7% | 52.8% |
| Maple Plain | 26.4% | 20.7% | 27.1% |
| Maplewood | 40.6% | 26.1% | 50.5% |
| Marine on St. Croix | 50.7% | 50.3% | 50.3% |
| Marshan Twp. | 8.1% | 8.2% | 14.0% |
| May Twp. | 35.7% | 28.6% | 45.5% |
| Mayer | 17.3% | 12.3% | 17.5% |
| Medicine Lake | 44.4% | 44.4% | 44.4% |
| Medina | 34.1% | 28.3% | 38.6% |
| Mendota | 56.0% | 50.2% | 50.2% |
| Mendota Heights | 46.1% | 39.8% | 58.9% |
| Miesville | 3.5% | 8.0% | 8.0% |
| Minneapolis | 24.4% | 0.0% | 52.5% |
| Minnetonka | 47.5% | 18.9% | 57.5% |
| Minnetonka Beach | 47.6% | 46.6% | 53.1% |
| Minnetrista | 28.8% | 19.4% | 44.9% |
| Mound | 35.4% | 20.8% | 46.6% |
| Mounds View | 41.0% | 27.6% | 54.7% |
| New Brighton | 34.6% | 16.2% | 46.6% |
| New Germany | 14.2% | 9.9% | 13.7% |
| New Hope | 31.3% | 15.5% | 45.6% |
| New Market Twp. | 20.6% | 17.0% | 25.1% |
| New Prague | 22.0% | 13.5% | 24.7% |
| New Trier | 11.2% | 7.7% | 7.7% |
| Newport | 42.6% | 41.1% | 46.9% |
| Nininger Twp. | 18.4% | 13.2% | 30.1% |
| North Oaks | 56.7% | 53.3% | 64.1% |
| North St. Paul | 37.0% | 25.3% | 45.5% |
| Northfield | 15.2% | 9.2% | 9.2% |
| Norwood Young America | 17.4% | 8.7% | 18.5% |
| Nowthen | 30.4% | 24.1% | 34.7% |
| Oak Grove | 43.4% | 39.6% | 48.3% |
| Oak Park Heights | 30.3% | 23.0% | 38.9% |
| Oakdale | 38.2% | 24.3% | 53.1% |
| Orono | 45.5% | 40.0% | 54.5% |
| Osseo | 16.8% | 14.7% | 21.5% |
| Pine Springs | 48.9% | 47.6% | 47.6% |
| Plymouth | 37.2% | 15.0% | 54.6% |
| Prior Lake | 35.4% | 23.4% | 49.3% |
| Ramsey | 39.5% | 23.5% | 50.1% |
| Randolph | 25.9% | 7.7% | 7.7% |
| Randolph Twp. | 10.3% | 7.7% | 7.7% |
| Ravenna Twp. | 38.2% | 38.4% | 38.4% |
| Richfield | 29.8% | 8.6% | 49.2% |
| Robbinsdale | 29.5% | 12.2% | 46.7% |
| Rockford | 28.2% | 30.4% | 30.4% |
| Rogers | 21.5% | 18.7% | 25.9% |
| Rosemount | 21.9% | 19.3% | 42.1% |
| Roseville | 34.8% | 15.5% | 48.2% |
| San Francisco Twp. | 26.2% | 15.3% | 35.6% |
| Sand Creek Twp. | 20.8% | 23.5% | 23.5% |
| Savage | 40.3% | 28.7% | 55.2% |
| Scandia | 35.5% | 24.6% | 42.5% |
| Sciota Twp. | 5.3% | 9.2% | 9.2% |
| Shakopee | 26.1% | 17.9% | 40.3% |
| Shoreview | 44.8% | 28.8% | 53.6% |
| Shorewood | 50.9% | 37.3% | 58.0% |
| South St. Paul | 30.0% | 13.7% | 52.7% |
| Spring Lake Park | 25.7% | 22.2% | 49.1% |
| Spring Lake Twp. | 21.8% | 15.7% | 28.1% |
| Spring Park | 26.7% | 21.0% | 46.6% |
| St. Anthony | 34.2% | 24.3% | 43.2% |
| St. Bonifacius | 23.0% | 19.4% | 26.7% |
| St. Francis | 42.0% | 36.0% | 45.5% |
| St. Lawrence Twp. | 33.0% | 19.1% | 19.1% |
| St. Louis Park | 32.9% | 12.0% | 56.6% |
| St. Marys Point | 61.3% | 59.8% | 59.8% |
| St. Paul | 31.5% | 1.4% | 57.4% |
| St. Paul Park | 34.4% | 30.8% | 41.6% |
| Stillwater | 41.8% | 28.5% | 53.4% |
| Stillwater Twp. | 32.8% | 31.7% | 53.4% |
| Sunfish Lake | 57.4% | 60.6% | 60.6% |
| Tonka Bay | 45.5% | 44.5% | 45.4% |
| Vadnais Heights | 40.7% | 21.9% | 50.2% |
| Vermillion | 15.6% | 8.1% | 8.1% |
| Vermillion Twp. | 5.3% | 8.1% | 13.2% |
| Victoria | 34.4% | 20.1% | 47.1% |
| Waconia | 17.4% | 12.3% | 23.8% |
| Waconia Twp. | 13.5% | 12.3% | 23.6% |
| Waterford Twp. | 10.5% | 9.2% | 9.2% |
| Watertown | 26.6% | 17.5% | 30.9% |
| Watertown Twp. | 18.8% | 17.5% | 24.5% |
| Wayzata | 44.9% | 29.3% | 50.1% |
| West Lakeland Twp. | 31.9% | 27.9% | 40.9% |
| West St. Paul | 38.7% | 22.0% | 50.4% |
| White Bear Lake | 40.3% | 36.7% | 50.6% |
| White Bear Twp. | 43.2% | 38.0% | 56.1% |
| Willernie | 54.7% | 55.9% | 55.9% |
| Woodbury | 31.2% | 16.8% | 52.4% |
| Woodland | 53.1% | 55.1% | 55.1% |
| Young America Twp. | 9.0% | 8.7% | 18.5% |