

2026 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING GRANTS

PROJECT LOCATION AND MAP GUIDANCE

The 2026 Community Tree Planting Grants program has two maps that assist applicants in scoping their projects and submitting their detailed tree planting and removal plans as part of their application. This document provides guidance on how to use these maps.

1. **The Reference Map:** This map is available outside the application for any user to understand the geographic priorities, to understand how environmental considerations may play into your choices about where to plant new trees, and to prepare a planting and removal plan. Instructions in this document include how to:
 - Navigate the Reference Map
 - Scope a competitive project
 - Calculate your project's Priority Points and Tier
 - Prepare your data for the Application Map
2. **The Application Map:** This map includes a form you must complete as part of your application and is only available from within your Fluxx grant application (a link is uniquely generated for each application). Instructions in this document include:
 - Map Components
 - Submitting Project Locations
 - Submitting Additional Census Block Groups
 - Exception for extra-large projects

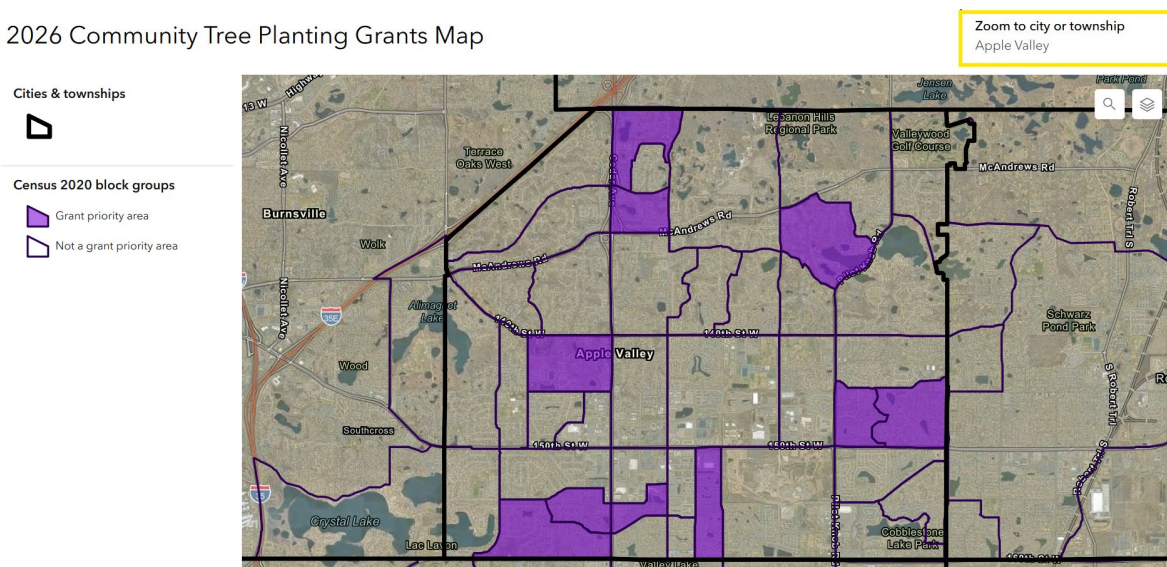
Reference Map

Navigate the Reference Map

Before filling out your application, explore priority areas and understand how to scope the most competitive grant project by using the [2026 Community Tree Planting Grants Reference Map](#).

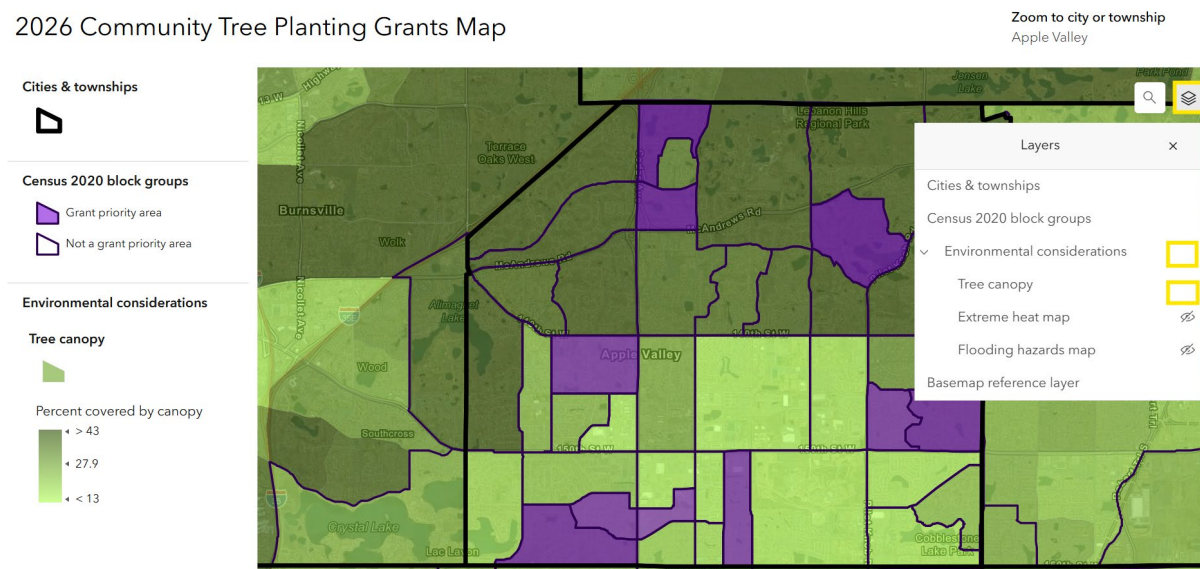
When the map loads, all priority census block groups are highlighted purple. You can focus on any city or township by using the Zoom function in the top right corner and selecting a community.

2026 Community Tree Planting Grants Map



The layer function in the top right corner of the map (the layered square button next to the magnifying glass) allows you to turn on environmental consideration layers: tree canopy, extreme heat, and flooding hazards. Once you've opened Layers, click on visibility (the eyeball symbol) next to Environmental Considerations and any of the following layers to see the data. The layer may take a moment to load. The legend on the left side will include interpretive information for any visible layers.

2026 Community Tree Planting Grants Map



Applicants are encouraged to use the environmental considerations data to scope projects to increase their community's climate resilience. That may look like targeting planting to areas experiencing disproportionate extreme heat or localized flooding. Applicants will be asked to explain how their project supports climate resilience and will be scored on the criteria *Project addresses climate change impacts*. (Learn more about the project criteria in the [Notice of Funding Availability](#), page 7.)

Scope a Competitive Project

Applicants can use the Reference Map to assist in the creation of a competitive project in two ways.

Project Tier: Scope a project that will be reviewed in Tier 1, if possible. Depending upon the volume of requests and their alignment with project priorities, it's possible that applications in Tiers 2 and 3 may not be considered for funding if funds are exhausted in Tier 1. Refer to the [NOFA](#) and the section below to determine your project's review tier.

Scoring Criteria: Understand how your project addresses location-specific scoring criteria and speak to this in your application. There are three criteria that are closely tied to the locations of project activities.

- Project serves vulnerable communities: Application describes how project location(s) are targeted to serve vulnerable communities (15 points)
- Project addresses climate change impacts: Application describes how project location(s) are targeted to address climate change impacts including but not limited to extreme heat and localized flooding (10 points)
- Tree Canopy Health and Resilience: Application describes how the project will improve tree canopy health and resilience, and/or improve tree species diversity (5 points)

Determine Your Project Tier

While exploring potential project scopes, applicants are encouraged to determine how the project would sort into a project tier. Project tiers are based on the degree to which the project meets the two program 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

Tier 1 will be projects scoring 5 or 6 Priority Points. Tier 2 will be projects scoring 3 or 4 Priority Points. Tier 3 will be projects scoring 0, 1, or 2 Priority Point(s). For more about the review process, see the NOFA.

Tier	Priority Points
Tier 1: Reviewed and awarded first.	5 – 6
Tier 2: Only reviewed if funds remain after reviewing and selecting Tier 1 projects.	3 – 4
Tier 3: Only reviewed if funds remain after reviewing and selecting projects in Tier 1 and 2.	0 – 2

Priority Points are distributed as follows:

Priority Points	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
Ash Removals / Replacements	0 trees	1 – 14 trees	15 – 29 trees	30+ trees
Trees Planted in Priority Areas out of Total Trees Planted	Less than 25%	25 – 49.99%	50 – 74.99%	75 – 100%

For example, if a project is planning to remove and replace 20 ash trees and 8 of those trees are in priority areas (40%), the project would receive 2 priority points for Ash Removals/Replacements and 1 priority point for Priority Areas for a total of 3 Priority Points. The project would fall into Tier 2.

If that same project planned to plant an additional 30 trees in priority areas, this would increase trees planted into priority areas to 76% of the total trees planted. Then, the project would receive 3 points for Priority Areas, bringing the total to 5 Priority Points (and moving the application into Tier 1).

Prepare your project and data for submission on the Application Map

Use the table available in the Application in Word document to help you plan your project, identify the census block groups where your project activities will take place, and what deliverables will occur in each (ash removed, other hazard trees removed, trees planted). You will transfer this information into the Application Map, as a required part of your application.

- Use the Reference Map to find the block groups where you plan to remove and plant trees. (Click on the block group on the map, and the block group number will appear in the upper right corner of the window.)
- Give your block groups nicknames to help you identify these in the future (neighborhoods, landmarks, parks within the area, etc.)
- Determine whether the block group is a priority area.

- Record your planned activities (deliverables) for that block group.
- Double check that within each block group, any trees removed are being replaced at least at a 1-to-1 ratio. The form will not allow total trees removed to exceed trees planted.

Your table will look something like this (using the example above). The two green cells below (total ash trees removed, and percent of total trees planted in priority block groups) are the two values that are used to determine review tier.

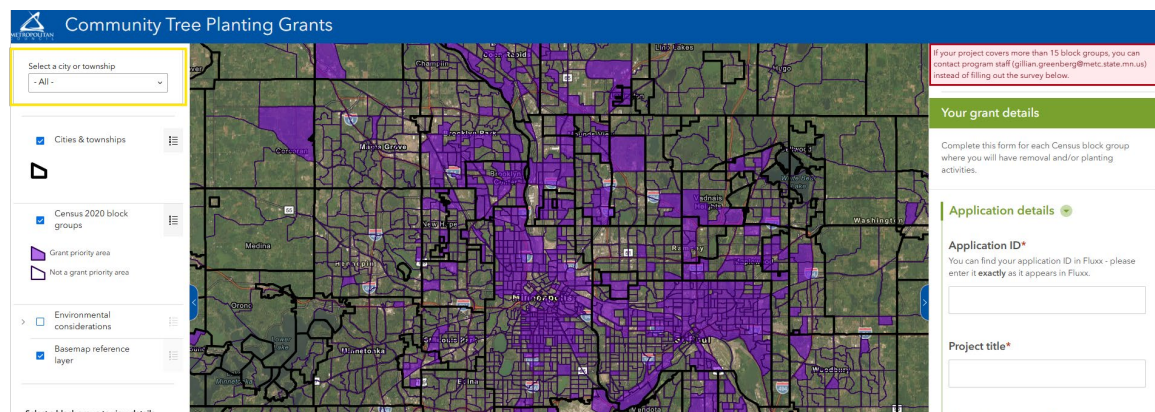
Block Group # (add rows as needed)	Block Group Nickname	Priority area?	# of trees planted	# of ash removed	# of other hazard trees removed
270370608402	Long Lake	Yes	15	0	0
270370608382	Upper 147th	Yes	23	8	0
Priority Totals			38	8	0
270370608381	Dakota Ridge	No	12	12	
Non-Priority Totals			12	12	0
GRANT TOTAL			50	20	0
<i>Percent of trees planted in priority areas</i>			76%		

Application Map

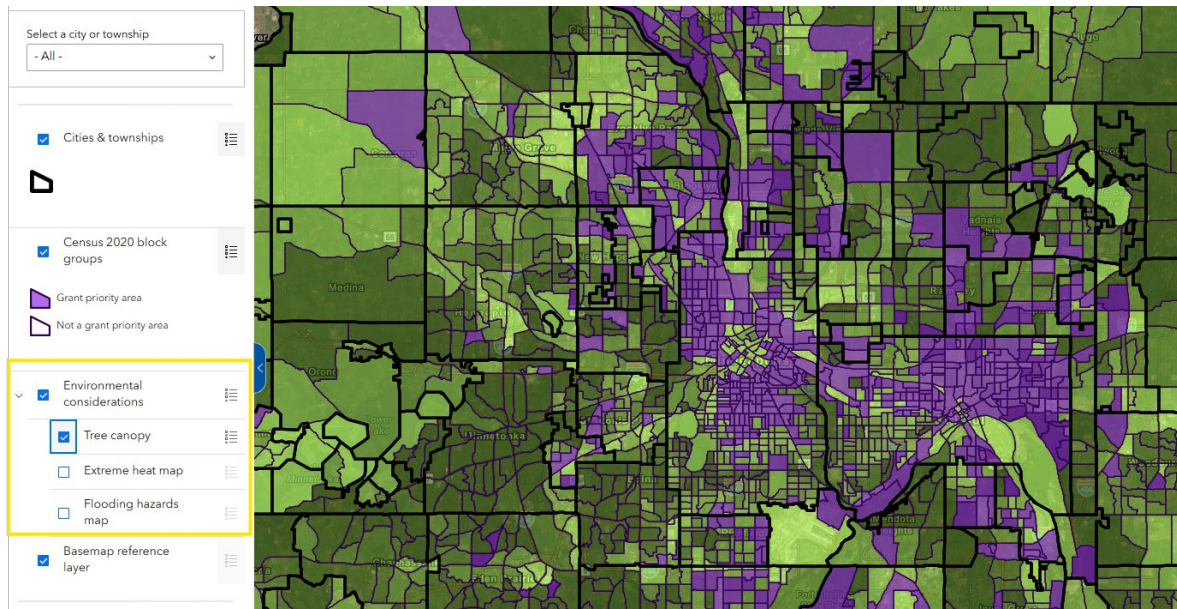
As part of this year's application, applicants will submit the census block groups where they plan to work through the 2026 Community Tree Planting Grants Application Map. The Application Map allows applicants to select block groups and fill out key information about project work to be done there. The information submitted through the form in the map will be automatically pulled into the applicant's Fluxx application.

Map Components

The Application Map has a few key components. The left side of the map contains the search and legend. Use the search option to zoom to anywhere in the region. The map will load with a basemap, city and township boundaries, and priority census block groups highlighted purple.

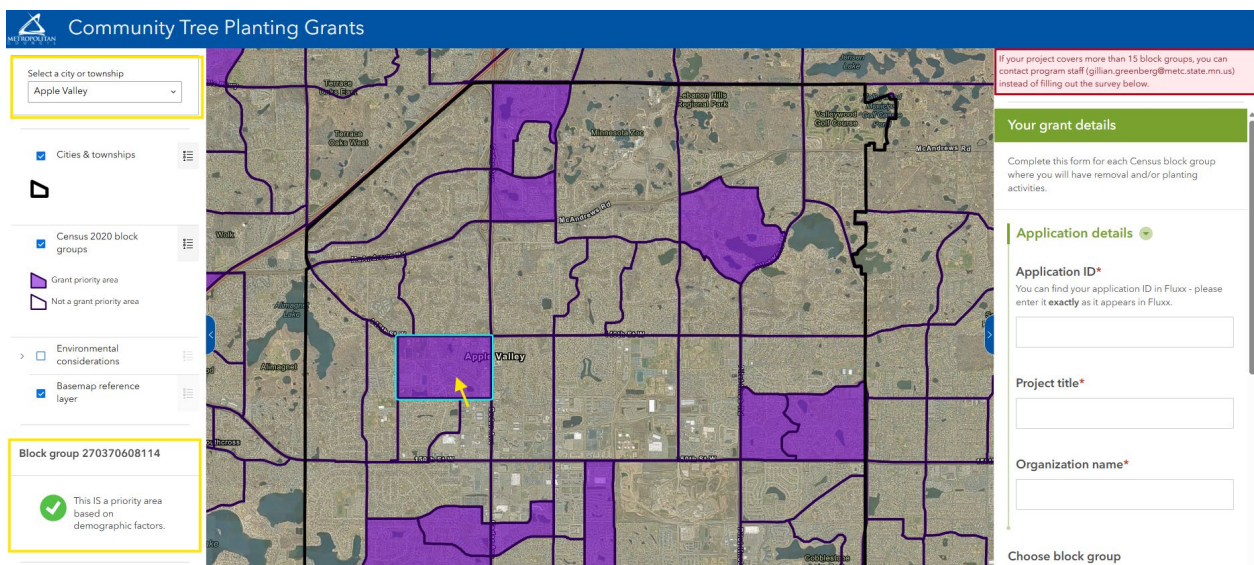


Toggle open the Environmental considerations and select from the layer options to view tree canopy, extreme heat, or flooding hazard data.



Submitting Project Locations

To submit project locations through the Application Map, first start by selecting a community and then clicking on a census block group where project work will occur. A message will pop up in the bottom right corner indicating whether the block group is a priority area.



Second, move to the form on the right side of the screen. Enter the Fluxx Application ID exactly how it appears in Fluxx (i.e. 2026-00000), Project Title, and Organization Name.

Community Tree Planting Grants

Select a city or township
Apple Valley

☒ Cities & townships

☒ Census 2020 block groups

☒ Grant priority area

☐ Not a grant priority area

☐ Environmental considerations

☒ Basemap reference layer

Block group 270370608114

☒ This IS a priority area based on demographic factors.

If your project covers more than 15 block groups, you can contact program staff (gillian.greenberg@metc.state.mn.us) instead of filling out the survey below.

Your grant details

Complete this form for each Census block group where you will have removal and/or planting activities.

Application details

Application ID*
You can find your application ID in Fluxx - please enter it **exactly** as it appears in Fluxx.

Project title*

Organization name*

Choose block group

Third, scrolling down the form, the census block group field will automatically pull the number of the census block group selected on the map and the block group's priority level. Confirm the right census block group is showing and add a block group nickname if desired.

Community Tree Planting Grants

Select a city or township
Apple Valley

☒ Cities & townships

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☒ Grant priority area

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☒ Basemap reference layer

Block group 270370608114

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If your project covers more than 15 block groups, you can contact program staff (gillian.greenberg@metc.state.mn.us) instead of filling out the survey below.

Choose block group
Select a block group in the map to auto-fill this field.

270370608114

Priority level of the selected block group
This field will auto-fill based on the answer to the previous question.

Priority

Block group nickname (optional)
This could be a reference to the neighborhood, landmarks, etc. If you leave this field blank, you will only have the block group ID to reference later.

How many trees will be planted in this block group?

Fourth, fill out the project activity fields:

- How many trees will be planted in this block group?
- How many ash trees will be removed in this block group?
- How many non-ash trees will be removed in this block group?

Then click “Submit.”

Submitting Additional Census Block Groups

Applicants should fill out this form for each census block group where they plan to do project work. The fields Application ID, Project title, and Organization name will automatically fill once the information is provided for the first submission.

Once the applicant has completed the form for as many census block groups as the project scope requires, close the window. The information will automatically be pulled into the Fluxx application at the end of the grant application period.

Fixing Mistakes

If an applicant makes a mistake or decides to adjust the project scope after filling out the Application Map form, resubmit the form for any census block groups that have updated project outcomes.

Large Project Exception

If an applicant is planning a project that works in more than 15 census block groups, they may email program staff at gillian.greenberg@metc.state.mn.us to explore alternatives to filling out the survey.