

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
September 7, 2022

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

2022 members

- Peggy Booth, citizen **Co-chair**
- Peter MacDonagh, UMN rep **Co-chair**
- Giuseppe Marrari, citizen
- Susan Olmsted, citizen
- Carol Sersland, citizen
- Tim Keane, citizen
- Don Willeke, Mayor's designee
- Steve Nicholson, Mn Shade Tree Comm.
- Steffanie Musich, MPRB Board
- Ralph Sievert, MPRB Forestry
- Steve Collin, Mpls Public Works
- Curt Hartog, Mpls Public Schools

Assisted by Philip Potyondy, MPRB



Report Topics

- Trees Matter
- Accomplishments
- Recommendations



Trees Matter



Trees Matter

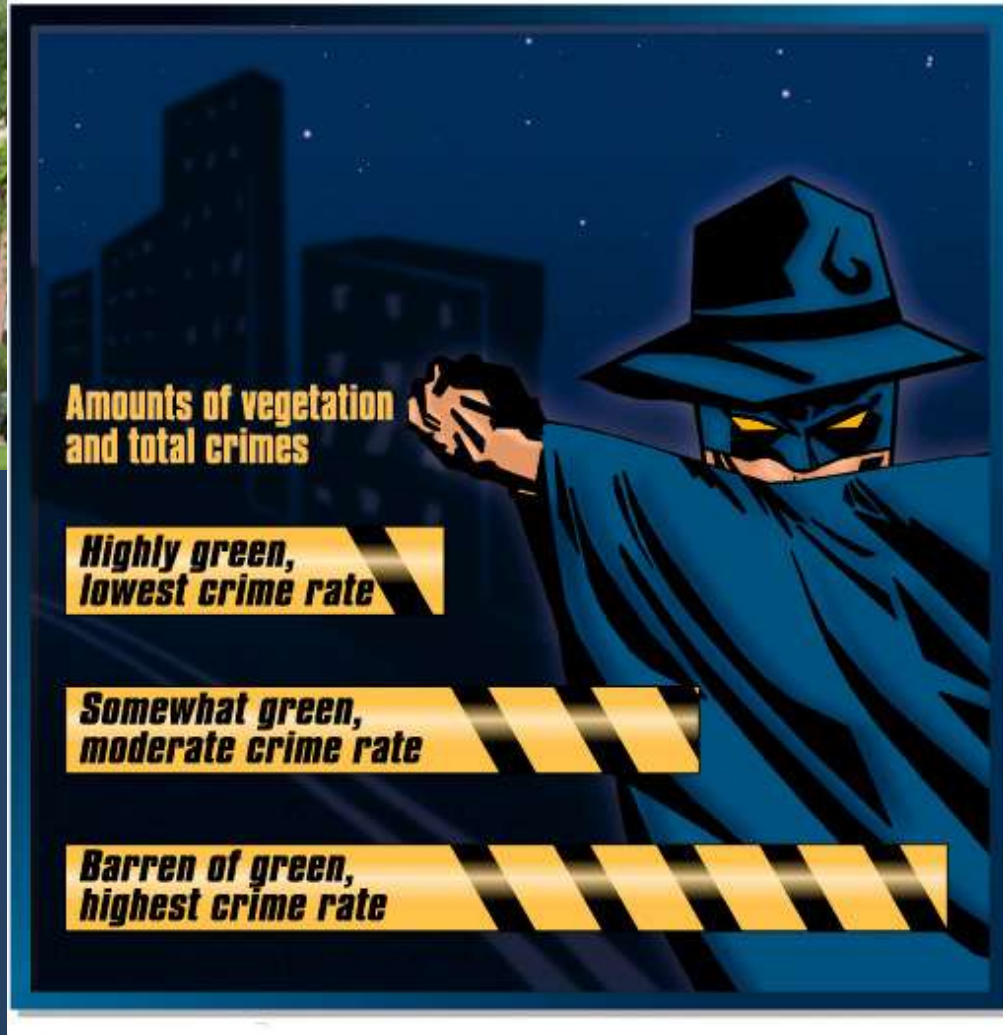
TREE VALUE is determined by
how much leaf volume we have

**Amount of benefits =
amount of tree canopy cover**

Trees Matter

Green Streets, Not Mean Streets

In an inner city neighborhood, the greener the residence, the lower the crime rate.



research shows

Trees help ...

- ✓ **reduce crime rates**
- ✓ **calm people with ADHD**
- ✓ **speed up recovery of hospital patients**



Trees Matter

Kids Benefit from Trees

Green urban landscapes and school-level academic performance

Summary

Higher levels of tree canopy are linked to higher school-level reading test scores

Trees set sixth-graders up for success

Date: November 9, 2020

Source: University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Summary: The transition to middle school is undeniably tough for many sixth-graders, even in the best of times. Mounting academic demands, along with changes in peer dynamics and the onset of puberty, result in a predictable and sometimes irreversible slump in academic performance. A new study suggests an unexpected but potentially potent remedy: trees.

Trees Matter

Youth Benefit from Trees

More opportunities exist than ever for city youth to gain through trees ...



By equipping participants with training and hands-on experience, Tree Trust Career Pathways offers promising young people the opportunity to build sustainable and meaningful careers.

FIGHT FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE

JOIN THE TAZO TREE CORPS

APPLY NOW

THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS ALREADY HERE.

It's easy to think of the climate crisis like some slowly creeping monster that inches closer with every reckless decision we make for our planet. Truth is, for many Americans, climate change is already here. In fact, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities across the country have been disproportionately impacted for decades.



University of Minnesota
Youth Engagement
In Arboriculture

Trees Matter

**The best way to bring benefits to the people who need it most is ...
to plant, sustain and protect big trees
along all streets, yards and public places**



Accomplishments



Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

... through MPRB leadership:

- Minneapolis streets and parks are fully safe from hazards of dead ash trees

This summer ...
in adjoining city



in Minneapolis



Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

... through MPRB leadership:

- 40,000 new trees of 200 different types replaced 40,000 public ash facing inevitable death



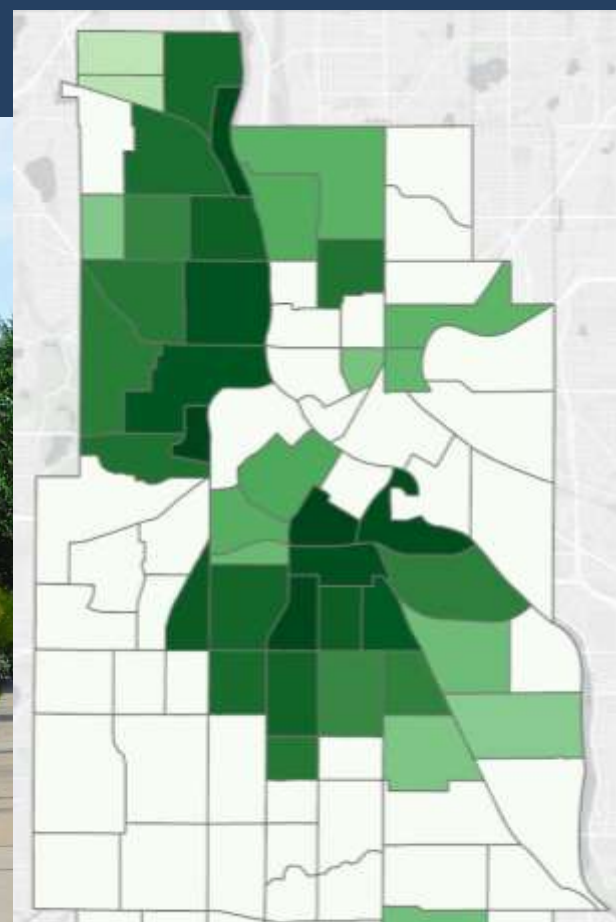
**No other
Minnesota
city has
achieved this**

Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

MPRB prioritizes tree planting in lower income neighborhoods with higher racial diversity

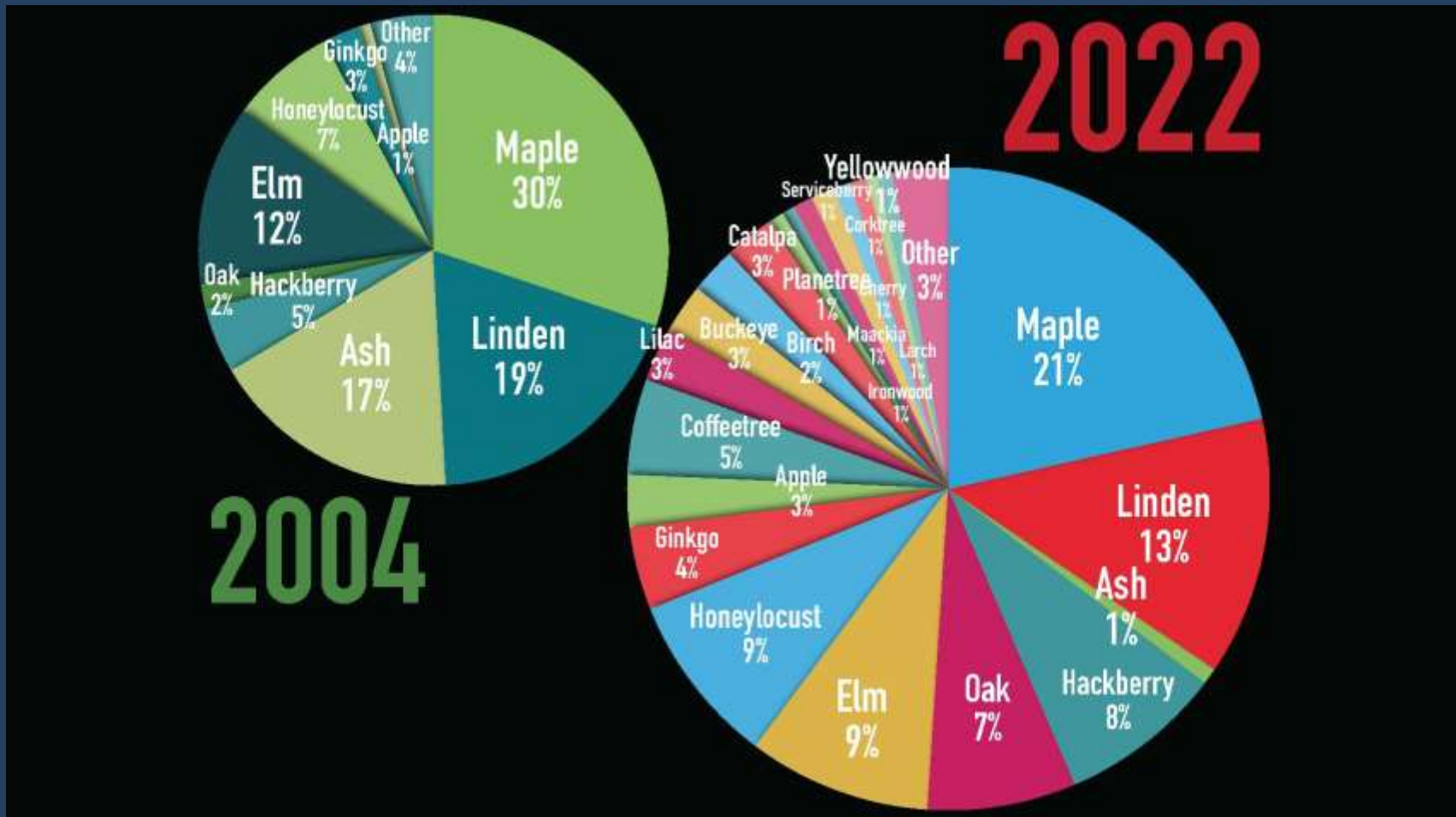
Tree Planting Priority Ranking by Neighborhood			Midwest Data 2017		Urban Tree Canopy 2015 Data (2017 Report)											
Neighborhood	Priority	Rank	City	Tree Canopy	Other Vegetation	Buildings	Priority	Priority	Priority	Priority	Priority	Priority	Priority	Priority	Priority	
Albany	1	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	2	2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	3	3	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	4	4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	5	5	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	6	6	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	7	7	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	8	8	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
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Albany	49	49	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Albany	50	50	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

Our public forest is more diverse than ever



Accomplishments

MPRB & Public Works Collaborate

Thanks to MPRB's Forest Preservation Coordinator... trees are saved through plan review and field oversight



Accomplishments

MPRB & Public Works Collaborate

- Funding from both MPRB and Public Works make this work
- City's new Surface Water and Sewer Policy requires and funds greening in Public Works



Accomplishments

Outside Funding Secured

- \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding secured for Minneapolis urban forest
- At least 8,000 trees will be planted in 2023-2024 with this funding
- Thanks to Green Minneapolis, the City and Mayor being advocates



Covid-Relief

**American
Rescue Plan
Act of 2021**



Accomplishments

Outside Funding Secured

- First steps accomplished towards funding from carbon credits
- MPRB commended for agreements with Green Minneapolis and City Forest Credits



green
minneapolis

Carbon Credits
for City Trees

Recommendations



Recommendations

1. Protect trees in public places

Recommendations

1. Protect trees in public places

Prioritize protection of existing trees in all MPRB and City construction projects



Recommendations

1. Protect trees in public places

Require tree protection in all plans and designs

- Include tree protection in all request for proposals (RFPs) as standard general condition
- Increase collaboration between MPRB and City departments

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board seeks proposals for design and planning services

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board seeks design services from a registered Landscape Architect teamed with other professional consultants, if necessary, to collaborate with MPRB staff on the creation of the Southwest Service Area Master Plan. This project will involve extensive community engagement to create a vision for parks south of I-394 and west of I-35W. This approximately 18-month process will conclude with preparation of a written and graphic document that will include:

- An overarching vision for outdoor facilities
- Conceptual design plans for each of 42 neighborhood park properties
- Construction and operations cost estimates
- A timeline for implementation

General conditions

The City has terms and conditions that we expect all contractors to meet. By proposal, bidders are required to review the City's standard terms and conditions and suggest alternative language to any section. Some negotiation is possible to accommodate project-specific needs.

[See General Conditions](#)

Recommendations

1. Protect trees in public places

Conduct tree impact analysis on all proposed construction projects

- Assure transparency to the public for all tree impacts and offer alternatives that protect trees
- Incorporate tree impact analysis as standard operating procedure, using professional tree appraisal criteria



Recommendations

A photograph of two young girls in a park, kneeling on either side of a young tree. They are both smiling and holding white buckets, pouring water onto the base of the tree. The girl on the left is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and blue pants. The girl on the right is wearing a purple t-shirt and blue jeans. The background shows a grassy field, trees, and a clear blue sky.

2. Provide necessary tree care

Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Increase watering of young trees

- We're getting less and more erratic rain
- Critically impacting young trees in Minneapolis
- Many will die



Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Increase watering of young trees

MPRB Operations/Forestry tree watering strategies started in 2021 help

...but erratic climate means more is needed for both public and private trees



Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Increase watering of young trees

More public and private construction projects should direct runoff to trees



Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Provide timely pruning of young trees

- All urban trees need proper structural pruning in 1st 10 years
- Without it, trees die sooner or cost more
- Well maintained trees provide more benefits



Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Provide timely pruning of young trees



Early structural pruning saves thousands of \$\$ over time

Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care

- Launch youth-focused hands-on careers in urban forestry program in Minneapolis



Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care



- Many good-paying jobs are available in urban forestry

Currently Metro companies pay their climbing arborists \$20 to \$40 per hour

Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care

- Partner with community groups and business
- Resume and expand Citizen Pruner program
- Increase volunteer tree care to thousands of hours per year



Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy



Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Expand City Trees program

- Target program to achieve tree equity
- Include tree planting and assistance with tree care
- Provide “free” replacement trees for properties which have had trees condemned by City



Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work

- **Dying ash trees are exponentially increasing on private property in Minneapolis**
- **About 3 times more soon-to-die ash are on private property than were removed and replanted by MPRB**



Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work

- Fund and implement Minneapolis Ordinance 399.60 to encourage ash remove and replanting
- Include funding assistance for replanting in Green Zones

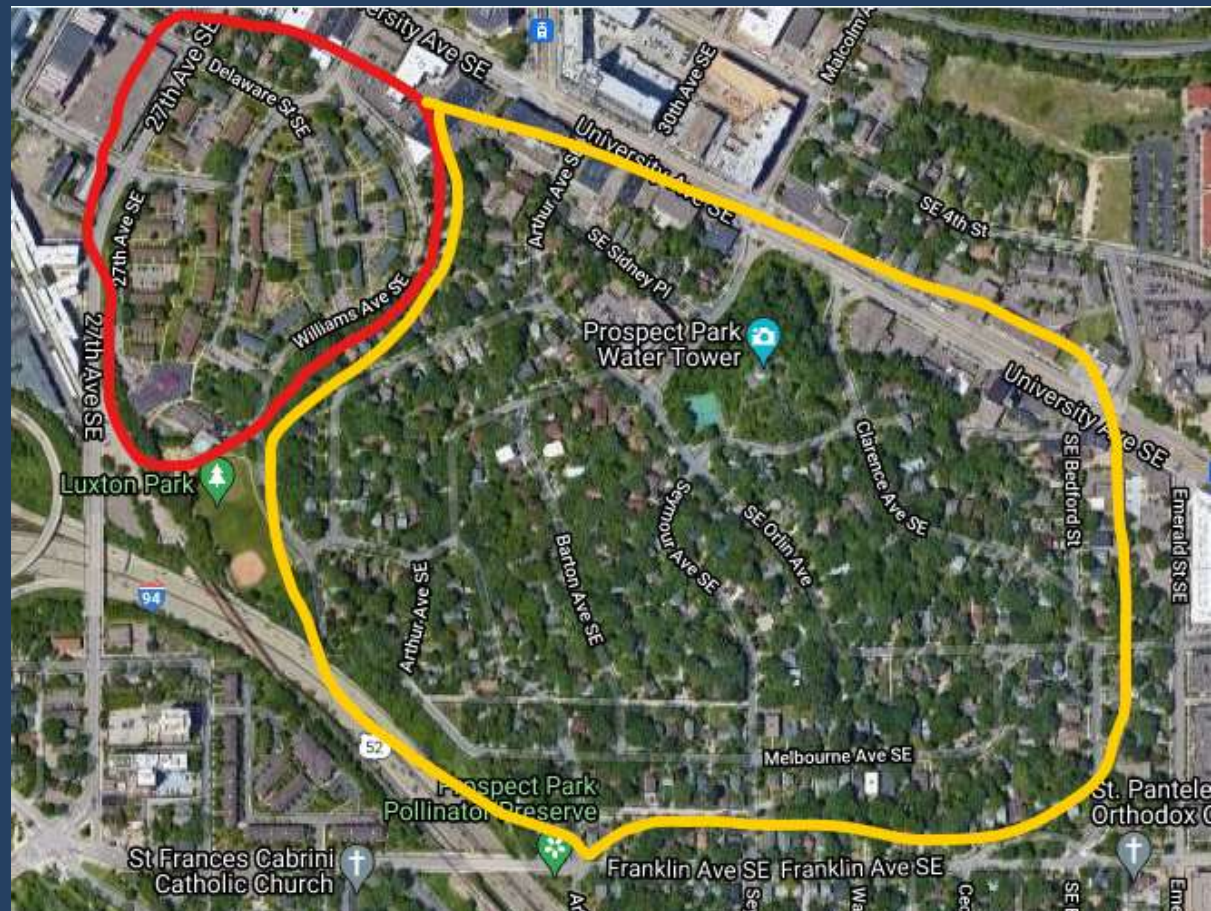


Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work

- Plant more shade trees on public housing sites



Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Protect trees and increase canopy cover through City legal authorities

Implement this through either:

- Adopting tree protection ordinance
- Use City's Site Plan Review authority to increase tree canopy through tree protection, planting and care



Recap of Recommendations



Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

2022 Recommendations

- ✓ **Protect trees in public places** * MPRB & City
 - Prioritize protection of trees in all MPRB and City construction projects
 - Require tree protection in all plans and designs
 - Conduct tree impact analysis on all proposed construction projects
- ✓ **Provide necessary tree care** * MPRB & City
 - Increase watering of young trees
 - Provide timely pruning of young trees
 - Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care
- ✓ **Increase tree canopy** * City
 - Expand City Trees program
 - Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work
 - Protect trees & increase canopy cover through City legal authorities

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

THANK YOU

Any questions?

