



# Healthy Tree Canopy Grant Program

Leslie Alcantar Mejia, Forester - Hennepin County Environment and Energy



# Important note: Healthy Tree Canopy Grants are not for individual residents

There are not staff in this virtual meeting to answer questions about the residential program.

If you are a resident who is interested in private property ash tree removal, find information at:  
[beheardhennepin.org/urban-community-forestry](http://beheardhennepin.org/urban-community-forestry)



# Hennepin County Forestry

- Program Purpose
  - Improve air quality
  - Reduce impacts from EAB
  - Provide technical assistance
  - Improve tree survival rates
    - Gravel bed nursery
  - County roads and facilities
  - Outreach and Education
  - Healthy Tree Canopy Grant



# Background and goals of the grant

- Established in 2019 to provide funding to cities, affordable housing providers, schools, and non-profits to enhance county's tree canopy
- Goals of grant:
  - Combat threats to trees from invasive insects and disease
  - Promote the development of a more diverse, resilient, and equitable tree canopy
  - Support efforts to educate public on tree care and the importance of trees



# Healthy Tree Canopy 2026 grant timeline

- Grants open: Tuesday, January 20
- Proposals due: Tuesday, March 3
- Board approval: July 2026
- Contracts start: August 2026



# Healthy Tree Canopy Grant: Affordable housing

- Up to \$20,000.
- Ash tree removal and tree plantings on affordable housing properties
- 25% match required (ex: a \$20,000 grant award would require a \$5,000 match)



# Healthy Tree Canopy Grant: schools and nonprofits

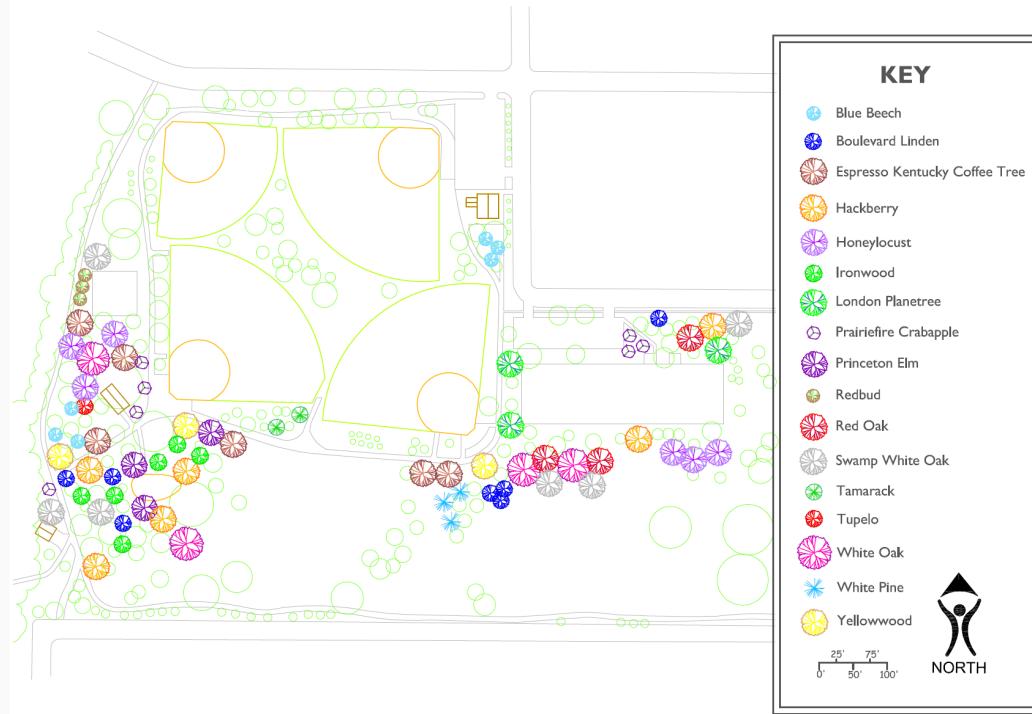
Up to \$10,000

- Tree plantings on school or community property
- Tree-related education
- Arbor Day celebrations
- Ash tree removals and replanting
- District-wide tree inventories



# Healthy Tree Canopy Grant: cities

- Step 1 – tree inventory (up to \$5,000)
- Step 2 – tree plantings, tree management plans, community outreach, gravel bed nursery, staff trainings, etc. (up to \$50,000)
- Both – 25% match required (ex: a \$20,000 grant award would require a \$5,000 match)



# Healthy Tree Canopy – Evaluation Criteria

- **Project description and details**

- Projects are well defined with clearly stated goals and objectives.
- Project locations are identified with detail and explain the local impact
- Detailed timeline of events with specific actions defined
- Long-term impacts and overall sustainability of the project/maintenance plan
- Current community tree canopy cover and need based, in part, on a comparison of the project location with tree planting priority areas as identified by Hennepin County
- Project location must be in Hennepin County

- **Project participants**

- Demonstrate ability to manage projects and follow through with outlined objectives
- Partners meaningfully engaged to enhance overall project goals
- Engage volunteers or educate community on the benefits that trees provide

# Healthy Tree Canopy – Evaluation Criteria

- **Budget**
  - Funds adequate to complete project
  - Budget items are described, and details are provided on how they will be used
- **Evaluation**
  - Specific details on metrics that will be collected during the project
  - Determine who will be collecting this information

# Supplier Portal

- All applications need to be submitted through the supplier portal which is located at: [www.Hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/supplier-portal](http://www.Hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/supplier-portal)
- To submit an application you will need to register and create an account with Hennepin County Online Services if you haven't done so yet.
- There is helpful information within the supplier portal website to help you through the process.
- The contact for supplier portal issues is: [supplierportal@hennepin.us](mailto:supplierportal@hennepin.us), Phone: 612-543-5412
- They are available M-F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST)

# Key dates

**\*These dates are subject to revision or cancellation by the county in its sole and absolute discretion**

Closing date for questions:	Tuesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2026, by 3:00PM (CST)
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Responses due date	Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2026, by 3:00 PM (CST)
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# Reminders

All Q&A will be posted on the Hennepin County Supplier Portal along with the Power Point Presentation.

<https://www.hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/supplier-portal>

Other questions should be submitted by Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, by 3:00 PM (CST) to:

Sarah Montgomery, Email: [Sarah.Montgomery@hennepin.us](mailto:Sarah.Montgomery@hennepin.us) with copy to  
Leslie Alcantar Mejia Email: [Leslie.AlcantarMejia@hennepin.us](mailto:Leslie.AlcantarMejia@hennepin.us)

# Questions?

Leslie Alcantar Mejia, Healthy Tree Canopy Grant Manager

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