



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.



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

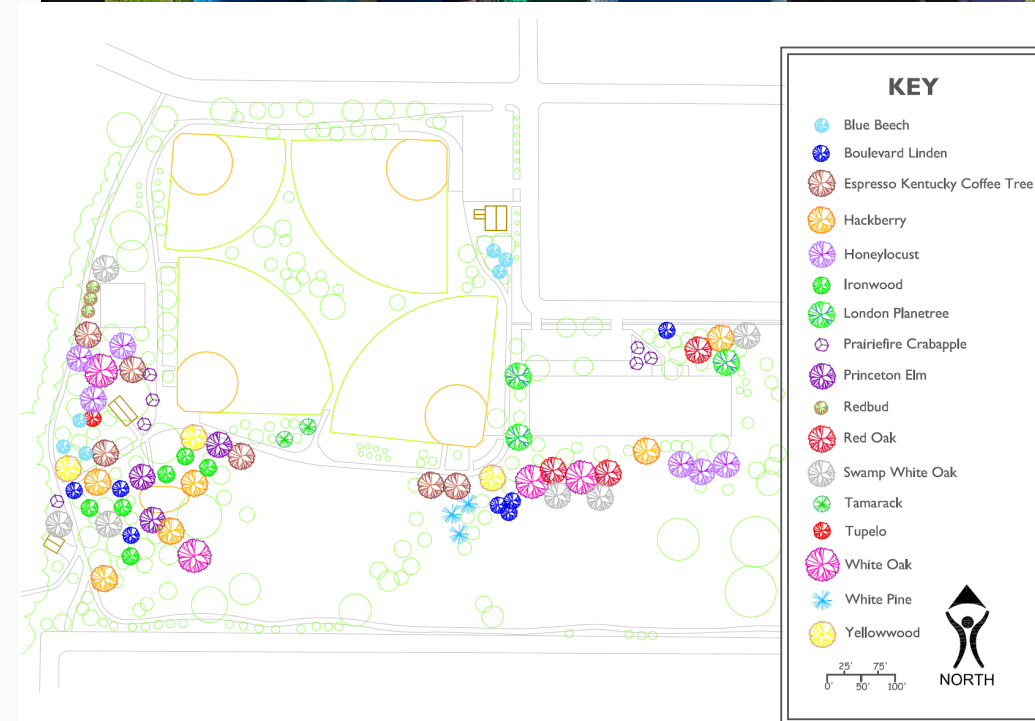
Up to \$10,000

- 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
- 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, 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 th , 2026, by 3:00PM (CST)
Responses due date	Tuesday, March 3 rd , 2026, by 3:00 PM (CST)

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 24th, 2026, by 3:00 PM (CST) to:

Sarah Montgomery, Email: Sarah.Montgomery@hennepin.us with copy to
Leslie Alcantar Mejia Email: Leslie.Alcantarmeja@hennepin.us

Questions?

Leslie Alcantar Mejia, Healthy Tree Canopy Grant Manager

Leslie.alcantarmeja@hennepin.us

