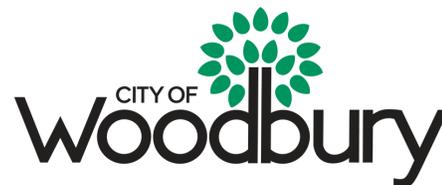


# ENHANCING WOODBURY'S URBAN TREE CANOPY

## RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

### About the Partner

The City of Woodbury is located in Washington County, east of Saint Paul along Interstate 94. Its population for 2019 was 72,828, making it the 9th most populous city in Minnesota. Woodbury is one of Minnesota's fastest growing cities and while it continues to grow, it strives to build a resilient community for the future. According to Woodbury's Comprehensive Plan, 27.1% of the land is considered undeveloped currently and by 2040 the population of Woodbury will surpass 87,800.



### Project Description

The Woodbury City Council has identified six critical success factors that are crucial to Woodbury's success as a community.

In 2017, the City Council updated the critical success factor related to the environment (Environmental Stewardship) with the following description: *Understanding that environmental health, economics and human wellbeing are interconnected and interdependent, Woodbury is committed to the responsible use and protection of all resources. To preserve our environment for future generations, the City will foster environmental stewardship through focused conservation, social responsibility and best management practices.*

One of the ways the City is fostering environmental stewardship is through its urban forest initiatives. A healthy urban forest provides benefits to a community in the shape of: stormwater and water quality; air quality and energy use; property value, consumer satisfaction and social benefits. The City of Woodbury strives to improve its healthy canopy while continuing to add to the network of native trees and landscapes. Additionally, a healthy urban forest will increase resilience to the community as it faces a changing climate.

This project will contribute to enhancing and updating the City's Urban Canopy Plan, which was originally created in 2011. The updated plan will guide the City for the next decade and the main goals include: equitably increasing the City's percentage of tree canopy coverage; and reviewing and updating the approved tree species list to address plant diversity, introduction of pests, and shifting plant hardiness zones.

The City is interested in including public facing documents and/or components to help educate and engage homeowners on the importance of trees, gain feedback on steps the City is taking to improve the urban forest, and how individuals can contribute to the effort.

## Key Issues, Questions, and Ideas to Explore

1. How does the existing tree canopy differ across areas of the City? What inequities exist related to income, home value, or race; how resources for urban canopy are distributed across the City; and how should the City track resources towards the urban canopy to strive towards equity?
2. What public land and future-public land in Woodbury is suitable for new forestland? Provide analysis of existing public land constraints with land use projections to advise the City on best practices based on site constraints and natural conditions.
3. What creative strategies and tools can the City use to educate and engage the public on forestry? How can the City communicate the importance of trees, what the City is doing to improve the urban forest, and how individual residents can contribute to the effort?
4. How can the City inclusively engage the community on the Urban Canopy Plan update and the goals set forth within? How can the City safely gather input from the public while following physical distancing guidelines during the pandemic? How can engagement tools be replicated for other engagement efforts in the City?

## How Student Work Will Be Used to Build Community Resilience

- To provide guidance for the City Council and staff to consider for future decisions on tree canopy process and funding

### Potential Community Partners or Stakeholders

- Woodbury City Council
- Woodbury Parks and Natural Resources Commission
- Woodbury Planning Commission
- League of Women Voters
- Woodbury Heritage Society
- Woodbury Thrives

### Existing Plans & Reports

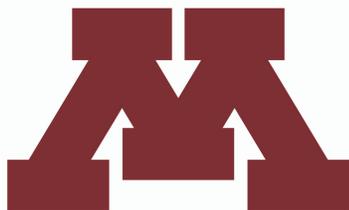
- City of Woodbury 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Urban Canopy Plan (2011)
- South Washington Watershed District Climate Resilience Plan

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## Resilient Communities Project

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