

Subject Community Tree Planting Grants

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Summary

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a community tree planting grant program to provide grants to cities, counties, townships, Tribal governments, and park and recreation boards in cities of the first class for purposes of: removing and planting shade trees; replacing trees lost to pests, disease, or storms; or establishing more diverse community forests. Requires trees planted under the program to be climate-adapted species to Minnesota. Requires priority to be given to projects removing and replacing ash trees posing a significant public safety concern and to projects located in areas meeting certain criteria. Prohibits the DNR from prioritizing projects based on other criteria.

The bill provides an appropriation of \$40,000,000 from the bond proceeds fund for the program.