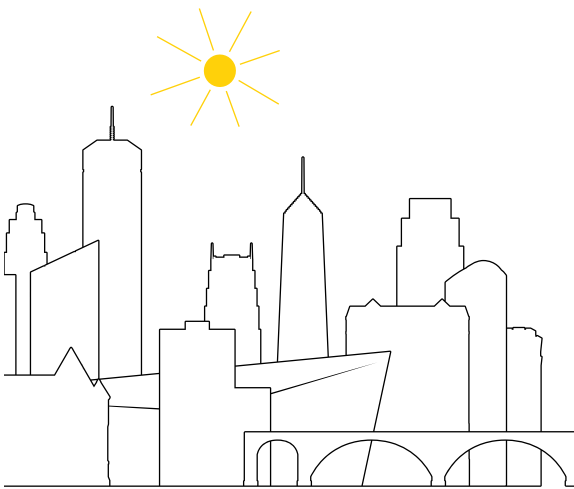


# Hot Observations About Shade in **Minneapolis**

RESEARCH BRIEF

## Shade is the most effective way to cool people outside...



It helps people go about their daily lives safely and more comfortably, even when it's hot outside. It plays a pivotal role in bridging cooling infrastructure gaps in places like Minneapolis, which have historically cool climates that now experience more frequent and severe hot weather. Fortunately, shade can be a simple, cost-effective, and flexible solution. It can come from any object that blocks the sun, such as trees, buildings, awnings, and more.

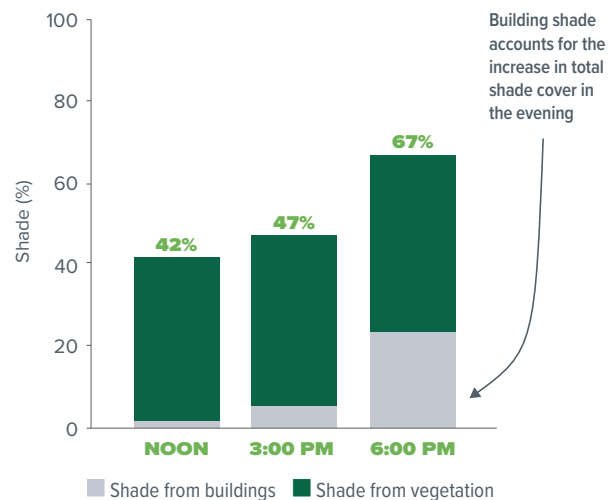
**...but most cities do not have enough shade.**

The UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation's national [Shade Map](#), created in collaboration with American Forests, makes it easy for leaders in 360 American cities to understand when and where shade is cast and to support taking action where shade is lacking.

## Minneapolis is more shady than the average American city.

In Minneapolis, the average shade coverage at noon is 42% (compared to the [national average](#) of 27%). Nearly all (99%) of this midday shade comes from trees, underscoring the importance of nature-based shade. By 6 PM, total shade coverage increases to 67%, with buildings contributing about one-third of the total shade. This shift highlights the important role buildings play in providing shade later in the day.

Shade throughout the day for Minneapolis



## Some areas of Minneapolis do not have enough shade.

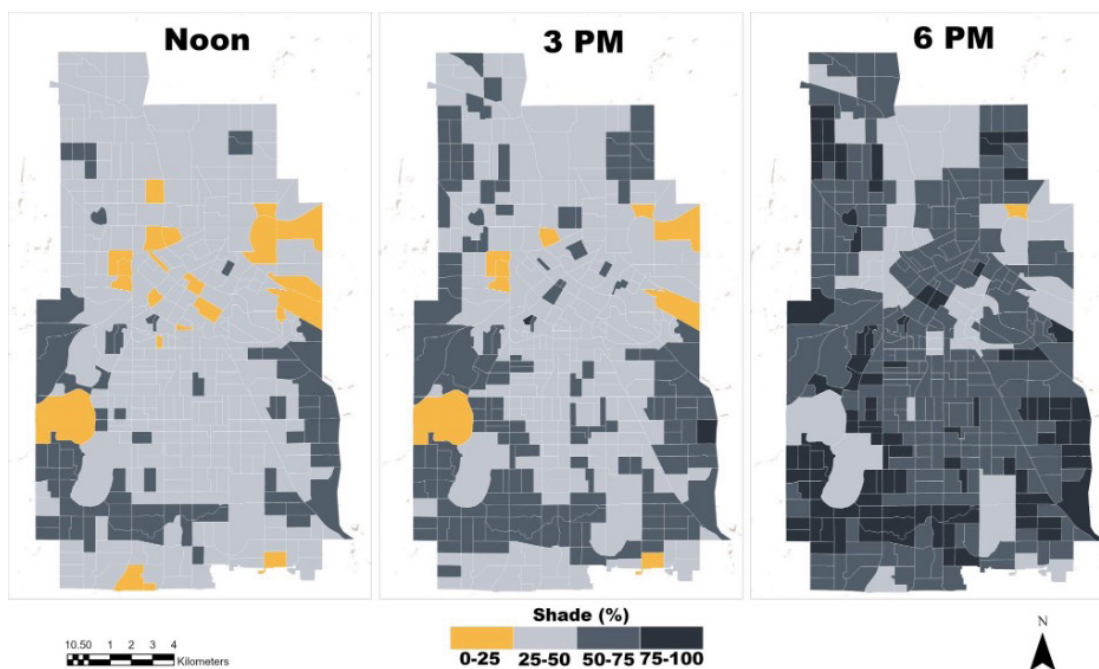
Minneapolis has both shade oases, where shade is plentiful, and [shade deserts](#), which are areas lacking adequate shade infrastructure. Some neighborhoods have a lot of shade, and others have little; these shade gaps can worsen health disparities and other inequities.

### Where shade is needed most...

Minneapolis is a beautiful and diverse capital city. As it gets hotter, it is important to increase shade in places where people are most exposed to heat, such as [schools](#) and [bus stops](#). **Low-shade areas highlight the need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable access to cooler, safer outdoor spaces.**

While Minneapolis is shadier than many U.S. cities, it is important to address its shade disparities. As the map below illustrates, about 6% of the city's neighborhoods have less than 25% shade at noon, while others have much more. **The least shaded areas are in less affluent, more diverse communities, including the city's northern part, where roughly 40% of residents are people of color and live below the poverty line.** In addition to having less vegetation, [studies](#) show that low-income neighborhoods are also less likely to have access to indoor air conditioning and other cooling infrastructure. Therefore, it is crucial to close the shade gap to ensure the safety and well-being of those most in need.

City of Minneapolis shade variation across census block group



Visit our [Shade Map](#) to see which neighborhoods may need more shade.  
Learn more about our [heat equity research](#).