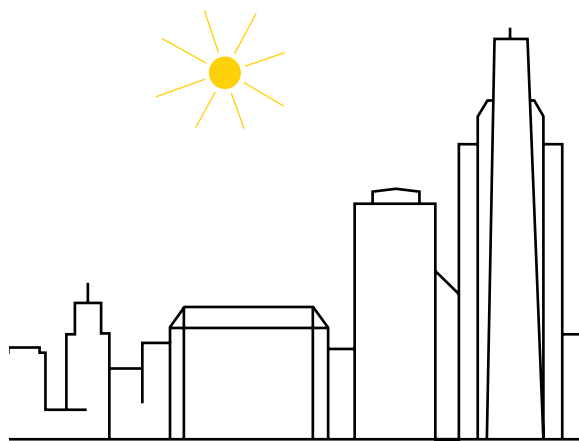


Hot Observations About Shade in Omaha

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. Shade plays an important role in bridging cooling infrastructure gaps in cities like Omaha, where extreme heat events are becoming more frequent and severe. 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.

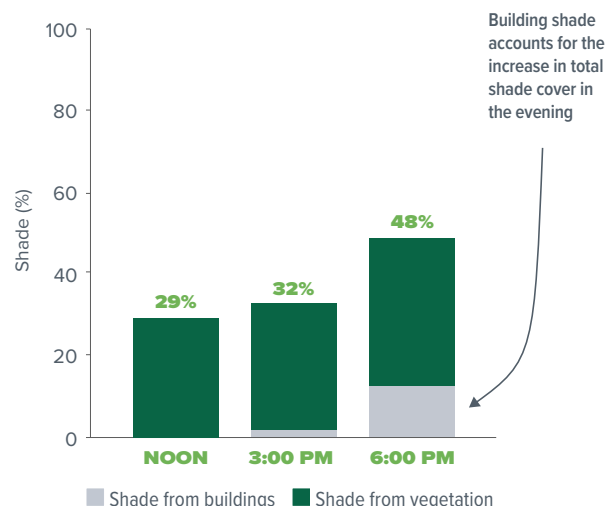
...but most cities do not have enough shade.

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.

American cities don't have much shade at noon, including Omaha.

In Omaha, the average shade coverage at noon is 29%, slightly above the [national average](#) of 27%. However, shade coverage remains limited in cities nationwide, so being above average does not necessarily mean residents have enough shade. Nearly all of this midday shade (99%) comes from trees, highlighting the importance of nature-based shade. By 6 PM, total shade coverage rises to 48%, which is lower than the national average of 59%. Like most cities, buildings account for about one-quarter of the total shade later in the day. This suggests that buildings may be an underused source of afternoon and evening shade.

Shade throughout the day for Omaha



Some areas of Omaha do not have enough shade.

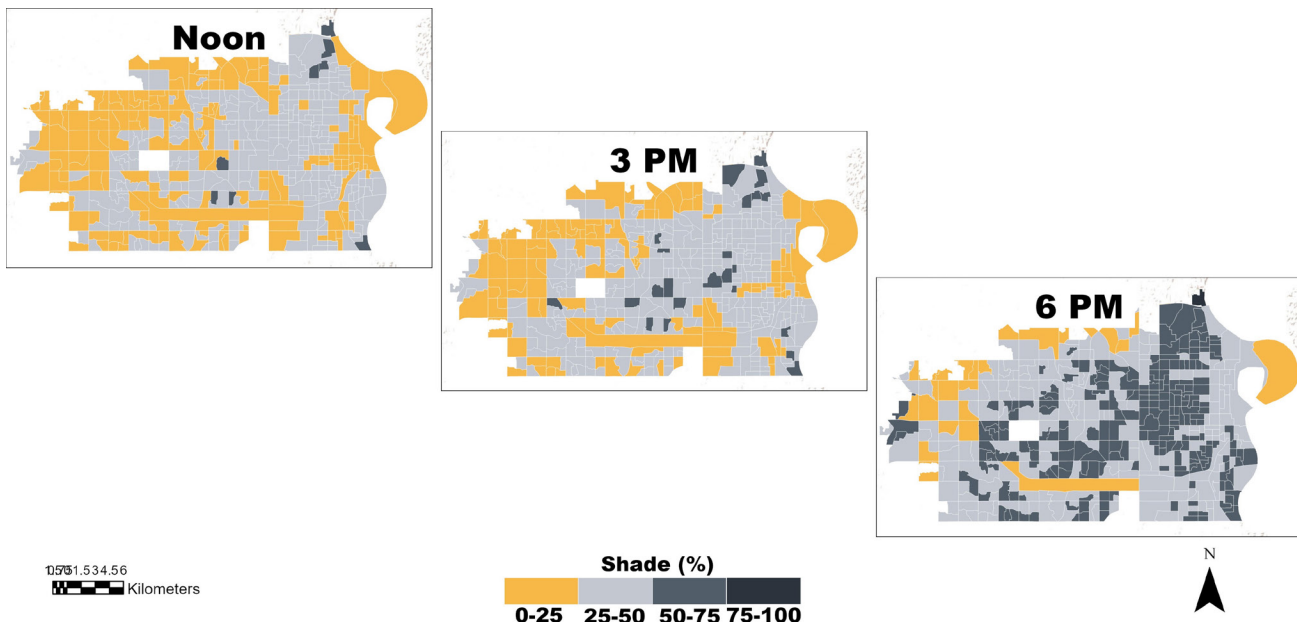
Omaha has both shade oases, where shade is plentiful, and [shade deserts](#), which are areas lacking adequate shade infrastructure. Some neighborhoods have a lot of shade, and others have little; these shade gaps can worsen health disparities and other inequities.

Where shade is needed most...

Omaha is a growing city and one of the most populous in the Midwest. As it gets hotter, it is important to increase shade in places where people are most exposed to heat, such as [schools](#) and [public transit](#). **Low-shade areas highlight the need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable access to cooler, safer outdoor spaces.**

While Omaha has about as much shade coverage as the average American city, it is important to address its shade disparities. As the map below shows, about one-third of census block groups have less than 25% shade at noon, while others have more. **The least shaded areas are scattered throughout the city but are primarily concentrated in the western part.** Closing this shade gap is essential to protect public health and ensure safer, more comfortable urban environments.

City of Omaha 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](#).