A canopy study was conducted in 2022 for the City of Mora, MN by a community volunteer using iTree and in consultation with Deanna Pomije, District Manager of the Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District, and Tony Miller, Forestry Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

A 2010 DNR census identified the following species as the 10 most prevalent:
1. Acer (Maple)
2. Quercus (Oak)
3. Picea (Spruce)
4. Pinus (Pine)
5. Fraxinus (Ash)
6. Malus (Apple)
7. Tilia (Basswood)
8. Ulmus (Elm)
9. Boxelder
10. Betula (Birch)

Maintaining and increasing species diversity is a good strategy to prevent losing a significant portion of tree cover should a disease wipe out a specific variety.

With available data from 2011, iTree estimated the City of Mora’s tree canopy to be 13.15% of Mora’s total acres, which translates to 421.1 acres. At the same time, *impervious acres were estimated to be 15.59%, 499.1 acres, and plantable space was 71.26% or 2,281.4 acres.

With available data from 2001, iTree estimated the City of Mora’s tree canopy to be 18.54% of Mora’s total acres, which translates to 593.7 acres. At the same time, *impervious acres were estimated to be 13.98%, 447.6 acres, and plantable space was 67.48% or 2,160.4 acres.

Through discussion with city staff, it was determined this decrease in canopy coverage was due primarily to the loss of trees from age, possible disease, stress due to significantly variable weather conditions (drought to flood), storm damage, development, and airport clearance requirements, paired with budgetary constraints for replacement.

Note: Canopy coverage map was created in iTree with 2011 data.
*Impervious surfaces are areas covered by water-resistant materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick, or stone, and also include rooftops.
Study completed by Alison Holland, April/May 2022.