



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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City of Grand Junction Selected by National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to Participate in Urban Heat Mapping

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. May 29, 2024 – The City of Grand Junction has been selected by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to participate in the national Urban Heat Island campaign to address extreme heat in the U.S. To assist in capturing data during the hottest day of the year, the city is inviting volunteers to become community scientists for the project scheduled for Saturday, July 20 with July 27 and August 3 as alternatives in case of inclement weather. Learn more and [become a volunteer](#).

Community volunteers or “Community Scientists” will collect data for use in recording heat index across areas of Grand Junction through heat sensors mounted on their car. In teams of two, community scientists will travel a designated route during the day to record temperatures. Interested community members can learn more online at [EngageGJ.org](#) and fill out the [English](#) or [Spanish](#) form online at [gjcity.org](#).

The data collected by volunteers will be used to identify urban heat islands, areas where extreme heat impacts the community. In addition, this data will contribute to understanding of how natural spaces like the city’s urban tree canopy have cooling effects on our community.

“The goal of the program is to identify heat islands in our community and address those higher temperatures by doing things like planting more trees, providing shade structures, developing heat action plans, and educating the public about the risks of heat,” stated Tamra Allen, Community Development director. “This project fits well with the goals outlined in the city’s draft Sustainability and Adaption Plan for which the community has provided significant input.”

“It’s exciting to see how communities have used their urban heat maps to strategize placement of trees and shade structures, determine areas in need of more outreach, and inform overall city resilience plans,” said NOAA Administrator Richard Spinrad, Ph.D.

Other selected communities for the 2024 program include Bloomington, Indiana; Calexico, California; Charlotte, North Carolina; Flint, Michigan; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, Minnesota; Laredo, Texas; Pierce County, Washington; Reno and Sparks, Nevada; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Unincorporated Norcross, Georgia. Information about the 2023 campaign can be found online at [heat.gov](#).

For questions about the city's efforts or to volunteer as a community scientist for the heat mapping contact sustainability@gjcity.org For more information about the 2024 Urban Heat Campaign contact [Monica Allen](#), director of Public Affairs with NOAA.

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