



For Immediate Release

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City of Pine Island Announces New Google Data Center in Minnesota

Project includes \$25 million education fund, called the Panther Program

PINE ISLAND, Minn., Feb. 24, 2026 – Today, the City of Pine Island announced that Google is the first tenant for the proposed new data center project in the city. The development represents a significant investment in the City and schools, including over \$20 million in Google and developer-funded infrastructure upgrades, and the expected creation of high-quality, full-time operational jobs and long-term construction jobs. The City of Pine Island is excited to welcome Google and the long-term investments and opportunities this project will bring to the community.

The new project will deliver lasting benefits to Pine Island including tens of millions of dollars in new property tax revenue as well as high-paying local jobs. Google and Minnesota-based developer Ryan Companies US, Inc. will fully fund all required infrastructure for the project. Google will also provide long-term funding and impact-driven partnerships that support local education, workforce development, and community engagement initiatives.

“Google’s investment in Pine Island will be transformational for our city and reflects confidence in our community, and our future,” said Mayor David Friese. “During my tenure as Mayor, the Council has worked diligently to attract businesses, grow the tax base, and create high quality jobs. Through these thoughtful actions, Pine Island has positioned itself for continued growth as a great place to live and work and moving forward for a strong future.”

BUILDING LASTING LOCAL OPPORTUNITY

To support long-term community growth, Google will establish the Panther Program, a \$25 million fund for Pine Island Public Schools spanning the next 20 years. This foundational partnership is designed to provide the district with predictable, long-term funding to expand STEM education, modernize classroom technology, and create direct workforce pipelines for Pine Island students.

The Panther Program includes Panther Pathways which will support STEM education and training programs to help students build skills aligned with future job market needs. Combined



with over two decades of financial support from Google, the program will strengthen education, expand resources, and build career pathways.

“Pine Island Public Schools values its continued strong partnership with the City of Pine Island and looks forward to deepening collaboration with local businesses and Google,” said Barry Schmidt, Superintendent Pine Island Public Schools. “Together, we have the opportunity to inspire excellence by aligning responsible economic growth with educational innovation—expanding opportunities for students, strengthening our schools, and enhancing the long-term vitality of our entire community.”

“Pine Island offers a unique mix of community partnership and visionary leadership to support a project of this scale,” said Kate Franko, Regional Head of Data Center Public Affairs, Google. “Google is committed to maintaining affordability for ratepayers, strengthening grid infrastructure for the benefit of all users, and creating high-paying local jobs. We look forward to working with the City and local partners as we put roots down in Pine Island.”

RESPONSIBLE ENERGY AND WATER USAGE

As part of its commitment to growing its operations responsibly, Google will pay for 100 percent of the electricity that the Pine Island data center uses, as well as any new grid infrastructure or development costs associated with the project.

Google is also focused on minimizing environmental impact and emissions, and being an industry leader in water stewardship. The company and Xcel Energy are partnering closely to help ensure electricity in the area is affordable and reliable, while also supporting Minnesota’s clean energy goals. The data center in Pine Island will not use water for cooling purposes and will instead use advanced air-cooling technology. Water use will be limited to domestic needs and operations such as bathrooms and kitchen facilities.

City staff will continue to work closely with Google, Ryan, and additional local partners as the project advances. The City looks forward to welcoming Google as a long-term partner invested in Pine Island’s future success.

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