

BRING LIFE TO YOUR COMMUNITY



PLANT TREES



Public Trees...Essential Assets

City Trees—A Cost-Effective Way to Improve the Livability of Your Community

Trees increase in value the minute they are planted and continue to appreciate as they mature. They add to property resale/rental value by improving curb appeal. These natural assets also save you money on heating and cooling by shading homes and buildings, and they promote better human health by cleaning the air and water. Trees are one of the most cost-effective ways to improve the social, economic, and environmental health of cities and towns.

Problems Facing Public Trees

Did you know that trees are one of the hardest working parts of your community infrastructure? But man-made stresses significantly shorten their lifespans, plus disease and insects can be devastating. For example, it's estimated that an Asian longhorned beetle infestation could wipe out 30% of all trees in the United States (1.2 billion trees) valued at \$669 billion.



Land clearing for residential and commercial development continues all over the nation often stripping away acres of community trees. According to the USDA Forest Service, trees cover only about 27% of the land in cities and towns. Bottom line, community trees are aging or dying, and there are not enough tree planting programs to ensure adequate replacements and not enough tree care programs to ensure their survival. (Dwyer, John F.; Nowak, David J.; Noble, Mary Heather; Sisinni, Susan M. 2000. Connecting people with ecosystems in the 21st century: an assessment of our nation's urban forests. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-490. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station)

City Trees Are on the Job 24/7

Philly Trees Save \$4.8 Million in Pollution Removal Costs

Philadelphia trees and shrubs removed 971 metric tons of air pollution, which would have cost the city \$4.8 million for 1 year. (Philadelphia's Urban Forest, Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE) Analysis, Draft Plan, 2003. Northeastern Research Station, USDA Forest Service)



Baltimore Trees Reduce Urban Smog

A recent analysis found that 2.8 million trees in Baltimore reduce ozone pollution—a key component of urban smog that causes our eyes to burn and sting—by 244 metric tons, particulate material by 200 metric tons, and nitrogen dioxide by 81 million tons a year. The total air pollution control benefits of Baltimore trees are worth more than \$7.5 million annually. (Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE) Analysis, Baltimore 2002/2003. Northeastern Research Station, USDA Forest Service)





Cincinnati Trees Reduce "Mowing Costs"

Just 20 acres of trees planted along Interstate 71 outside Cincinnati are projected to save about \$6,000 a year in mowing costs. (Cincinnati Park Board, Urban Forest Management Section, 1999. Southeast Ohio Community Forestry Newsletter, Ohio Division of Forestry)

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Invests Cool Million in Trees

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has committed \$2 million to continue its "Cool Cities Initiative," which promotes tree planting as an effective efficiency measure to help lower energy consumption. According



to the New Jersey Tree Foundation, studies show that trees in urban environments reduce summer air temperatures an average of 3 degrees and surface temperatures by as much as 12 degrees. The tree canopies will help reduce temperatures in New Jersey's largest cities of Paterson, Newark, Trenton, Elizabeth, and Camden. So far more than 3,000 trees have been planted. An additional \$3 million is expected to continue tree planting efforts.

Tree Loss Costs Houston \$38 Million a Year

In Houston, Texas, where severe pollution exceeds Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards by 50% or more, a recent analysis of tree cover revealed that forest-canopy losses over the past 20 years equated to \$38 million per year in lost air-cleaning services. (Houston Study UFORE Analysis of Houston, TX Region, Northeastern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Proceedings from the 2003 National Urban Forest Conference, American Forests)



Tree Cover Provides Stormwater Services to U.S. Cities

City trees intercept rain water, reducing the amount of water that falls on the pavement and then must be removed by storm sewers. Cities spend billions of dollars to control flooding, prevent erosion, and filter and treat water run-off. By maximizing existing tree canopies, cities can drastically reduce maintenance costs for stormwater control. In one study, a 36' tall tree retained 1,799 gallons of water in a year. (McPherson, E.G.; Simpson, J.R.; Peper, P.J.; Scott, K.I.; Xiao, Q. 2000. Tree guidelines for coastal Southern California communities. Sacramento, CA: Local Government Commission 98)



Trees Are a Solid Municipal Investment

A recent California study found that for each \$1 invested in urban forest management, \$1.89 in benefits was returned to residents. (McPherson, E.G.; Simpson, J.R.; Peper, P.J.; Xiao, Q. 1999. Benefits and Costs of Modesto's Municipal Urban Forest, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Center for Urban Forest Research)

People Will Pay More for Trees

A study of urbanites who use parks and forest preserves indicated that they are willing to pay extra to have trees and forests in recreation areas. (Dwyer, J.; Schroeder, J.; Louviere, Anderson D. 1989. Urbanites Willingness to Pay for Trees and Forests in Recreation Areas, J. of Arboriculture 15(10))

