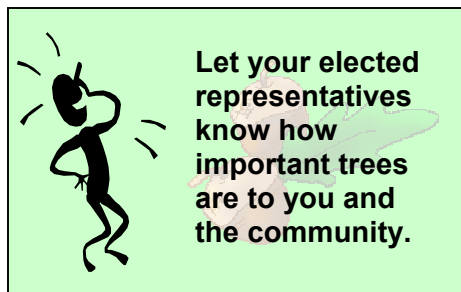




Tree Benefits



Trees provide many environmental, economic and social benefits that make them an integral part of a community's residential neighborhoods and business districts. Listed below is a small sample of the many benefits trees provide us. A well cared for community forest is a growing source of benefits for each of us.

Environmental Benefits

- **Trees produce oxygen.** An average person consumes approximately 360 pounds of oxygen a year. A healthy mature tree can produce as much as 260 pounds of oxygen a year and therefore, 2 trees can supply the annual oxygen needs of one person. The City of St. Louis's mature street and park tree population, which does not include trees located on private property, produces enough oxygen annually for 20,000 of the City's residents.
- **Trees reduce carbon dioxide and other air pollutants.** A mature tree can absorb annually as much as 120-240 pounds of the small particles and gases found in air pollution. An acre of mature trees can absorb the carbon dioxide of 1 automobile driven 26,000 miles annually. The cooler temperatures found in tree-filled communities reduce smog levels by as much as 6%.
- **Trees reduce heating and cooling costs.** A properly located 25 foot tall tree reduces annual heating and cooling costs of an average home by 8-12%.
- **Trees can help moderate the higher air temperatures associated with urban areas.** A mature canopy of trees can redirect sunlight and provide shade reducing air temperatures by as much as 10°F.
- **Trees improve the quality of water.** The canopy of a tree absorbs rainwater that would otherwise fall on pavement and require removal by a storm water drainage system. Thirty-two (32) foot tall trees can intercept, absorb and reduce storm water runoff by as much as 327 gallons.

Economic Benefits

- **Trees increase property values.** The presence of trees on a property can increase its value by as much as 6%.
- **Trees increase business to commercial areas.** A survey completed in a southern community revealed that 74% of the respondents preferred to patronize businesses with buildings and parking lots landscaped with trees and other plants. Landscaping and trees have been shown to contribute significantly to a person's positive overall impression of an area they are visiting.

Social Benefits

- **Trees reduce crime and violence.** Residents living in "green" surroundings report lower levels of fear, fewer incivilities and less violent behavior. Fewer crimes are reported as the level of "green" increases in areas around buildings.
- **Trees strengthen communities.** Trees promote a sense of community and residents living near "green" areas enjoy more social activities, have more visitors and know more of their neighbors than those living in barren areas.
- **Trees help reduce stress.** Trees reduce stress and the everyday pressures of living in an urban environment by creating a more hospitable environment in which to pursue leisure and social activities.