

STREET SMART™

URBAN TREE VALUES

TREES AND ENERGY SAVINGS

- #1. Trees reduce heating costs in winter by acting as a windbreak.
- #2. Most effective for blocking wind:
 - a. conifers
 - b. dense trees
 - c. planting on north and west side of building
- #3. One large tree absorbs as much heat as several window air conditioners.
- #4. One large tree reduces temperature by 10° F in summer.
- #5. A typical 25' tree reduces annual heating and cooling costs of a typical residence by 8-12%.

TREES REDUCE NOISE

- #6. Trees muffle noise as well as a stone wall.
- #7. Trees reduce noise pollution by creating background buffer.

Did you know? Views of nature have positive mental and physical impacts on people even if they are not consciously aware of it.

TREES IN THE CITY

- #8. In all plant-related projects, when people are involved at all stages, there is increased:
 - a. tree survival
 - b. human benefits
 - c. sense of community
 - d. positive social identity
 - e. ownership
- #9. Plants in cities:
 - a. soften hard edges and noises
 - b. provide habitat, food and water for animals and birds
 - c. bring more life to urban areas
 - d. provide a more habitable environment for city dwellers

TREES AND KIDS

- #10. Children who participate in plant-related activities:
 - a. have improved interpersonal relationships
 - b. work better in groups
 - c. have better appreciation for the environment

TREES AND HOME VALUE

- #11. Trees increase home values by 3.5-6% between comparable homes.
- #12. “No other landscape investment promises a bigger return” (Money Magazine, 5/03).

TREES AND ROAD RAGE

- #13. Well-designed street plantings:
 - a. manage traffic by reducing speed
 - b. have a positive psychological effect on drivers
- #14. Reduce responses to stress.
- #15. Help people cope safely with stressful driving situations.

TREES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

- #16. People living near green areas have more social activities, know more of their neighbors and have a sense of belonging.
- #17. Many communities find it cheaper over time to let nature do its job. For example, it is more economical to preserve, restore and re-plant than levy taxes for water filtration and treatment.

TREES AND PROPERTY VALUES

- #18. Mature trees are valuable in areas where old buildings have decreased in value.
- #19. Preserving existing trees has lower immediate and long-term costs than clearing the land.

TREES AND POLLUTION

- #20. Each year 100 trees extract from the atmosphere:
 - a. five (5) tons of CO²
 - b. 1000 lbs of other pollutants
 - c. the equivalent of emissions from one (1) car
- #21. Trees have the ability to absorb and reduce airborne pollutants.
- #22. Trees around your home improve air quality and reduce costs of air purification.

TREES AND HEALTH

- #23. Trees improve health by:
 - a. reducing stress levels
 - b. increasing enjoyment
 - c. providing clean air and water

TREES AND COMMUNITIES

- #24. Trees:
 - a. increase overall community health
 - b. increase community pride
 - c. boost local economy
 - d. improve water quality
- #25. Planting shade trees around community sports fields or recreational areas beautifies, cools, blocks wind, reduces dust in the air and risks of skin cancer by blocking UV rays.
- #26. Many communities have events that draw people and dollars into the community, such as art or music in a garden or festivals celebrating a season or type of plant.
- #27. Community involvement in planting programs enhances a sense of ownership and pride and increases support for keeping such programs in the budget.