



Trees, Return on Your Investment that Grows

Most often we plant trees to provide shade and beautify our landscapes. These are great benefits but trees also provide other benefits. According to the USDA Forest Service, a large shade tree planted in the right location can save nearly \$30 in monthly air conditioning costs, intercept 760 gallons of rainfall, and remove up to 330 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each and every year! (more).

Social and Health Benefits

Trees just make life nicer. Research has shown that:

- **Spending time among trees and green spaces reduces the amount of stress that we carry around with us in our daily lives.**
- **Hospital patients recover from surgery more quickly when their hospital room offers a view of trees.**
- **Children retain more information taught in schools if they spend some time outdoors in green spaces.**
- **Trees give off oxygen that we need to breathe**
- **Trees improve our air quality by filtering harmful dust and pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide from the air we breathe**

Environmental Benefits

- **Trees capture carbon dioxide and store it contributing to decreasing greenhouse gases and global warming. It has been estimated that seven mature trees absorb the carbon produced by an average adult American in a year**
- **Trees reduce the urban heat island effect through evaporative cooling and reduce the amount of sunlight that reaches parking lots and buildings.**
- **Trees reduce the amount of storm water runoff, which reduces erosion and pollution in our waterways and may reduce the effects of flooding.**
- **Many species of wildlife depend on trees for habitat. Trees provide food, protection, and homes for many birds and mammals.**

Economic Benefits

According to the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers a mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1000 and \$10,000.

- **A single well placed tree can reduce your cooling costs by as much as \$275 in the summer by shading the south and west sides of your home. If deciduous trees are used they will allow the sun to pass through and warm your home in the winter.**
- **Evergreen trees on the north side of your home can act as a windbreak to reduce the cooling effects of winter winds.**
- **The value of a well landscaped home with mature healthy trees can be as much as 10% higher than a similar home with little or poor landscaping.**

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