Why Trees?

Trees slow traffic and enhance public safety.

Trees increase property values, sales and tax bases.

Trees improve drainage and reduce flooding.

Trees save on energy costs.

Trees improve health and quality of life.

Trees improve air quality.

Green Communities are $mart Communities... That's Why TREES!

TRAFFIC CALMING AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Plantings near streets cause drivers to reduce their speed, with fewer accidents.
- Neighborhoods appreciate enhanced pedestrian & cycling opportunities.
- Shade from trees helps extend the life and condition of asphalt street pavement.

PROPERTY VALUES, TAX BASES

- Trees and landscapes bring higher real estate prices, resulting in higher tax bases.
- Treed neighborhoods consistently rank higher with prospective buyers.
- Retail shoppers spend more dollars when shopping in treed & landscaped districts.

DRAINAGE & FLOODING

- Trees & green space absorb stormwater, resulting in fewer/smaller floods.
- Cost of green space management is much less than "hard" infrastructure and provides water quality benefits as well.

AIR QUALITY

- Trees & green space absorb pollutants and store carbon, reducing the amount of CO_2 in the atmosphere and cost far less than other solutions.
- Tree shade can reduce ozone production and the generation of CO_2 through energy conservation.

HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE

- Hospital patients with views of trees & green space recover faster (saving big $).
- Trees & green space foster more active lifestyles and better overall health.
- Trees are shown to have potential to reduce child abuse and physical violence in families and crime in neighborhoods.

ENERGY SAVINGS

- Shade from trees reduces cooling costs significantly, saving $$.
- Trees protect from winter winds and reduce heating costs.
- Trees protect against the Urban Heat Island Effect by cooling cities.

Green Communities = $mart Communities

Sustainable development is that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Communities that strive for sustainability recognize the importance of trees and green space to that equation. As a renewable natural resource, trees are a vital component of creating communities that achieve their maximum potential in Economic, Social, and Environmental development.

To learn more about how your community can take advantage of trees as an improvement tool, contact the Society of Municipal Arborists at the website below for more details and for links to the source information supporting this publication.

WWW.URBAN-FORESTRY.COM

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SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL ARBORISTS

Trees: $ *The only infrastructure that increases in value over its lifetime!*

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