

Maybe money does grow on trees!

It is a fact that the benefits from trees outweigh the maintenance costs. While caring for a tree requires some initial investment, the payoffs are well worth it!



Tree myths... busted!

A Cedar Rapids Case Study

Benefits of Street Trees \$5 million annually

- Air Quality
- Energy Savings
- Carbon Sequestration (removing carbon dioxide from atmosphere)
- Stormwater Retention
- Increased Property Values
- Reduced Water Treatment Costs

Street Tree Costs \$1.2 million annual budget

- Pest Management
- Planting
- Removal
- Maintenance
- Canopy Management

Benefit to Cost Ratio

4:1

Street trees are dangerous

- Studies document that motorists respond to vertical walls of greenery by driving more slowly, which makes pedestrians and motorists safer.¹

Trees are expensive

- For a planting and three year maintenance cost of \$250 - \$600, a single street tree returns more than \$90,000 of direct benefits, not even including the aesthetic, social and natural benefits provided during the tree's lifetime.²

Trees are the cause of damage by storms

- Proper selection, spacing and trimming of trees, along with well-planned utilities, will reduce the impact of major storms. A line of mature trees can provide protection from fragile or isolated trees that fall.²

Trees are a cost to communities and the economy

- Trees in urban forests support 60,000 California jobs annually, adding \$3.6 billion to the economy.³

Trees reduce property value

- Homes, goods and services sell for 12% more in communities with trees than those without.³

Trees ruin concrete and sidewalks

- Street trees prolong the life of pavement. Shaded roads can save up to 60% of repaving costs. That's a lot of savings considering the four million miles of roadways in the US.⁴

1. University of Washington, College of Forest Resources. Urban Forest Values: Economic Benefits of Trees in Cities. Rep. Center for Human Horticulture, 1998. Web: <http://www.naturewithin.info/Policy/EconBens-FS3.pdf>
2. Burden, D. Walkable Communities, Inc., Glatting Jackson. (2006) Urban Street Trees: 22 Benefits, Specific Applications. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/22_benefits_208084_7.pdf
3. www.californiareleaf.org/whytrees
4. McPherson, Gegory and Jules Muchnick. "Effects of Street Tree Shade on Asphalt and Concrete Pavement Performance." Journal of Arboriculture 31.6 (2005): 30310. Web. <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/mcpherson/psw_2005_mcpherson001_joa_1105.pdf>.