



TAYLORSVILLE CITY - TREE OF THE MONTH ARTICLE - MAY 2008 - THE VALUE OF TREES AND THE TEN REASONS TO PLANT A TREE

1- Trees are pretty, and have a positive effect on people - they make us feel happy and connected with nature. They reduce stress, help us recover from illness faster, and they restore our spirits. Trees are essential to our health and the health of our environment.

2- Trees are the unsung heroes of our environment, they are the largest plants that inhabit the planet, and trees are the largest and longest living organism on earth. Trees' leafy canopies are a critical part of the urban ecosystem, providing habitat and food to many species of birds, bees, butterflies, beneficial insects, mammals and other wildlife, large and small.

3- Trees reduce storm water run-off and erosion management costs by intercepting, storing, using rainfall, stabilizing soil, reducing erosion, mitigating flooding by significantly slowing the movement of storm water, which lowers total runoff volume. Communities that utilize this important function of trees and their canopy spend less money developing additional storm water management infrastructure.

4- Air quality is improved by urban and rural trees, by giving oxygen. Trees remove lung-damaging dust, ash, pollen, smoke, and absorb carbon dioxide from the air. Improving air quality at the source of these problems helps alleviate possible problems in downwind rural areas. Trees breathe in carbon dioxide, so every tree you plant reduces your carbon footprint on the planet.

5- Trees make effective sound barriers: they muffle urban noise almost as effectively as stone walls. Trees, planted at strategic points in a neighborhood or around your house, can abate major noises from freeways and airports by absorbing sound waves.

6- Trees increase home property values. Unlike some other investments that depreciate, a tree's value increases with each passing year. Healthy trees can increase a home's property value by 7 to 21%, depending on the number and size of the trees, and has a positive effect on residential home sales.

7- Trees contribute to neighborhood livability by reducing city noise and glare, enhancing community economic stability, and attracting businesses. Trees add privacy to your gardens and yards, that helps a yard serve as personal sanctuaries, as lot sizes shrink. A column of narrow conifers along a property line will give a lot a sense of woodland enclosure, without making it seem too hemmed in.

8- Tree-lined business and retail districts encourage patrons to linger and shop longer, increasing retail business. Trees can enhance tourism by adding beauty, making our communities livable for people and softening the harshness of our environment reducing the outline of masonry, metal and glass.

9- Trees aid in traffic control, by calming and slowing traffic, separating pedestrians and vehicles, and providing safer walking conditions. Streets with little or no shade need to be repaved twice as often as those with tree cover.

10- Trees save energy by reducing the need for cooling and heating. Shade from trees can cool buildings up to 20 degrees in the summer. Strategically placed trees around a home can reduce summer cooling costs by as much as 30%, while winter heating costs can be reduced by a similar percentage by the use of trees as windbreaks.

Think Green and Plant A Tree This Spring!

