

Neighborhood Trees and Tree Canopies.

OBJECTIVE.

Every neighborhood in America is concerned about increasing its tree canopy for its aesthetic, environmental and real estate value. Attention is being paid to the importance of trees. Trees offer many benefits at a very low cost. A target for tree canopy coverage in neighborhoods and cities is gaining in popularity and programming.

RESOURCES.

There is no shortage of published research on the beneficial services provided by individual trees, tree canopies and trees grouped as forests or tree-lined streets. The information below is summarized from the attached work of Canopies.org, the Arbor Day Foundation, The Economists' recent article on French forests and programs being implemented by the cities of Orlando FL, Tallahassee FL and Bradenton FL.

SUMMARY OF TREE BENEFITS.

Some of the more obvious benefits of trees:

- **Aesthetics.** Beauty in and of itself is enough reason for a flourishing canopy of street trees.
- **Stormwater management.** Tree cover controls erosion and reduces runoff.
- **Water quality improvements.** Water is filtered by tree canopies and root systems.
- **Carbon sequestration.** One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen; enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people (U.S. Department of Agriculture).
- **Energy conservation.** Energy bills are less with trees that shade buildings.

- **Mitigation of Heat Island Effects.** Tree canopies reduce the temperature rise of paved surfaces, parking lots and roofs during the heat of the day enabling the earth to cool in the evening.
- **Residential real estate values.** Homes with trees are valued 5% to 15% higher than those without; entire streets lined with trees are valued 25% higher than those without. (Canopy.org). Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent. (*Management Information Services/ICMA*)
- **Commercial real estate values.** Shaded and tree-lined shopping areas increase shopper appeal. Business districts [and presumably neighborhood shopping districts] yield an 11% increase in business based on research from the Center for Urban Horticulture, Fact Sheet #5, University of Washington as reported in The Urban Forestry Master Plan of the City of Bradenton, Florida. www.cityofbradenton.com/
- **Wildlife habitat benefits.** Trees provide important habitats for numerous bird, insect and animal species.
- **Recreation hiking, camping and hunting** benefit from increased forest lands.

FOREST AND TREE MANAGEMENT.

A subject not to be ignored is the cost of tree maintenance. Staff, equipment and soft costs to maintain urban trees are significant. A recent NPR story reported that more trees are dying each year in New York City than are being planted. Replacements, disease management and general pruning for safety are expensive.

Maintenance needs to be programmed and budgeted. For trees along neighborhood streets in the public right-of-way, this is usually a city expense.

PLANNING INSTRUMENTS.

The two main instruments being used to implement programs to increase urban [and neighborhood] tree canopy coverage are:

1. **Urban Forestry Management Plans.** Many cities and counties are preparing plans to use in programs designed to increase urban tree canopy coverage and to support ordinances. Neighborhoods interested in participating may get priority.
2. **Landscape and Tree Ordinances** have been enacted for some time; the purpose and effectiveness of these regulations can be improved when associated with a professionally prepared Urban Forestry Management Plan that provide the rationale, means and methods for regulating tree removal and replacement. Tree ordinances designed to facilitate land development should be scrutinized closely.

SOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY.

The Benefits of Trees



LINK: <http://canopy.org/tree-info/benefits-of-trees/>



LINK: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>

Seeing Trees, A History of Street Trees in New York City and Berlin
Sonja Dümpelmann

From...The Economist

July 20, 2019

Gallic shrubs

Why France's forests are getting bigger
Between 1990 and 2015, EU countries reforested an area the size of Portugal

LINK:

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2019/07/18/why-frances-forests-are-getting-bigger>

GREEN WORKS ORLANDO



Greenworks

LINK:

<http://www.cityoforlando.net/greenworks/livability-2/>

City of Tallahassee FL



LINK: <http://www.talgov.com/place/pln-urbanforestry.aspx>