

Plant trees with purpose.

From...UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN–MADISON

NEWS

Study suggests trees are crucial to the future of our cities

March 25, 2019 By [Adam Hinterthuer](#) For news media

EXCERPTS...

“The shade of a single tree can provide welcome relief from the hot summer sun. But when that single tree is part of a small forest, it creates a profound cooling effect. According to a study published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, trees play a big role in keeping our towns and cities cool.

“According to the study, the right amount of tree cover can lower summer daytime temperatures by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit. And the effect is quite noticeable from neighborhood to neighborhood, even down to the scale of a single city block.

“The data show that forty percent canopy cover is the threshold required to trigger the large cooling effects that trees have to offer. The greatest amount of cooling happens once that threshold is crossed over the scale of a city block or larger.”

Read more at:

<https://news.wisc.edu/study-suggests-trees-are-crucial-to-the-future-of-our-cities/>

From CharacterTown.org...There appears to be a consensus among communities in America that the heat island effect can be effectively mitigated by a tree canopy that covers 40% of the city’s land area. The recent study by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the work of the Arbor Day Foundation, the City of Orlando’s work and that of the City of Tallahassee all support this conclusion.

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Benefits of Trees

Trees can add value to your home, help cool your home and neighborhood, break the cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife.

The Value of Trees to a Community

The following are some statistics on just how important trees are in a community setting.

The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

Read more at: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>

Trees are throwing less shade on Manatee County, according to study

By Hannah Morse

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APRIL 27, 2017, 04:19 PM,
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“In time for Arbor Day on Friday, the nonprofit announced that as of 2014 (the most recent data available), tree canopy covered 155,378 acres of the county’s 489,013 total acres, or about 32 percent. That’s about a 7 percent decrease from the last data collection period in 2009.

“In 2015, Keep Manatee Beautiful was awarded a \$7,322 Urban and Community Forestry grant from the U.S. Forest Service to continue its tree canopy analysis started in 2004. The process includes using aerial photographs taken by the Southwest Florida Water Management District that are snapped every five years. They are then analyzed by scientists using software designed by the U.S. Forest Service to denote the canopy’s economic and environmental worth — things like carbon storage, air quality and stormwater runoff reduction.

“This analysis compared data from study years of 2004, 2009 and 2014, which showed the percentage of tree canopy wavering over the years. The first study in 2004 showed 26 percent of the county was covered by tree canopy; that number grew to 39 percent, then sank to 32 percent in 2014.

“Until earlier this year, the ideal canopy coverage was targeted at 40 percent, which was a standard set by conservation organization American Forests and used by forest management groups nationally. Now the organization has [loosened the reins on the tree canopy benchmark](#).”

LINK: <https://www.bradenton.com/news/local/article147189919.html>



LIVABILITY

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

A City’s livability can be compared to the quality of life for its residents. This includes the natural environment and tree canopy, entertainment and recreational activities, economic prosperity, walkability, culture and equity. Combining these factors is a way to create pedestrian friendly “villages” that are accessible and communicate a unique sense of place.

Street Trees

Expanding our Street Trees program and Planting Trees in Public Spaces

The City of Orlando has planted nearly 1,800 new street trees since 2010 and is continuing to grow, providing improved cooling, aesthetics and storm water management for our residents.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH

Our strategies for livability focus on creating a series of unique, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, walkable villages. The inclusion of pedestrian and bicycle trails, shaded sidewalks, smart grids, integrated storm water management or solar orientation for building, and exciting destinations will be focused on the following goals:

Metrics	2010 (Baseline)	2018 (Targets)	2040 (Goals)
Tree Canopy Coverage	25%	27%	40%

COMMUNITY-WIDE OUTREACH AND PROGRAMS

One Person, One Tree. Developing large-scale urban tree canopy initiative.

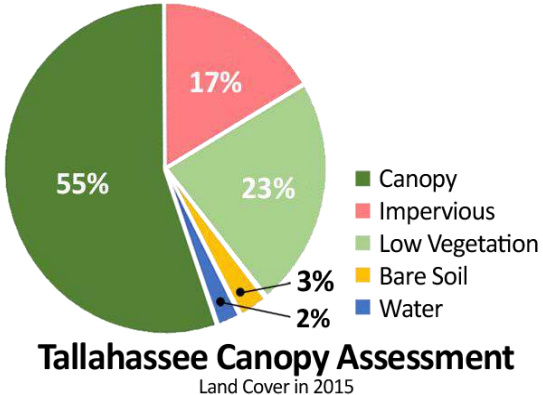
In order to reach our goal of 40% tree canopy by 2040, we have to plant 250,000 new trees. If each resident takes the individual initiative to plant one tree, we can achieve this goal.

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



The City of Tallahassee completed an Urban Forest Master Plan in 2018. The plan is a guide for the future of our community’s tree canopy, to improve this vital city asset as our community grows and changes in the coming years.

Improvements to the quality of our canopy are necessary in order to continue to enjoy extensive tree canopy into the future, however, even with high populations of less desirable species it is important to emphasize that a dense tree canopy is still a major asset. While we put a focus on recomposition, we should continue to prioritize maintaining a high level of canopy through strong planting programs and development regulations that focus on the right kinds of trees, properly planted.



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