Benefits of neighborhood tree canopy

Dearborn has been a Tree City for 30 years because we understand that mature residential trees do more than make our neighborhoods look nice. Trees improve the health of residents and increase property values while reducing air pollution, crime, summer temperatures and storm water runoff. Consider the following information compiled by the Alliance for Community Trees (actrees.org).

Trees save money

Studies have found general increases of up to 37 percent in residential property values associated with the presence of trees and vegetation on a property.

Shade from trees reduces the need for street maintenance and repaving, resulting in a savings of up to 60 percent over 30 years.

Cooler neighborhood

Mature tree canopy reduces summer air temperatures about 5 to 10° F. The net cooling effect of a healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

Evapotranspiration means trees actually consume the sun's energy, reducing the heat absorbed in the neighborhood.

Safer streets

Areas with more trees have lower crime rates for graffiti, vandalism, littering—even domestic violence.

The presence of suburban trees reduces the cruising speed of drivers by an average of 3 miles per hour.

Healthier residents

Residents in areas with rich greenery are three times more likely to be physically active and 40 percent less likely to be overweight.

Children and youth living in greener neighborhoods have a lower body mass index.

Tree-rich environments have been linked to residents with lower asthma rates, better focus, lower stress levels and even better functioning for children with ADD.

Cleaner air and water

Trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and other pollutants. They also shade cars and pavement, reducing ozone emissions from vehicles.

Mature trees absorb 120 to 240 pounds of particulate pollution each year. A big tree removes 60 to 70 times more pollution than a small tree.

Urban forest can reduce annual storm water runoff by 2 to 7 percent. A mature tree can store 50 to 100 gallons of water during large storms.