

# Trees and Tree Canopies

## OBJECTIVE.

Every community 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 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 the cities of Orlando FL, Tallahassee FL and Bradenton FL.

## SUMMARY OF TREE BENEFITS.

- **Aesthetics.** Beauty in and of itself is enough reason for a flourishing canopy of city 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 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. LINK: [www.cityofbradenton.com/](http://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 associated with tree maintenance. Staff, equipment and soft costs to maintain urban trees and landscaping 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 need to be programmed and budgeted.

## PLANNING INSTRUMENTS.

The two main instruments being used to implement programs designed to increase urban tree canopy coverage are:

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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.
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.

### SOURCES ATTACHED.



## 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>



Greenworks

GREEN WORKS ORLANDO

LINK:

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



City of Tallahassee FL

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