



Value of Trees

- ✓ **Trees Produce Oxygen**
An acre of tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year. The urban forest acts as a giant filter that cleans the air we breathe.
- ✓ **Trees Are Carbon Sinks**
To produce its food, a tree absorbs and locks away carbon dioxide in the wood, roots and leaves. Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming. A forest acts as a “sink” or storage area to absorb some of our carbon emission.
- ✓ **Trees Clean the Soil and Purify Water**
Trees can either store harmful pollutants or actually change the pollutant into less harmful forms. Trees filter sewage and chemicals and clean water runoff into streams. They even add essential minerals to water.
- ✓ **Trees Control Noise Pollution**
Trees are very effective at blocking urban noise like traffic.
- ✓ **Trees Clean the Air**
Trees help cleanse the air through their respiration, by intercepting airborne particles, reducing heat, and absorbing such pollutants as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.
- ✓ **Trees Fight Soil Erosion**
Erosion control starts with tree and grass planting projects. Tree roots hold soil together and their leaves break the force of wind and rain on soil. Trees and grasses are very valuable to the preservation of ravine slopes.
- ✓ **Trees and Temperature Control**
Shade from trees reduces the need for air conditioning. In winter, trees break the force of winter winds, lowering heating costs. Studies have shown that parts of cities without cooling shade from trees can literally be "heat islands" with temperatures as much as 12 degrees Fahrenheit higher than surrounding areas.
- ✓ **Trees Increase Property Values**
Real estate values increase when trees beautify a property or neighborhood. Trees can increase the property value of your home by 15% or more.

Tree Health and Maintenance

- ✓ **Mulching and watering are two of the easiest ways to improve your trees health.**
- ❖ Add mulch to the base of your tree by removing any grass within a 3 to 10 foot area depending on the size of your tree.
- ❖ Pour natural mulch such as wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches deep within the circle.
- ❖ Keep the mulch from touching the trunk of the tree.

❖ Add more mulch as needed on a yearly basis.

✓ **Tree Watering**

It is important to make sure your tree gets the correct amount of water. A good rule is to water until the soil around the tree is moist not soggy. Too much water is just as harmful as not enough. To know how much water your tree is getting, put a coffee cup under the sprinkler. When there are two or three inches of water in the cup – stop watering. Infrequent deep watering is better than frequent light watering.

✓ **Tree Pruning**

The best time to prune trees is in the winter. The worst time to prune is early fall and spring when fungi spores have the greatest ability to spread. If you are unsure if your trees need pruning, you should call a certified arborist. Visit www.illinoisarborist.org for a list of local certified arborists in this area.