

Making a Case for Community Trees



from the **TREE CITY USA®
BULLETIN**

***T**here comes a time to fire up the chain saw and remove a tree. But the best approach is to first say, “Wait! Not so fast!” In this bulletin we consider the case for prolonging the lives of community trees. And while aesthetic considerations are still valid, in this day and age the best argument may be the monetary contributions of street and other landscape trees.*



At a major western university, a maturing tree that had once been ceremoniously planted by a national celebrity met its premature fate because it was near the corner of a building to be constructed. A little adjustment and adherence to building with trees principles could have saved the tree. Elsewhere in nearly every community, healthy trees often meet a sad fate unnecessarily for a wide range of reasons and often without consideration of alternatives.

In many of the 86 preceding Tree City USA Bulletins, techniques are presented that allow trees to live harmoniously with urban soils, sidewalks, signs, construction projects, and other conditions common in urban settings. But all the research, science, technology transfer, and best management practices will come to naught without public understanding of the importance of trees and the will to spare them

Urban trees need advocates who are prepared with facts to defend existing trees and promote expansion of the community tree canopy.

whenever possible. Of course, public safety comes first. However, beyond that lies the challenge to every tree board and friend of trees to make the case that mature trees are worth saving just as much as new trees need to be planted.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ✓ You can be the judge and jury for “A Tree on Trial”
- ✓ Five ways to quantify the benefits provided by trees
- ✓ A summary of other benefits trees provide to the community



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