

# Trees and Green Space Make Economic Sense



from the **TREE CITY USA®  
BULLETIN**

*More than ever, home and business owners, as well as civic officials, must be conscious of every dollar. In this bulletin, trees and the open spaces where they can grow are looked at through an economic lens. What we find has led to the title of this issue. Trees and the smart use of land in our communities do make economic sense — both in good times and challenging times.*

## Trees at Home and in the Community

While values will vary depending on climate and local conditions, the contribution of trees will still be significant. Here are some examples.



### Summer Cooling Costs

Four strategically placed trees at a home in Sacramento, California ...

save up to 30 percent on energy costs each year after the trees gain some size.

If one million more trees were planted in Sacramento, \$10 million would be saved annually. In Houston, \$126 million in direct energy benefits are realized from its trees.

One well-placed tree ...

can reduce air-conditioning costs alone up to 50 percent.

Reduced energy demand means reduced need for power plants and this can result in less air pollution.

### Winter Savings

Trees used as windbreaks ...

can save 20 to 50 percent in energy used for heating.

Windbreaks can also control blowing snow, saving on plowing costs.

### Property Values

Yard trees in good condition ...

may add 10 to 20 percent to the resale value of your home.

In Portland, Oregon, street trees in front of or near a home added an average \$8,870 to sale prices — and reduced time on the market.

### Shaded Streets

Street trees by your home ...

beautify the neighborhood, provide safety from traffic, and add summer comfort — as well as contribute to resale value.

Shade protects asphalt surfaces, with the potential of reducing repaving costs by as much as 58 percent over a 30-year period.

## Trees are good for business. Trees in a shopping district:

- \$ Stimulate economic development
- \$ Attract customers
- \$ Lower utility costs
- \$ Cool parking spaces
- \$ Increase resale value
- \$ Increase tourism
- \$ Ease stress

### ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Examples of cities that have successfully converted land of low economic value into parks
- Businesses and other areas beautified by trees and now paying off handsomely in many ways
- And more



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