## **The Benefits of Trees**





### TREES ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Trees promote biodiversity <sup>1</sup>
- Trees produce oxygen <sup>1</sup>
- Trees combat the greenhouse effect through carbon sequestration <sup>1</sup>
- Trees reduce storm-water run-off <sup>1</sup>
- Trees help control temperature<sup>1</sup>
- Trees reduce salinity and soil erosion <sup>2</sup>
- Trees reduce noise and air pollution <sup>1</sup>
- Trees act as water filters and improve water quality <sup>1</sup>
- Trees help conserve energy with their shading and evapotranspiration effect <sup>1</sup>
- Trees provide nucleii for rain and help increase rainfall<sup>3</sup>
- Trees improve air quality by absorbing polluting gases and odours and filtering air particles <sup>1</sup>
- Trees save water as shade from trees slows water evaporation <sup>1</sup>



## TREES ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESSES

- The presence of trees translates into increased financial returns <sup>4</sup>
- Trees attract customers <sup>4</sup>
- Trees provide a good impression for customers 4
- Shoppers linger longer in the shade 4
- Trees help businesses achieve greater market identity<sup>4</sup>
- Trees provide attractive commercial settings 4
- Trees allow businesses to differentiate themselves from competitors <sup>4</sup>
- Trees give businesses a competitive edge <sup>4</sup>
- Trees help create a sense of security for customers <sup>4</sup>



## TREES ARE GOOD FOR OUR CITIES

- Trees cool cities by shading homes and streets, and by releasing water vapour into the air through their leaves <sup>1</sup>
- Trees break up urban "heat islands" 5
- Shade from trees helps to prolong the life of city pavements and roads, and reduces the need for resurfacing <sup>6</sup>
- Trees beautify cityscapes
- Trees aid in traffic control by separating pedestrians from vehicles <sup>7</sup>
- Tree canopy cools parking lots and reduces the evaporative hydrocarbon emissions from parked vehicles that are released from fuel tanks and hoses as gasoline evaporates <sup>6</sup>



### TREES ARE GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

- Fruit harvested from community orchards can be sold, thus providing income
- Trees can be utilised for fuel, building materials and craft wood
- Trees increase property values. The beauty of a well-planted property and its surrounding street and neighbourhood can raise property values by as much as 15 percent <sup>8</sup>
- Trees attract businesses and customers to communities
- For a planting cost of US \$250 \$600, a single street tree returns over US \$90 000 of direct benefits <sup>10</sup>
- Trees enhance tourism by adding beauty and shade to a location <sup>11</sup>



## TREES MAKE CARING, SHARING COMMUNITIES

- Tree plantings provide an opportunity for community involvement and engage all cultures, ages and genders in the important role of tree planting or tree care
- Trees beautify communities and improve the views
- Trees make great landmarks that can give communities a new identity and encourage community spirit
- Shared green spaces, particularly those having trees, help strengthen social ties among neighbours. A US series of studies of inner-city neighbourhoods shows green spaces with trees contribute to healthier, more supportive patterns of interaction among residents, including greater sharing of resources <sup>12</sup>
- Individuals living in 'greener' buildings reported more social activities, more visitors, knew more of their neighbours and had stronger feelings of belonging<sup>12</sup>









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### TREES MAKE HAPPY, HEALTHY CHILDREN

- Tree shade helps reduce exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays, thus providing protection to children at schools and playgrounds - where children spend hours outdoors
- Trees provide fun play opportunities for children through activities like climbing, swinging or creating a tree house
- Children living in tree-lined streets have a lower risk of developing asthma and its symptoms <sup>13</sup>
- Attention Deficit Disorder symptoms are relieved in children after spending prescribed amounts of time in green spaces
  the greener the setting, the more the relief <sup>14</sup>
- Girls with home views of nature score higher on tests of concentration and self-discipline and score lower on tests of impulsivity 15
- Planting trees encourages environmental custodianship amongst children
- Kindergarten children playing in forest-type environments improved significantly in 8 out of 9 tasks on a physical fitness test whereas children playing in less natural outdoor play environments only improved in 3 out of 9 tasks <sup>16</sup>
- In two Swedish nurseries with similar conditions and similar teaching staff, children with the green outdoor play settings reported less than half the number of sick days than the children at a city day care centre with no green play setting <sup>17</sup>



## TREES HEAL AND HELP YOU LIVE LONGER!

- A study of senior citizens in Japan found that the presence of parks and tree-lined streets near senior citizen residences were significant predictors of higher survival over the following five years. Living in areas with walkable green spaces positively influenced the longevity of urban senior citizens independent of their age, sex, marital status, baseline functional status and socioeconomic status <sup>18</sup>
- Planting trees and gardening is a physical activity that helps you burn kilojoules
- Many trees have significant medicinal properties <sup>19</sup>
- Hospital patients have been shown to recover from surgery more quickly when their hospital room offered a view of trees <sup>20</sup>



## TREES MAKE SOCIETY A BETTER PLACE

- The presence of trees can be associated with lower crime rates as it helps people to relax thereby reducing aggression
- The presence of trees increases surveillance and discourages criminals, as the 'green and groomed' appearance of a property is a cue that the owners and residents care about a property and watch over it and each other 21
- Trees ease poverty's burden in inner city neighbourhoods 22
- Trees act as privacy screens and muffle sound
- Inner city families with trees and greenery in their immediate outdoor surroundings have safer domestic environments than families who live in areas that are barren of street trees and nature <sup>21</sup>



#### TREES ADD VALUE TO THE WORLD AS IT IS

- Trees mark the seasons, telling us when it's Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter
- Trees feed people, animals and birds
- Trees can be utilised symbolically. Christmas just wouldn't be the same without a Christmas Tree!
- Trees shelter plants, crops and livestock, protecting them from the elements
- Trees have historic value. Old trees represent a link with the past that can extend through hundreds of years
- The trunk of a tree can tell its own story and help us to learn about the kind of environment and climactic conditions that the tree has lived through in a certain area
- Trees are valuable as commemoratives of deceased loved ones and for passing on something of value to future generations



## TREES MAKE THE WORLD A BEAUTIFUL PLACE

- Trees provide canopy and habitat for wildlife
- Trees can mask unsightly views. They muffle sound from nearby streets and freeways, and create an eye-soothing canopy of green
- Trees absorb dust and wind and reduce glare
- Trees creatively inspire the artists, writers and musicians that influence our culture. Think Flame Trees by Cold chisel, Tall Trees by Crowded House, Home Among the Gum Trees by John Williamson, or of poet Joyce Kilmers's Trees or artist Paul Cezanne's Poplar Trees
- Trees are a work of nature's art, with leaves changing colour, and trees growing, changing shape, becoming mobile in the wind, casting brilliant shadows, filtering rays of sun and moonlight, and yielding flowers and fruit of many colours.





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