

# How trees make our lives better

GROWING TREES MAKE GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

## Trees make the places we live feel like home

Trees provide privacy and more comfortable settings.

**TREES SLOW TRAFFIC.**



**TREES REDUCE NOISE.**

**Trees help reduce crime.<sup>1</sup>**



**Trees are beautiful.**



## Trees clean the air and the water

Trees absorb odors and filter pollution out of the air by trapping them in their leaves and bark.



Tree foliage absorbs & filters rainwater helping slow down stormwater runoff during rainstorms.

Trees help reduce carbon that builds up in the air. This carbon build up increases temperatures and leads to changes in our climate.



**TREES RENEW OUR AIR SUPPLY.**

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

## Trees help your family be healthy



Research shows views of trees improves recovery from stress within 5 minutes as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension.<sup>2</sup>



Creating natural places with views of trees supports outdoor activities reducing stress and violence, and positively affecting behavior which helps combat obesity.<sup>3</sup>



**Kids living in areas with more street trees have less asthma.<sup>4</sup>**

# Trees help kids do better in school



**“CHILDREN IN CLASSROOMS WITH VIEWS OF TREES SCORED SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER ON TESTS** that measured how well they could pay attention. They also scored significantly better on the speed at which they recovered from a stressful event in the classroom. Kids who can pay attention better and who are less stressed are ready to learn – views to trees improve test scores.”<sup>5</sup>

# Trees help us save and earn money

**TREES PLANTED IN THE RIGHT PLACES ON YOUR PROPERTY CAN HELP YOU TO SAVE 20–50% ON YOUR GAS & ELECTRIC BILL.**<sup>6</sup>

For summer savings: the cooling effect of a young, healthy tree can be as much as that of 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.<sup>6</sup>

For winter savings: trees that are planted as windbreaks can reduce heating costs by 10–25%.<sup>6</sup> Trees planted near exterior walls can help insulate your home from the cold.



Simply having trees on your street can make your home more valuable.<sup>6</sup>



Landscaping on your property, especially if it includes trees, can increase its value by up to 20%.<sup>7</sup>



## TREES CREATE JOBS

at many skill levels and incomes. From growing trees, to landscaping or design, & keeping trees healthy. Other tree jobs include working for a city or county as an arborist.



### SOURCES

1. Kuo, F.E., and W.C. Sullivan. 2001. Environment & Crime in the Inner City: Does Vegetation Reduce Crime? *Environment & Behavior* 33, 3:343-367. “Residents living in greener surroundings report lower levels of fear, fewer incivilities

and less violent behavior. The study also found that the greener a building’s surrounding, the fewer reported crimes.”

2. Dr. Ulrich, R.S. *Texas A&M University*.

3. Fielding, J.E. M.D., *Increasing Physical Activity: A Report on*

*Recommendations of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, October 26, 2011, p.1.

4. Schellenbaum Lovasi, G., Quinn, J.W., Neckerman, K.M., Perzanowski, M.S., & Rundle, A.

*Columbia University*. 2007

5. Sullivan, W.C. *Landscape Architecture Department, University of Illinois*.

6. *U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service*

7. *Management Information Services/ICMA*



invest from the ground up



Local Government Commission



GROWING TREES MAKE GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS



FOLLOW US: InvestInTrees

VISIT US: [www.CaUFC.org](http://www.CaUFC.org) and [www.InvestFromTheGroundUp.org](http://www.InvestFromTheGroundUp.org)