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Plant for the future...

## Trees Make a Better World

Trees' moderating influence on high temperatures is one of their most obvious benefits. But it's far from all the good work trees do in our world.

They offer a projected \$473 billion worth of community environmental benefits, according to *Economics of Urban Forestry*, a 2021 Tree City USA bulletin. The figure represents a \$3 billion benefit in stormwater management, \$65 billion in carbon sequestration and \$45 billion in pollution filtration.

Let's look specifically at stormwater. Trees absorb the first 30% of most precipitation through their leaf systems, allowing evaporation back into the atmosphere, according to "Street Trees for Living," an article by a London, England, tree organization. An additional 30% of precipitation is absorbed back into the ground and taken in by the root structure.

"Trees also positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity," according to the Arbor Day Foundation.

Trees are advantageous to residents' bottomline, the Foundation noted. "Urban tree plantings help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs. In addition, members of the community benefit from properly placed trees as they increase property values from 7% to 20%."

Research by a number of nonprofits and government entities show additional societal benefits of trees:

1. Businesses on attractive tree-lined streets show a 12% higher income stream. This can give those businesses a competitive edge.

2. Trees lining roadways lowered average speeds by 7 to 8 mph, according to a 2006 Michigan study. Streets with landscaped center medians or perimeter street trees affect driver perception of lane width, causing the "edge effect" — a psychological prompt to go slower, the study found.

3. Trees have the ability to improve mental health and reduce mental fatigue, according to Street Trees for Living, the London organization. Numerous studies report that living on tree-lined streets increases happiness, creates health benefits and helps to create a sense of community.

4. The London group also found that trees help to reduce crime, increase neighborhood vigilance and heighten work productivity.

Then there's the mere fact that trees bring joy. That's important to Joanne Kibler, a Perry real estate agent and property owner. "I just like trees," she said. "They're attractive. They look nice in front of houses."

Joanne's appreciation of trees prompted her to request street trees be planted by the village on the right-of-way in front of some of her apartments. "They provide some privacy," she said.

Besides aesthetics, Joanne acknowledges that trees are a "nice environmental thing to do. And they protect against the elements."

"The trees we plant on our streets are important to different residents for different reasons," said Dan Zerbe, chairman of the village's Tree Board. "Some request them for shade to make their porch usable in the summer. Some pick a tree variety that was a childhood favorite. Many love seeing a spray of flowers mark a certain time each year. A resident requested a tree this spring that will attract and feed birds. Landlords know they add financial value to their properties."

These are just some of the many reasons to support the Village of Perry's efforts to increase the number of street and park trees. You can do that by requesting replacement trees where ones have been removed in the past, support tree street plantings and if you receive a new tree in front of your property, take care of it properly so it will prosper.

"Trees are like our village," said Steve Deaton, DPW superintendent. "Seeds of growth are planted, but it takes care to make them strong, beautiful and help them grow for our future." —*By Eleanor Jacobs*

## Village Arbor Day Event Scheduled

Mark your calendars for the Village of Perry's Arbor Day celebration, Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 10 AM. Location is the Masonic Temple on Main St., Perry. Don Gasiewicz with Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension will discuss Common Tree Diseases, Disorders and Pests.

He will present issues and disorders you might see in your yard or in public plantings each season of the year.

Don will cover such pests as caterpillars, Japanese beetles, birds, and fungus, both foliar and wood decaying. The presentation will include information on current invasive and emerging invasive species like emerald ash borer, Asian long horned beetle, hemlock wooly adelgid and spotted lanternfly. He'll explain insects' life cycles.