

Our Urban Forest: Precious!

Can the value of the trees in a city, its “Urban Forest” be measured? Actually, in many ways, yes! Measurements, calculations, studies—these already provide a multitude of data that demonstrate not only how beneficial, but how crucial trees are to our lives and those of wildlife.

To name a few of the benefits of our urban forest: reduced energy expenditures due to cooling effects of transpiration and shading; noise reduction; reduced crime; vandalism; vehicular speeds; improved air quality due to uptake of pollutants and CO₂, and O₂ production; enhanced water quality due to uptake of toxins and reduced erosion; reduced storm water runoff, and thus flooding, due to rainwater interception by leaves and uptake by roots; many positive human health effects such as enhanced well-being and stress reduction, boosted immune system, reduced ADD symptoms in children, protection from UV radiation; economic benefits of increased property values; positive effects on businesses due to attracting shoppers and support their purchasing; reduction of UV radiation damage to roads.

Shaker Heights has a Forestry Division with a comprehensive program to plant and maintain trees on tree lawns and public lands. Shaker also has a Tree Advisory Board, which encourages residents to play their very important roles in correct care of tree lawn trees, as well as planting and maintaining trees on their properties.