

# Benefits of Trees

Trees provide social, communal, environmental, and economic benefits.



Trees provide benefits that promote health, social well-being, and even help your home. Trees serve many purposes in your local community and throughout the entire world.

## Social Benefits

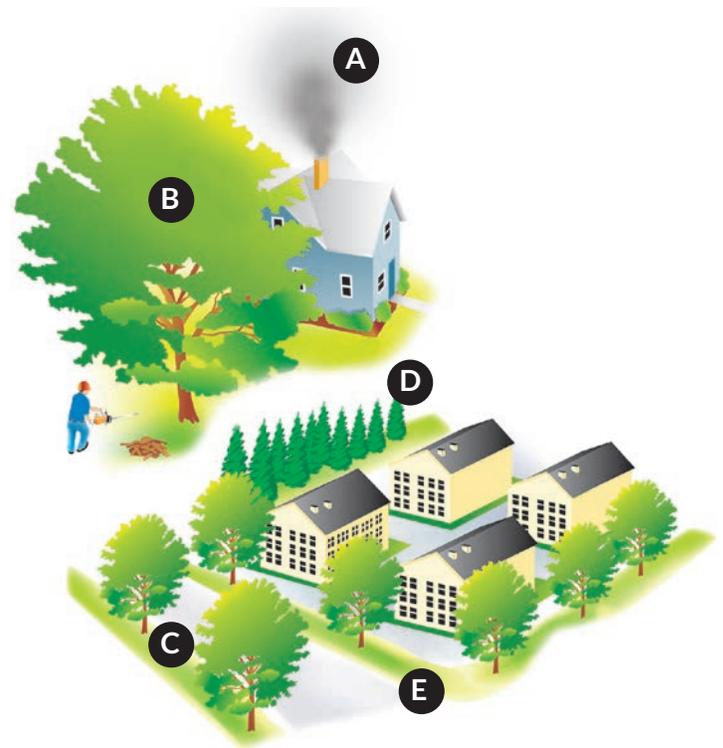
- Trees provide beauty and help people feel serene, peaceful, restful and tranquil.
- Trees significantly reduce workplace stress and fatigue and decrease recovery time after medical procedures.
- Trees may help reduce criminal activity.

## Economic Benefits

- Property values of landscaped homes are 5%– 20% higher than non-landscaped homes.
- Individual trees have value that is affected by size, condition, and function. In general, the larger the tree, the greater the value.
- Air conditioning costs are lower in a tree-shaded home; and heating costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak.
- Well-maintained trees can add value to a home.

## Communal Benefits

- City trees often serve architectural and engineering functions by providing privacy, emphasizing views or obstructing objectionable views.
- Trees may reduce glare/reflection or direct pedestrian traffic.
- Trees may soften, complement, or enhance architecture.
- Trees bring natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban surroundings, all of which increase the quality of life for residents in the community.



## Environmental Benefits

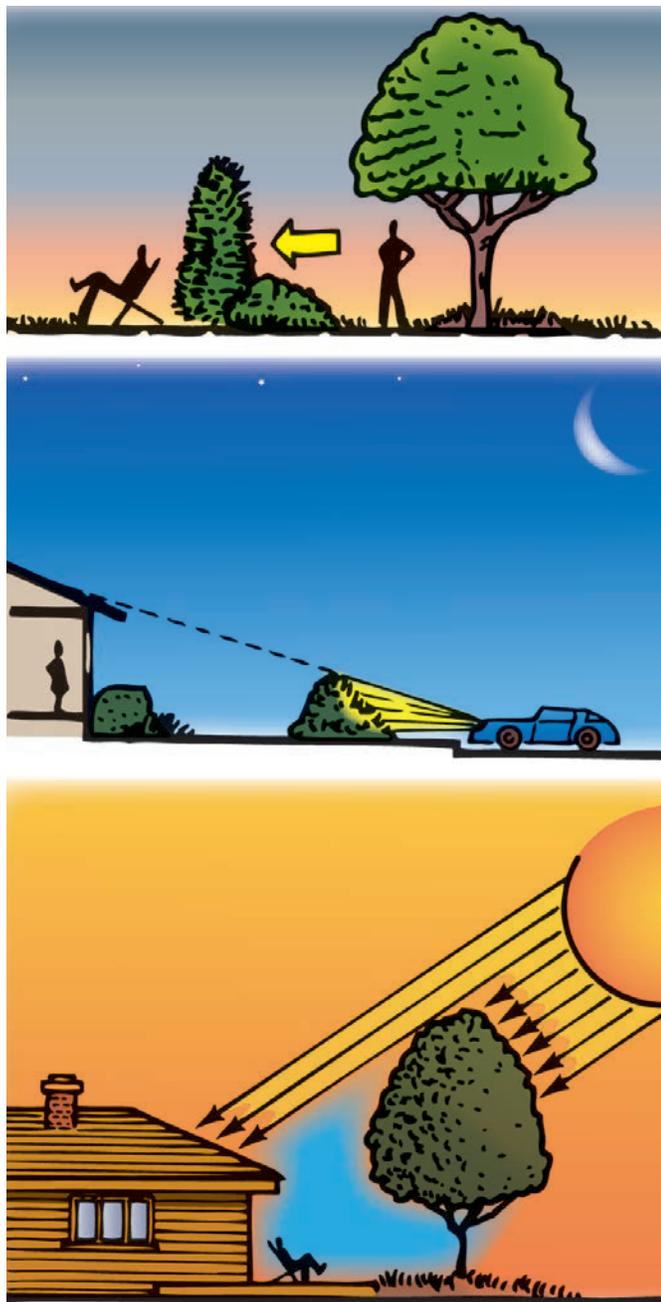
(See figure above)

- A: Leaves filter the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles; absorbing carbon dioxide and various air pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide; and release oxygen.
- B: Deciduous shade trees cool homes in the summer and allow the winter sun to heat homes when they lose their leaves.
- C: Trees help cool the environment, working as a simple and effective way to reduce urban heat islands (pavement and buildings in commercial areas cause higher temperatures by absorbing the sun's heat).
- D: Trees can serve as a windbreak. The more compact the foliage on the group of trees the more effective the windbreak.
- E: Trees intercept water, store some of it and reduce stormwater runoff.

## Trees Require an Investment

Trees provide numerous aesthetic and economic benefits, but can have costs. The costs associated with large tree removal and replanting with a smaller tree can be significant. In addition, the economic and environmental benefits produced by a young replacement tree are minimal when compared to those of a mature specimen.

Extending the functional lifespan of large, mature trees with routine maintenance can delay these expenses and maximize returns.



Selecting the right form (shape) to complement the desired function can significantly reduce maintenance costs and increase the tree's value in the landscape.

An informed home owner can be responsible for many tree maintenance practices. Corrective pruning and mulching gives young trees a good start. Shade trees, however, quickly grow to a size that may require the services of an arborist.

Your local garden center, university extension agent, community forester, or consulting arborist can answer questions about tree maintenance, suggest treatments, or recommend qualified arborists. ISA Certified Arborists® have the knowledge and equipment needed to prune, treat, fertilize, and otherwise maintain a large tree.

## What Is a Certified Arborist?

ISA Certified Arborists are individuals who have proven a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience and by passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's leading experts on tree care. ISA Certified Arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification. Therefore, they are more likely to be up to date on the latest techniques in arboriculture.

## Finding an Arborist

Visit [TreesAreGood.org](http://TreesAreGood.org) for free tools:

- The "Find an Arborist" tool can help you locate an arborist in your area.
- The "Verify a Credential" tool enables you to confirm whether an arborist has an ISA credential.

## Be an Informed Consumer

One of the best methods to use in choosing an arborist is to educate yourself about some of the basic principles of tree care. Visit [TreesAreGood.org](http://TreesAreGood.org) to read and download all brochures in this series.



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Through research, technology, and education, the International Society of Arboriculture promotes the professional practice of arboriculture and fosters a greater worldwide awareness of the benefits of trees.