Top 11 Benefits of Trees

The Oakland Shade Tree Commission recognizes the value of trees in our community. Sometimes when those leaves start falling and we have to start raking we stop appreciating them and forget their value. This year while you are working in your yard think of all the benefits trees provide and it might just make that work a little easier.

01.TREES COOL THE STREETS AND THE CITY

Average temperatures in Los Angeles have risen 6°F in the last 50 years as tree coverage has declined and the number of heat-absorbing roads and buildings has increased.

Trees cool the city by up to 10°F, by shading our homes and streets, breaking up urban "heat islands" and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.

02.TREES CLEAN THE AIR

Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

03.TREES PROVIDE OXYGEN

In one year an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people.

04. TREES COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Excess carbon dioxide (CO_2) is building up in our atmosphere, contributing to climate change. Trees absorb CO_2, removing and storing the carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air. In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO_2 produced when you drive your car 26,000 miles.

05.TREES CONSERVE ENERGY

Three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent. By reducing the energy demand for cooling our houses, we reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution emissions from power plants.

06.TREES SAVE WATER

Shade from trees slows water evaporation from thirsty lawns. Most newly planted trees need only fifteen gallons of water a week. As trees transpire, they increase atmospheric moisture.

07.TREES HELP PREVENT WATER POLLUTION

Trees reduce runoff by breaking rainfall thus allowing the water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree. This prevents stormwater from carrying pollutants to the ocean. When mulched, trees act like a sponge that filters this water naturally and uses it to recharge groundwater supplies.

08.TREES HELP PREVENT SOIL EROSION

On hillsides or stream slopes, trees slow runoff and hold soil in place.

09.TREES PROVIDE FOOD AND HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

Sycamore and oak are among the many urban species that provide excellent urban homes for birds, bees, possums and squirrels.

10.TREES INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES

The beauty of a well-planted property and its surrounding street and neighborhood can raise property values by as much as 15 percent.

11.TREES INCREASE BUSINESS TRAFFIC

Studies show that the more trees and landscaping a business district has, the more business will flow in. A tree-lined street will also slow traffic – enough to allow the drivers to look at the store fronts instead of whizzing by.

The complete listing of benefits used in this article can be found at https://www.treepeople.org/tree-benefits.

Visit http://www.oakland-nj.org/shade-tree-commission for more information tree care in Oakland. The Shade Tree Commission meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the municipal building.