

TREES PAY US BACK: Benefits of Our Urban Forest

Urban trees provide benefits that far exceed the costs of planting and care over their lifetime. The greatest of these benefits are energy savings and higher property values but trees pay us back in other ways too...

Energy Conservation Trees provide both heating and cooling benefits to homes and businesses within the City. By absorbing sunlight, and casting shade, trees prevent solar radiation from heating surfaces such as concrete, brick, and asphalt. In the summer months trees can save energy used to run air conditioners, and reduce the overall temperatures of the City by 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. **Strategically placed trees save up to 56% on annual air conditioning costs.** In winter months, trees drop their leaves allowing sunlight to warm our homes and evergreens block winter winds which can save up to 25% on heating costs.

Increased Property Values Properly planted and maintained trees increase the value of real estate and proceeds from property tax. **Recent appraisal studies show a 10-23% higher value for properties with trees.** Large specimen trees can add 10% to property value. The presence of trees also increases the rate of sale.

Air Pollution/Carbon Sequestration Air pollution is a problem for most cities and towns. Since the emission of many air pollutants increases with higher temperatures, trees can improve air quality by lowering air temperatures. Trees also clean the air by absorbing gaseous pollutants and filtering particulates out of the air with their leaves. **Recent research has shown that 100 mature trees remove 430 pounds of air pollutants and 53 tons of carbon dioxide per year.**

Water Quality and Erosion Control Trees intercept rainfall before it hits the ground. This softens the impact of rainfall on soils. Roots help to hold the soil in place, reducing the rate of erosion and sediment build up in our streams. This erosion control benefit protects the sources of our drinking water and the quality of water for fish habitat. **100 mature trees can intercept approximately 540,000 gallons of rainwater per year.** In this way, the urban forest can benefit the City's infrastructure by reducing the volume of stormwater needed to be handled by our treatment facilities.

Benefits to the Economy A healthy urban forest enhances the economic stability of our local economy by attracting business and people. **Surveys have revealed that people are willing to stay longer and spend 12% more money in shopping districts that are well treed.** Apartments and office buildings with trees have higher rates of occupancy. People considering relocating to an area consider trees a significant part of what makes a place livable. The comfort of a tree lined sidewalk, a shaded parking lot or office, or a tree-filled park has shown to directly benefit local economies.

Healthy Communities The health benefits of cleaner air and water are self evident. But it is also known that green environments reduce stress in people. **Studies have shown that tree-filled neighborhoods have lower levels of domestic violence and are safer and more sociable.** Furthermore, hospital patients with a window view of greenery recover faster with fewer complications and medications than those without such views. Tree planting programs enhance a community's sense of social identity, self esteem and ownership; planting programs also project a visible sign of change and provide the impetus for other community renewal. Trees make the places we live more beautiful; provide shelter and food for urban wildlife; they reduce noise and light pollution, screen ugly views, and establish green spaces for people to enjoy. The benefits of trees in the urban environment are often intangible, but very important toward understanding the value of our urban forest.

IT PAYS TO PLANT AND CARE FOR TREES!

Cedarburg Green



Cedarburg Green



For more information on the City of Cedarburg Forestry Department please visit the City's website at www.ci.cedarburg.wi.us, City Departments, Forestry.

Cedarburg Parks & Forestry
W63N645 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI 53012
(262) 375-7611

Cedarburg Green: Friends of the Urban Forest

MISSION STATEMENT:

Cedarburg Green is a non-profit, member-based organization whose mission is to foster a greater appreciation for Urban Forestry; to beautify our public streets, boulevards and parks for the benefit of Cedarburg’s residents and visitors; to promote sustainable environmental stewardship and landscape management practices; and to raise and distribute private funds for the planting, care and maintenance of public trees and for other projects aligned with our goals and objectives.

GOALS:

- To achieve 100% stocking of our street tree population along City streets and boulevards.
- To increase canopy cover and species diversity in public parks and open spaces.
- To achieve a routine, scheduled pruning cycle for all public trees.
- To improve and protect the health of our urban trees.
- To improve and protect the health of our urban soils.
- To develop partnerships with area businesses.
- To develop public education and outreach programs.

OBJECTIVES:

- To create a TreeBank “branch” to receive donations earmarked for tree planting, care and education within the City of Cedarburg.
- To establish a working partnership with the City of Cedarburg Parks & Forestry Department in order to facilitate Cedarburg Green’s goals and objectives.
- To promote proper tree planting, species selection, maintenance and protection.
- To educate the public about the importance and benefits of urban trees.
- To educate the public about the identification and control of invasive species.
- To work with area school children to encourage environmental stewardship and participation in outdoor activities.
- To promote sustainable landscape management practices including but not limited to:
 - Preserve and protect healthy soils
 - Improve the health of degraded soils
 - Promote the practice of composting and its use to improve soil and plant health
 - Use of rain gardens and rain barrels to promote on-site storage of storm water runoff
 - Provide alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers in the landscape

Cedarburg Green — Friends of the Urban Forest Membership Form

Member Categories: Individual (\$25) Student/Senior (\$10) Family (\$50) Patron (\$100) Friend Forever (\$250)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Family Members: _____ (If joining as a Family)

Email: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Willing to serve on the Board: YES NO

Fee:						
Individual	\$25.00	=	\$	_____		
Student/Senior	\$10.00	=	\$	_____		
Family	\$50.00	=	\$	_____		
Patron	\$100.00	=	\$	_____		
Friend Forever	\$250.00	=	\$	_____		
Additional Donation	=	\$	_____			
	Total	=	\$	_____		

Mail form to:
 Cedarburg Green, Inc.
 P.O. Box 49, W63N645 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI 53012