

Tree Benefits & Value

Most of us like trees - we like to have them in our yards, our city streets and public parks. Have you ever stopped to consider the benefits that a healthy, diverse and well-managed population of trees provides? Tree benefits are so many and varied that we can categorize them as social, environmental and economic benefits.

The visual beauty, serenity and tranquility we feel around trees and the contribution to the landscape are just a few of the social benefits we enjoy.

The many environmental benefits from trees include; moderating the climate, improving air quality, providing oxygen and helping to protect us from the worst effects of the sun, wind and rain. Trees can also be used in managing storm water quality and quantity. In addition to this, trees are efficient at capturing and storing carbon. This will be one of the most important ways to combat climate change in the years to come.



One of the greatest economic benefits we derive from trees is reduced energy costs. Trees shade our homes in the summer and provide wind breaks in the winter months resulting in decreased heating and cooling costs. As well, a landscaped property can be approximately 15% more valuable than a non-landscaped one. Indirectly, trees are beneficial through their effects on energy reduction, air quality improvement and improved storm water management. This reduces the need for facilities to provide similar services to the community - saving thousands of dollars.



With all these benefits, it is now recognized that trees are appreciating assets that have real dollar values. The valuing of trees is something undertaken by an experienced plant appraiser. Understanding the value of our trees is important if they are ever significantly damaged. Check your homeowner's insurance policy to see what coverage you have. It is recommended to have your trees valued before you suffer any loss or damage.

On the subject of value, it is important to remember that your trees are a wise investment that will require a maintenance commitment in order to remain healthy and function effectively. Tree maintenance costs are relatively inexpensive compared to their economic benefits. In fact, the City of Vancouver has calculated that for every dollar spent on a tree it will return 250% on the investment in services to the environment at maturity. That's significant!

So, our tree tip of the day is to contact your trusted local tree care professional in order to keep your trees in tip top condition in order to reap the greatest benefit from them.

