

# The Value of Trees

## Water Quality

Healthy trees in our communities improve our environment. In addition to the visual impact of trees, tree canopies and root systems provide a natural filter to our water supply and reduce storm water runoff, flooding, and erosion.

**1 Million Trees = \$3.5 Million in Annual Stormwater Runoff Costs\***

## Air Quality

Trees are natural air filters, too. Their foliage reduces particulate matter from the air, including dust, micro sized metals, and pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and sulfur dioxides. Trees take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Combined with the cooling effect of trees, these processes can have a significant impact on reducing smog and overall air pollution. Every 40 trees removes 80 lbs. of air pollutants annually.

**1 Million Trees = \$5 Million in Annual Air Pollution Clean-up\***

## Energy

Trees cool the air naturally from the effects of water evaporating from leaves and from direct shade. Moisture combined with shade results in cooler air. Homes shaded by trees need less energy for cooling, which in turn means lower monthly utility bills in the summer and a reduced need for utilities to increase power generation to meet peak load demand. Four trees planted around each home could save up to 30% on summer cooling costs.

**1 Million Trees = \$10 Million in Annual Energy Savings\***

## Real Estate

Shaded neighborhoods and well-landscaped yards have a positive economic influence on real estate values, timeliness of house sales and neighborhood desirability. Studies report that landscaping speeds the sale of a home by four to six weeks. In Sacramento, a homeowner's mature valley oak may be appraised at \$20,000 or greater.

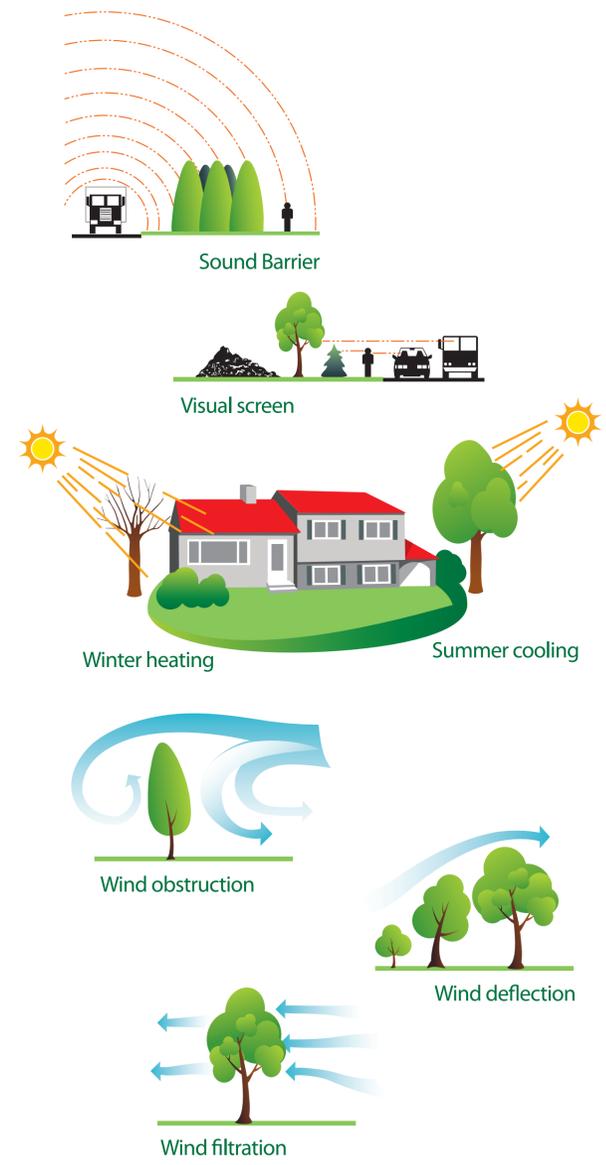
**1 Front Yard Tree = 1% Increase in Home Sale Price\***

## Business

Trees are good for business. Research shows that consumers respond positively to shopping environments with healthy urban forests.

**Shaded Business District = 11% Increase in Business\*\***

The value of trees for their aesthetic functions is obvious. Many other less obvious functions contributing to the value of trees are illustrated here.



## The Many Benefits of Trees

Have you ordered from a catalog lately? Enjoyed a concert or a ball game? Written a letter? Eaten a bowl of ice cream? Brushed your teeth? You probably answered "yes" to all of these questions, but you may not know that you couldn't do any of these things without paper or wood.



Try to think of something you do during the day that has absolutely no relationship to a paper or wood product. Eat? If you enjoyed a piece of fruit today, it's likely that it came from a tree, was wrapped in a protective paper covering and shipped in a cardboard box or a wooden crate. Drink? Coffee beans grow on trees, and many soft drinks contain wood derivatives. Drive? The steering wheel in your car contains tree resin. Shower? Shampoo and soap are made with fatty acids found in trees.



In fact there are more than 5,000 products that we all use and depend on every day that come from trees. The wonderful thing about all of these products is that they come from a renewable resource! Unlike fossil fuels, metals and other natural resources used in making products, trees can be planted and regrown in an endless cycle so that we can enjoy the many benefits they provide -- clean air, clean water, recreation, wildlife habitat and products -- both now and in the future.



Scan me to find out more!

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to learn more about Touhy Park and its historic trees.



\*Center for Urban Forest Research, Pacific Southwest Research Station, US Forest Service, Davis, CA.  
\*\*Center for Urban Horticulture, Fact sheet #5, University of Washington