

Why Should I Have a Tree on My Property?

By the Town of Kamsack

Trees provide a wide variety of public benefits, from producing oxygen to capturing carbon dioxide and other green house gases through photosynthesis to conserving water through channelling and trapping more water underground, which recharges underground aquifers. However, we also experience a number of personal costs when trees are on or near private property.

Tree roots are one of the most common causes of sewer line blockages and clogs, which can lead to expensive repairs. Trees can also pose a risk to people and property. So, why should a private resident take on these extra costs and risks for the sake of the community?

While trees can cause frustrations, they provide a number of significant personal benefits to you, the resident.

Trees Clean the Air

Beyond producing oxygen, trees also act as air filters. Trees help increase air quality by capturing airborne particles and pollutants in their leaves, bark and through the process of photosynthesis.

Trees Reduce Noise Pollution

Trees are one of the largest plant species and can grow to tremendous heights. Due to these natural characteristics, trees can form barriers that effectively absorb noise and reduce the total distance noise can travel when planted at key points in a community, neighbourhood or around a single private residence.

Trees Act as Windbreaks

Trees planted in exposed areas or in windy locations provide shelter and protection from weather damage, including snow and ice, by blocking harsh winds and reducing their speeds. A windbreak can also lower heating costs by reducing the amount of cold air that reaches a residence, when planted correctly.

Trees Conserve Energy and Cut Costs

Trees create shaded and insulated areas, which can reduce the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter. Trees also increase cooling through distributing water, which then cools the air around the trees. For instance, a mature tree can pull 100 gallons of water from the ground and discharge it into the air in one day. These natural occurrences, in turn, translate into savings by reducing cooling needs and costs in the summer as well as heating needs and costs in the winter.

The shade created by trees also protects public infrastructure, like asphalt. By making the asphalt cooler, trees are able to extend the life of public infrastructure and reduce a municipality's upkeep costs.

Trees Can Increase Property Value

Trees can increase the value of a single residence. For instance, multiple academic surveys show that mature trees on a well-landscaped property can increase the value of that property between 7% and 19%. However, the same surveys show that a well-maintained lawn with flower beds may be aesthetically pleasing, but did not create added value for the owner.

Properly landscaped properties with mature trees, planted with a focus on cost-savings and increased privacy, also tend to sell quicker due to their heightened curb appeal and lower ongoing expenses. By planting trees, a property is more likely to sell quickly and at a higher price when compared to a similar property that is not landscaped with trees.

The information and facts contained in this article were provided by Tree Canada, a country-wide non-profit devoted to planting and maintaining trees in both rural and urban settings. To learn more about the work of this non-profit and the importance of trees, please visit <https://treecanada.ca>.