

milliontreesNYC™

A PLANYC INITIATIVE WITH NYC PARKS AND NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

New York City Tree Benefits

Environmental Benefits

- **Slowing Global Climate Change** – Urban trees help mitigate climate change by seizing atmospheric carbon dioxide in their tissue, reducing energy used by buildings, and reducing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-fuel based power plants. NYC's trees store about 1.35 million tons of carbon valued at \$24.9 million. In addition, these trees remove over 42,000 tons of carbon each year.
- **Water Quality Protection** – Urban trees capture rainfall on their leaves and branches and take up water through evaporation, acting as natural storm water capture and retention devices. NYC's street trees intercept 890.6 million gallons of storm water annually, or 1,525 gallons per tree on average. The total value of this benefit to NYC is over \$35 million each year.
- **Improved Air Quality** – Trees remove dust and other pollutants from the air. In fact, one tree can remove 26 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually, the equivalent of 11,000 miles of car emissions. NYC's trees remove about 2,200 tons of air pollution per year, valued at \$10 million annually.
- **Lower Summer Air Temperature** – According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, urban forests reduce urban temperatures significantly by shading buildings and concrete and returning humidity to the air through evaporative cooling.
- **Natural Resource Conservation** – By using trees to modify temperatures, the amount of fossil fuels used for cooling and heating by homeowners and businesses is reduced. NYC's street trees provide \$27 million a year in energy savings.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – NYC's urban forest provides habitat – including food and shelter for many species of birds, insects, and other wildlife, as well as environmental education resources for New Yorkers of all ages.

Health & Lifestyle

- **Improves Health** – There is growing evidence that trees help reduce air pollutants that can trigger asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Greenspaces also encourages physical activity - a healthy habit for any New Yorker.
- **Lower Crime and Enhanced Self-Esteem** – Studies over a 30-year period in neighborhoods and housing projects show that when trees and landscaping are present there is a definite increase in self-esteem and a decrease in vandalism and other crimes.
- **Green spaces Beneficial to Children** – According to a Cornell University researcher studying the effect of green spaces, children who had the greatest gains in terms of greenness between their old and new homes showed the greatest improvements in functioning.

Economic Benefits

- **Increases Property Values** – A significant link exists between the value of a property and its proximity to parks, greenbelts, and other greenspaces. *Smart Money* magazine indicated that consumers value a landscaped home up to 11.3 percent higher than its base price. NYC's street trees provide \$52 million each year in increased property values.
- **Community and Business District Appeal** – The greening of business districts increases community pride and positive perception of an area, drawing customers to the businesses.