RESIDENTIAL

Indiana homes with quality tree canopy are valued 5 to 15% higher than properties without trees.

Properties adjacent to parks are valued 8 to 20% higher than those elsewhere.

Indiana residents with properly placed trees experience an average annual savings of 27% in summer cooling costs and 15% in winter heating costs.

Trees absorb air pollutants and contribute to improved air quality.

Urban forest improvements help generate tax revenue.

MUNICIPAL

Research has shown routine road maintenance can be deferred from every 10 to 25 years from streets with extensive tree canopy cover.

Indiana street trees paid back benefits to communities for tree management practices. In First, Second, and Third Class cities and towns the benefits paid back to communities for the management of trees ranged from $1.74 to $5.55.

Municipalities benefit from property taxes paid for the sale of a house that is assessed higher in value due to the location of nearby trees.

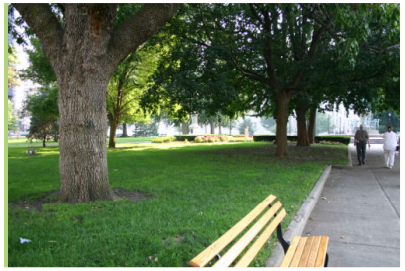
Trees are a natural and efficient way to reduce storm water management costs.

COMMERCIAL

Quality tree canopy has a positive economic ripple effect on nearby properties.

Homebuyers say that they are willing to pay 23% more for a home located within 1/4 mile of an “excellent” commercial corridor. (This translates into increased tax revenue in neighborhoods where tree-lined retail areas are located.)

Rental rates of commercial properties with trees are valued 7% higher than properties with out trees and quality landscaping.



Consumers are willing to pay 9 to 20% more for products in shopping areas with tree canopy.

CHALLENGES

- New and existing city infrastructure often does not permit new tree placement.
- Businesses are worried that trees will hide their storefronts.
- Trees, as a capital asset, are under-valued as economic generators.

SOLUTIONS

- Sidewalk and street design should include tree preservation and planting consideration.
- Properly selected and maintained trees can increase revenue and enhance storefront appearance.
- The true economic value of an urban forest should be documented and utilized in the decision-making process.

The urban forest can help create and sustain economic viability. This fact sheet produced by the Indiana Urban Forest Council, Inc. (IUFC) in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Community & Urban Forestry Program, will promote awareness that a healthy urban forest is an investment in economic health.

The IUFC is a not for profit organization dedicated to the public awareness of protecting, expanding, and improving Indiana's urban forests. It promotes public understanding of the need for trees and other natural resources in and along parks, green space areas, streets, and urban woodlands. The IUFC assists Hoosier communities in protecting, expanding and improving their urban forests.

CONTACT US

Visit the Web site at http://www.iufc.org.
PH: 317-489-8775.

RESOURCES

- Center for Urban Policy and the Environment; *Urban Forest Economic Benefits* ;IUPUI Solution Center 2004

- *Lower Midwest Community Tree Guide*; http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr219/psw_gtr219.pdf

This project made possible by a grant from the Indiana DNR, Community & Urban Forestry program and the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, an equal opportunity provider and employer.

INDIANA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL

Urban Forests as Economic Generators