

Resources for Tree Maintenance, not just Tree Planting

Tree maintenance makes trees live longer and healthier lives

In Holyoke, Massachusetts, planted trees that were consistently irrigated by seasonal paid crews were about 5x less likely to die during establishment.¹

Residents notice when trees are not maintained, and resist new plantings when tree care investment is lacking.^{1,3}

What difference do healthy trees make for our communities?

40% of heat-related deaths could be avoided with adequate tree cover.⁴ Additionally, U.S. trees absorb or adhere pollutants, saving \$5.4 billion in health care costs and productivity losses.⁵

Trees cut home energy costs by \$5.4 billion yearly, preventing \$2.7 billion dollars in social and environmental losses and damages from pollutant-producing energy production.⁵

Trees fight climate pollution, absorbing 37 million tons of CO₂ annually, equal to emissions from 8 million cars.⁵

What can be done with more funding for tree maintenance?

Shorten tree pruning cycles for maximum benefits

The optimal inspection cycle for pruning needs to maximize tree benefits is 4 to 5 years. Current average pruning cycle in municipalities is 6.6 years,^{6,7} and some cities have no pruning cycles and backlogged removal needs.^{3,8}

Plant trees where they will be consistently watered

In one study, watering trees twice a week through the first summer after planting eliminated tree mortality, compared to 43% tree mortality when trees were only watered for six weeks post-planting.⁹

Mulch both newly-planted and mature trees

The crowns (trees and branches) of mulched trees can be almost twice as large as unmulched trees, maximizing the benefits an individual tree provides.¹⁰

Grow and diversify the arboriculture and urban forestry workforce

Paid maintenance work can strategically grow the arboriculture and urban forestry workforce to meet the increasing demand for quality tree care.^{11,12}

FYI:

The U.S. is losing about 36 million trees per year in urban and community forests.²

To ensure newly-planted trees thrive and benefit communities, ongoing care throughout their entire lifespan is essential. **Neglecting tree maintenance is a financial and resource waste, impacting public perception and tree-planting goals.**



Credits

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