

Trees are public assets that improve community health and boost civic pride.

# Healthy Trees = Healthy Communities

Research shows community trees that are properly placed and maintained offer many social, economic and environmental benefits.

## COMMUNITY TREES ARE THREATENED

- 90% of WA population identified as urban
- Estimates suggest a population increase of 2 million people by 2040
- Tree canopy in most WA cities is below the national average
- Urban canopy and aquatic health is declining due to human disturbance
- Stormwater volumes are increasing due to increased impervious cover
- Cities lack technical and financial means to steward natural resources
- Funding that supports Washington's Urban and Community Forestry Program from US Forest Service is decreasing

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY TREES

- Restore funding for the Evergreen Communities Act (RCW 76.15)
- Fund a statewide community forestry inventory
- Support policies that encourage managing trees as infrastructure
- Fund tree planting as a tool to increase stormwater infiltration

**Washington's Urban and Community Forestry Program** assists local governments, citizen groups and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees and vegetation wherever people live and work in Washington state.

[dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry](http://dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry)



**PROPERTY VALUE IMPROVEMENT\***

**\$1,820,000**

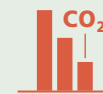
- UP TO 15% INCREASE IN HOME VALUES



**STORMWATER REDUCTION SAVINGS\***

**\$514,448**

- CLEANER WATER FOR PEOPLE AND SALMON
- FEWER WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES



**CARBON DIOXIDE REDUCTION SAVINGS\***

**\$75,355**

- CLEANER AIR
- CARBON SEQUESTRATION



**IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE**

- REDUCED LEVELS OF STRESS, ANXIETY, CRIME
- COOLER STREETS, PARKING LOTS, CITIES

**\$2,943,545**

**TOTAL ANNUAL BENEFIT**

\* BENEFIT VALUES ARE FROM A SUMMARY OF BENEFITS DERIVED FROM INVENTORY ANALYSIS OF 46,888 PUBLIC TREES ACROSS 21 WA COMMUNITIES. USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.