



Plant a Tree for PITMAN. . . Plant a Tree for the FUTURE!



It all started with trees....

In 1871, a group of ministers were searching for a desirable spot to establish a summer camp meeting resort. Pitman Grove, with its 70 acres of oak and chestnut trees, proved to be the perfect spot. The town then sprang up around the Grove area and the rest is history. You are receiving this brochure because concerned citizens of Pitman have noticed a disturbing trend in our boro. Many trees have been taken down in recent years but very few are being replaced. Please read on to understand why it is essential that we reverse this trend.



Why plant shade trees?

Environmental benefits of shade trees:

Combat climate change. Trees are one of our greatest natural assets for fighting climate change. They absorb and store carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Did you know that a mature tree sequesters at least 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year? When trees are removed and not replaced, a neighborhood loses this crucial function and it contributes to higher carbon levels.

Mitigate the "urban heat island" effect.

Pavement and rooftops absorb and retain heat, causing suburban neighborhoods with low tree cover to

be significantly hotter than more forested areas. Trees provide shade and cool the air through evapo-transpiration, reducing surface temperatures by as much as 10 degrees.

Manage stormwater and reduce flooding. The extensive root systems of trees act like sponges, absorbing significant amounts of rainfall and helping to break the force of the rain as it falls. This reduces stormwater runoff and soil erosion, which can protect against flooding and keep pollutants from entering local waterways.

Improve air and water quality.

Trees act as natural filters, removing airborne pollutants like ozone, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. The canopy also helps filter rainwater, improving the quality of drinking water sources.

Support local biodiversity. A single, mature tree can support thousands of species of insects and animals by providing food and habitat. Removing trees without replacing them disrupts the local ecosystem and reduces biodiversity.



Fewer trees = fewer birds.

Economic benefits of shade trees:

Increase property values. A well-maintained and healthy tree canopy is one of the most cost-effective ways

to increase a home's value. Studies show that mature trees can increase property values by anywhere from 3% to 15% or more.

Lower energy costs. Strategically planted trees can provide shade to cool homes in the summer and act as windbreaks to reduce heat loss in the winter. This reduces energy consumption and lowers utility bills for residents.



Reduce infrastructure maintenance. By helping to manage stormwater, trees reduce the need for costly upgrades to drainage and sewer systems. The tree canopy can also protect paved surfaces from the sun, extending the lifespan of roads and sidewalks.

Social & health benefits of shade trees: Improve mental and physical health. Numerous studies show that living near trees and green spaces can lower stress, reduce anxiety and improve overall mental well-being.

Create safer, more connected communities. Research suggests that tree-filled neighborhoods have lower crime rates and a stronger sense of community. Green spaces provide inviting areas for neighbors to gather, socialize and build stronger bonds.

Enhance quality of life.

As a further benefit, trees make neighborhoods more beautiful, pleasant and serene. They muffle traffic noise and add a sense of peace and tranquility that improves residents' quality of life.

An investment in the future.

Replacing removed trees is not just about aesthetics; it's a strategic and cost-effective investment in a community's future. It protects property values, saves energy, improves public health, and builds a more resilient environment for future generations. *Tree replacement is essential infrastructure and it should be a priority for any suburban residential neighborhood.*

Tree planting considerations:

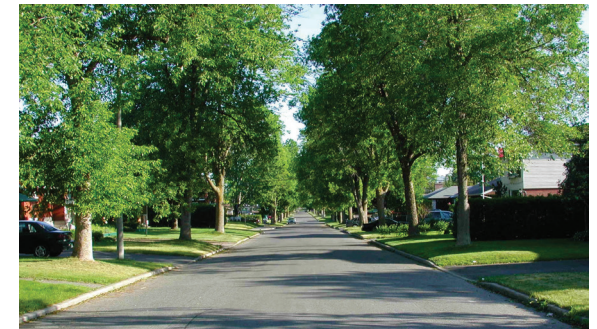
Please plant native species shade trees, not ornamentals, in order to support the region's natural insect, bird and animal species. If we do not replant with native trees, future generations will not be able to enjoy seeing and hearing the bird species we have grown up with. Oaks are especially needed since they are a crucial "keystone species," supporting more insect, bird and mammal life than any other North American tree genus. Planting oaks helps foster biodiversity in our area. For tree planting info, please see arborday.org.

You do not have to plant an expensive sapling. An easy-to-plant seedling will be fine. Just be sure to water it and protect it with some kind of barrier until it gets established.

Are there young children in the family? Why not plant a tree in your yard for the children (e.g. "Sophie's tree" or "Michael's tree") and photo chronicle the growth of the child and tree together. Have you lost a loved one? Plant a tree in your yard to honor their memory and bring comfort when you look at it.



On which street would you rather live?



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