

# Maybe money does grow on trees!

It is a fact that the benefits from trees outweigh the maintenance costs. While caring for a tree requires some initial investment, the payoffs are well worth it!



## Tree myths... busted!

### A Cedar Rapids Case Study

#### Benefits of Street Trees \$5 million annually

- Air Quality
- Energy Savings
- Carbon Sequestration (removing carbon dioxide from atmosphere)
- Stormwater Retention
- Increased Property Values
- Reduced Water Treatment Costs

#### Street Tree Costs \$1.2 million annual budget

- Pest Management
- Planting
- Removal
- Maintenance
- Canopy Management

#### Benefit to Cost Ratio

4:1

#### Street trees are dangerous

- Studies document that motorists respond to vertical walls of greenery by driving more slowly, which makes pedestrians and motorists safer.<sup>1</sup>

#### Trees are expensive

- For a planting and three year maintenance cost of \$250 - \$600, a single street tree returns more than \$90,000 of direct benefits, not even including the aesthetic, social and natural benefits provided during the tree's lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

#### Trees are the cause of damage by storms

- Proper selection, spacing and trimming of trees, along with well-planned utilities, will reduce the impact of major storms. A line of mature trees can provide protection from fragile or isolated trees that fall.<sup>2</sup>

#### Trees are a cost to communities and the economy

- Trees in urban forests support 60,000 California jobs annually, adding \$3.6 billion to the economy.<sup>3</sup>

#### Trees reduce property value

- Homes, goods and services sell for 12% more in communities with trees than those without.<sup>3</sup>

#### Trees ruin concrete and sidewalks

- Street trees prolong the life of pavement. Shaded roads can save up to 60% of repaving costs. That's a lot of savings considering the four million miles of roadways in the US.<sup>4</sup>

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