









Benefits of Texas Trees

Trees are essential for economic health and community well-being.

Here are 6 reasons why.*

-  **1. LAND VALUE:** Mature trees in neighborhoods can **increase property values** up to **20%**.
-  **2. WATER:** Tree foliage **absorbs and filters rainwater**, helping to slow down storm-water during storms and saving municipality costs for storm-water management.
-  **3. TEXAS IS HOT!:** Trees in urban areas can **cool the air** by between 2° C and 8° C. When placed around buildings, trees can **reduce air conditioning usage** by **30%**.
-  **4. AIR QUALITY:** Trees absorb air pollution and add back oxygen to the air, all of which act to **improve air quality** for communities.
-  **5. PUBLIC HEALTH:** Studies have shown that being around trees **improves physical and mental health** by increasing energy levels and decreasing stress. People also drive slower and crime is reduced in treed areas, making for **safer neighborhoods**.
-  **6. LOCAL ECONOMY:** Shoppers **spend more** time and money at businesses that have good tree cover. Trees are good for business.

* Source: Texas A&M Forest Service <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

Make your voice heard. Contact your elected state representatives.

Special session starts July 18 and lasts for 30 days.

Look up your representative: www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

Learn more at defendtexastrees.org.



Austin Tree Ordinance Facts

99%

The City of Austin's tree ordinance does not apply to **99%** of Austin's trees.

To apply, a tree must be at least 19 inches in diameter. About 99% of Austin's trees are less than 19 inches in diameter, and may be removed at the discretion of homeowners and developers.

1%

For the **1%** of trees covered by the ordinance, the City **approves over 95%** of applications to impact or remove trees.

Almost **80%** of residential permit requests are **NOT requesting tree removal**. An overwhelming number of residents are asking the City to help them **preserve** their trees – not remove them.



Trees are *naturally-occurring infrastructure* that save City taxpayers **billions** of dollars in economic services annually.

Once a mature tree is removed, it takes **generations** to replace its value.



Mature trees protected by the tree ordinance provide the lions share of economic and naturally occurring infrastructure services, such as reduced energy costs and storm-water management.



- **Energy Savings:** Austin's trees are responsible for nearly \$20 million in reduced energy costs annually.
- **Flood Control:** If the City were to artificially engineer the storm water controls that the 1% of trees provide naturally, the expense would exceed \$1 billion annually



For more research information about the economic and social values of trees, see the *Texas A&M Forest Service* website: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

In 2014 a study of Austin's Urban Forest was performed. The report can be seen on the *USDA Forest Service* website here: https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rb/rb_nrs100.pdf