

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Annual benefit of trees: \$304,000

On Tuesday, we opined that nothing has done more to enhance Pottstown's environment and quality of life than the street trees planted over the last three decades.

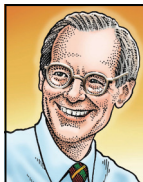
But many people only acknowledge benefits that can be measured in dollars and cents.

In 2007, researchers for the U.S. Forest Service and the University of California, Davis, developed a computer program to measure the annual dollar value of street trees based on their size and species. The program, first used in New York City, showed the city's 600,000 street trees provided

about \$122 million in annual benefits — in improved air quality, stormwater management, energy reduction by reducing the need for air conditioning, and increased property values.

Now the computer program, called i-Tree, is available nationwide. Using the i-Tree program, we've calculated that Pottstown's 3,100 street trees provide \$304,000 in benefits to the community annually.

We often hear about the downsides to trees. But if just a portion of that money was invested in their care, all the cost of maintenance — and sidewalk repairs — could be covered.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton



Pottstown, Pennsylvania Total Annual Dollar Benefit of Street Trees by Species



Species	Energy	CO2	Stormwater	Aesthetic /Other	Total	% of Total
London planetree	\$ 7,323.52	\$ 1,816.71	\$ 25,832.36	\$ 34,323.43	\$ 69,296.03	22.70
Red maple	\$ 3,763.98	\$ 880.16	\$ 10,178.70	\$ 22,498.25	\$ 37,321.09	12.17
Pear	\$ 3,266.39	\$ 725.71	\$ 6,228.42	\$ 9,537.38	\$ 19,757.90	6.65
Honeylocust	\$ 2,431.08	\$ 655.57	\$ 6,291.78	\$ 14,311.01	\$ 23,689.44	7.73
Pin oak	\$ 3,648.20	\$ 907.29	\$ 13,226.91	\$ 16,397.65	\$ 34,180.06	11.20
Norway maple	\$ 2,145.32	\$ 561.81	\$ 6,404.30	\$ 11,655.74	\$ 20,767.16	6.79
Littleleaf linden	\$ 2,592.64	\$ 1,104.48	\$ 6,378.45	\$ 10,602.14	\$ 20,677.71	6.81
Sweetgum	\$ 1,063.62	\$ 187.76	\$ 2,558.74	\$ 6,982.46	\$ 10,792.57	3.51
Northern red oak	\$ 1,950.06	\$ 470.25	\$ 4,899.20	\$ 8,366.16	\$ 15,685.67	5.16
Green ash	\$ 1,219.20	\$ 328.80	\$ 3,218.96	\$ 7,451.34	\$ 12,218.29	3.98
Sugar maple	\$ 1,827.46	\$ 319.85	\$ 4,325.81	\$ 6,831.11	\$ 13,304.23	4.38
Ginkgo	\$ 1,315.49	\$ 589.90	\$ 3,327.49	\$ 5,409.98	\$ 10,642.86	3.50
Japanese zelkova	\$ 565.52	\$ 154.50	\$ 1,416.36	\$ 3,546.11	\$ 5,682.48	1.85
Japan. pagoda tree	\$ 382.08	\$ 102.42	\$ 669.31	\$ 1,578.60	\$ 2,732.41	0.90
Kwanzan cherry	\$ 300.50	\$ 70.83	\$ 432.72	\$ 441.29	\$ 1,245.34	0.43
Amur Maple	\$ 128.30	\$ 14.00	\$ 380.58	\$ 399.11	\$ 921.98	0.32
Amur corktree	\$ 163.70	\$ 69.07	\$ 383.66	\$ 664.87	\$ 1,281.29	0.42
Silver maple	\$ 178.91	\$ 49.83	\$ 519.15	\$ 636.71	\$ 1,384.60	0.46
Hawthorn	\$ 43.64	\$ 10.59	\$ 60.11	\$ 73.93	\$ 188.27	0.06
Dogwood	\$ 19.88	\$ 3.71	\$ 32.60	\$ 26.56	\$ 82.76	0.03
Horsechestnut	\$ 73.66	\$ 19.30	\$ 225.98	\$ 377.39	\$ 696.32	0.23
Northern catalpa	\$ 71.22	\$ 17.53	\$ 272.21	\$ 298.78	\$ 659.74	0.22
Ironwood	\$ 14.47	\$ 4.35	\$ 27.46	\$ 139.32	\$ 185.60	0.06
Chinese elm	\$ 40.86	\$ 13.06	\$ 143.77	\$ 178.89	\$ 376.58	0.12
Callery pear	\$ 1.59	\$ 0.35	\$ 2.06	\$ 6.14	\$ 10.14	0.00
Magnolia	\$ 3.41	\$ 0.61	\$ 4.63	\$ 16.78	\$ 25.42	0.01
American elm	\$ 42.21	\$ 6.03	\$ 228.73	\$ 94.70	\$ 371.67	0.12
Tulip tree	\$ 4.96	\$ 1.47	\$ 10.33	\$ 38.35	\$ 55.10	0.02
Black cherry	\$ 4.96	\$ 1.47	\$ 10.33	\$ 38.35	\$ 55.10	0.02
Mulberry	\$ 20.34	\$ (0.38)	\$ 71.89	\$ 89.44	\$ 181.29	0.06
Pottstown total	\$ 34,637.99	\$ 9,094.45	\$ 97,849.72	\$ 163,141.76	\$ 304,723.92	100.00

i-Tree shows the annual benefits of Pottstown's 3,100 street trees top \$300,000