

## Noice Reduction

- Street trees can act as sound barriers, reducing traffic and other noises, and creating a more peaceful living environment

## Privacy

- Well-placed trees can block the view into windows from the street, allowing for more privacy
- Trees can also act as a natural barrier to increase the security of a property



*Interested in planting trees in your area and wondering how to get started?*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

City of Allentown  
Department of Public Works  
641 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St  
Allentown, PA 18103  
610-437-7596



Allentown Environmental  
Advisory Council

## BENEFITS OF STREET TREES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD







## Health Benefits

- Having more trees in a neighborhood is proven to improve mental well-being and reduce stress
- Reduction in extreme heat from tree coverage can also reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses
- Trees will filter pollutants that will improve air quality and can lead to improved respiratory health. This is especially important in the Lehigh Valley as it is currently rated one of the worst places to live with asthma
- Having trees in an area encourages spending time outdoors, walking and biking in the area, which can improve one's physical health



## Economic Benefits

- Trees can increase property value because of their aesthetic appeal
- Shade from trees can reduce air conditioning costs in the summer
- Trees act as windbreakers which will reduce heating costs in the winter

## Environmental Benefits

- Trees contribute to carbon sequestration as they take in carbon from the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change
- Trees reduce the Urban Heat Island effect by providing shade that helps cool the city
- Trees help with stormwater management, which will reduce runoff and prevent water pollution and flooding
- Trees can improve soil quality as their roots will bind the soil together, reducing the risk of soil erosion

## Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats

- Trees act as habitats for many species of insects, birds, and other wildlife that can increase the biodiversity in the urban area
- Trees will attract pollinators to the area, an essential part of any local ecosystem



## WHAT ARE THE COSTS?



### Soil Preparation

Healthy soil is essential for ensuring the long-term health of these new trees. To take care of the soil health, each of these trees will receive a \$4 bag of soil and a \$3 bag of mulch covered by Promise Neighborhoods.



### Maintenance

Regular tree maintenance such as pruning and shaping is frequently necessary. Generally, for smaller trees such as these, maintenance can be taken care of by the owner for the first 10 to 15 years. After this, costs may increase if hiring maintenance work is necessary.



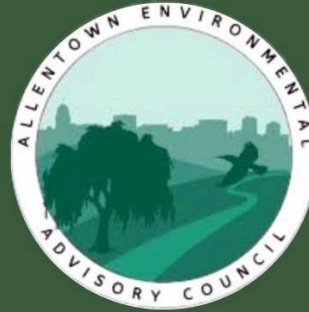
### Watering

The tree will require regular watering for the first few months after being planted; Frequency will decrease with time. Watering will be taken care of by Promise Neighborhoods for the first year, becoming the responsibility of property owners after this. Typically, trees need to be watered for up to three years after being planted, particularly during dry spells. Watering costs will total about \$0.50 per month, and each tree will be provided with a 20-gallon water bag. Other watering costs can include a hose to fill up the water bag after the first year.



### Removal

If the tree is unable to survive the planting, it needs to be removed. On the other hand, the tree may live for decades and need to be removed later on due to disease, pests, environmental stressors, physical damage, age, or another cause. For small trees, the cost of removal is generally quite low but will increase as the tree grows older and larger in size.



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# PROPERTY OWNERS GUIDE TO SHADE TREES



## WHAT IS GOING ON?

### Street Tree Plantings

Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley (PNLV) has received a grant to plant 30 trees on properties in the Jordan Heights area.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

### Jordan Heights Neighborhood Property Owners

Currently, the grant is supporting the planting of 30 trees in Jordan Heights. You are eligible to apply for a tree if you own property in Jordan Heights and are receiving this material.



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

### Increase Property Value

Homes near trees are considered more attractive, thereby improving your property value.

### Energy Savings

Providing shade will reduce the energy cooling costs in the summer, as the shade will lower indoor temperatures and allow for less air conditioning usage. In the winter, trees block cold winds allowing for lower energy costs through less heating usage.

### Health Advantages

Having more tree coverage in a neighborhood is proven to improve residents mental-well being and reduce stress. Reduction in extreme heat from tree coverage can also reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses. Trees will filter pollutants that will improve the air quality in the area and can lead to improved respiratory health. This is especially important as the Lehigh Valley is listed as one of the worst places to live with asthma.

### Noise Reduction

Street trees act as sound barriers, reducing traffic and other noises. This can make a more peaceful living environment, making a property more appealing.

### Stormwater Management

Trees on your property can help to manage stormwater by absorbing the water through its roots, preventing flooding, and protecting your property from water damage.

### Privacy

Well-placed trees can block the view into windows, allowing for more privacy. Trees can also act as a natural barrier, which can increase the security of the property.

## HOW TO OBTAIN A PERMIT

All permit requirements will be taken care of by Promise Neighborhoods. For future interest in planting more trees, see the information below.

### Why do I need a permit?



Permits allow the City to ensure that tree work is completed in accordance with ANSI Z133 safety standards and ISA arboriculture best practices.

### Who can get a permit?



**Property owners** - can obtain a permit for stump removal or planting only  
**Tree Contractors** - Approved by ISA can obtain a permit for pruning, full removal, stump removal, & planting

### License



Tree work performed on a street or public property trees must be done by an ISA-Certified, licensed tree service company with the City of Allentown.

### How do I get a permit?



Contact the Department of Public Works at (610) 437-7596 anytime between 8am and 4pm, Monday through Friday and ask about getting a tree planting permit.