



Junction City



Newton

Kansas Trees are Terrific In Cities, Towns and Communities

2025 Kansas Arbor Day
Poster Contest



Celebrating 50 Years of Tree
City USA



Dodge City



Clay Center

A World Without Trees



Silty, flood-prone rivers

Hot, sun-baked
cities

Rapid runoff
from slopes

Eroded farmland

A World With Trees



Natural River Systems

Shaded homes
and streets

Forested slopes
for recreation

Productive Farmland

TRUE

OR

FALSE

Trees help clean our air

TRUE

Trees remove pollution from the atmosphere, improving air quality and human health. In greater Kansas City, trees remove 26,000 tons of air pollution each year. Roadside trees reduce nearby indoor air pollution by more than 50%.



Trees do not improve Kansans' quality of life.

FALSE



Gardens, parks and other managed green spaces have a positive effect on public wellbeing and health. Trees cool city streets, clean the air, reduce crime, and increase property values and business traffic. Windbreaks, shelterbelts, and riparian plantings benefit the quality of life for Kansans by improving home energy savings, increasing crop yields, and slowing erosion and sedimentation of reservoirs. Many Kansas hospitals and recovery centers have developed horticulture therapy programs for their healing patients. Hospitals often contain a walk-through garden, trees near the building, and small plants inside hospital rooms in efforts to assist a patient's recovery.

Trees provide us with oxygen.

TRUE

One large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to 4 people. More than 20% of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest.



Amazon Rainforest

Trees do not help clean our drinking water.

FALSE

Forested watersheds provide quality drinking water to more than 180 million Americans. There were 44,092 tons of sediment kept from entering John Redmond, Perry and Tuttle Creek reservoirs by 8 streambank stabilization projects and more than 362,000 native tree seeds planted in riparian forests areas in Kansas in 2023. The streamside forests of Kansas are some of the state's greatest natural resources. Streamside forests (also known as riparian forests) play an important role statewide, as they act to protect water quality for more than 134,400 miles of streams, creeks, and rivers.



Trees along Tuttle Creek

Trees provide much-needed cooling.

TRUE



Trees in Lawrence

Trees lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade. Shade trees planted on the west and south sides of a home help shade and cool the air around the home during the summer reducing cost of air condition up to 30%.

Evergreen trees placed on the north and west sides of a home or building block cold winter winds, reducing cost of hearing by 20-30%. For example, if you have two identical houses with the only difference being that one has strategically planted trees and the other does not, the house with the trees might only spend \$70.00 a month for heating while the treeless home might have a \$100.000 heating expense. That saving also means less burning of fossil fuels (non-renewable oil, coal, or gas), which is good for the environment!

Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), removing and storing the carbon while releasing the oxygen back into the air.

TRUE

In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the amount of CO₂ produced by a car driven 26,000 miles.



Trees and cars in Manhattan

Trees do not help us save energy.

FALSE



Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and can save 20-50% in energy used for heating. A 2012 study of the trees and forests in Douglas County show that their 14.1 million trees provide \$17.7 million in annual service by removing pollution and provide an annual benefit of \$2.9 million by reducing energy consumption. Computer models devised by the U.S. Department of Energy predict that the proper placement of only three trees can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in energy costs annually.

Trees don't benefit wildlife.

FALSE

Trees provide vital wildlife habitat. Trees and forests provide important species range. Many animals have a range of hundreds of square miles. The mountain lion of North America, for instance, has a range of nearly 400 square miles.



Male Cardinal in tree

Trees help reduce crime.

TRUE



Graffiti in forest

Living in an area with trees helps reduce stresses that can be associated with living in a big city. Less stress can ease tensions that sometimes lead to violence. In Baltimore, a 10% increase in tree canopy corresponded to a 12% decrease in crime. Among minor crimes, there is less graffiti, vandalism and littering in outdoor spaces with trees as a part of the natural landscape than in comparable plant-less spaces.

Trees are a good investment of our public dollars.

TRUE

Every dollar spent on planting and caring for a community tree yields benefits that are two to five times that investment. Benefits that include cleaner air, lower energy costs, improved water quality and storm water control and increased property values. Kansas Tree City USA communities planted 6,473 trees in 2023.



Trees decrease our property values.



Kansas State University Gardens

FALSE

Trees can add an average of 10-15% to a property's value. For example, a home or apartment valued at \$100,000 might sell for \$110,000 (an increase of \$10,000!) if it has trees around it. Tree planting is one of the best investments a person can make in their home. And in business areas, too. Business districts with trees are more attractive to shoppers. Surveys have found that shoppers are willing to pay 9-12% more for goods and services in business districts with large, well-cared for trees. Visitors claim they will pay more for parking on streets with trees.

Getting outside and connecting with trees and nature has been shown to improve children's concentration and attention span.

TRUE

When children spend time in nature-rich spaces their ability to concentrate improves. Even small areas of green space, with a few trees and plants, can make a difference for children.

