

# Urban trees – the facts

## Trees help you live longer and happier

Research has shown the more trees are planted in a street the longer people live. That association grows stronger as the trees grow and age. Spending time near trees can also relieve stress, improving your overall wellbeing.

## Each urban tree provides hundreds of pounds a year in benefits

The value of non-woodland trees to the UK population is estimated to be from £1.4bn to £3.8bn a year. This is because of their role in capturing climate-heating carbon dioxide, reducing toxic air pollution and slowing the flow of rainwater, cutting flood risks.

## Trees can increase your property value

International studies have shown having trees on your street can increase property prices by between 5% and 18%.

## Trees can help stop climate change

Trees are our most powerful weapon in the fight against climate change. They capture and store carbon, prevent flooding, reduce urban heat in summer, and reduce pollution. However, they have a big task. It takes around 450 mature trees to offset the annual carbon emissions of one person.

# Trees in your area – busting the myths

Separate the fact from fiction when it comes to tree planting in your area.

## Myth 1: New trees will damage pavements and roads

The main cause of root heave is tree roots not having enough space to grow underground. Choosing the right variety, allowing adequate uncompacted soil beneath the tree and using tree grates can all help reduce the risk of damage.

## Myth 2: The council is cutting down all the trees anyway

The council will normally only remove trees to manage disease or because they are unsafe. Brighton and Hove City Council is responsible for managing around 12,000 street trees and is working with us to plant more.

## Myth 3: A tree will block out all the light to my home

There are tree varieties with light canopies, for example Gleditsia, Robinia and some open canopy pines. It is all about choosing the right species for the location.

## Myth 4: Urban trees are less important for nature

Urban trees are incredibly important for biodiversity, providing vital nature corridors and habitats. A single oak tree can be home to 2,300 species without counting fungi and microorganisms.

## Myth 5: Nothing I do will make a difference

There are lots of ways to help increase the amount of trees where you live. You can volunteer at a tree planting event, start your own community group and fundraise for trees in your area.

If you have any further questions the CPRE Sussex team is here to help. Get in touch with us by emailing [info@cpresussex.org.uk](mailto:info@cpresussex.org.uk) or find out more about our work at [cpresussex.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/forgotten-places](https://cpresussex.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/forgotten-places)



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