The Value of Trees

Pittsburgh's Street Trees Benefit the Community in the Following Ways:

Increase Carbon Storage

Trees are unique in their ability to lock up large amounts of dangerous carbon in their wood, and continue to add carbon as they grow. As a result, the amount of carbon released into the environment is reduced by 7.3 million pounds per year.

Annual Value: **$38,335**
Net Benefit Per Tree: **$1.14**

Remove and Mitigate Air Pollutants

Pittsburgh's tree population improves the city air quality by removing CO_2 from the atmosphere during photosynthesis.

Annual Value: **$117,100**
Net Benefit Per Tree: **$12.48**

Improve Aesthetics and Property Values

Trees provide more than beauty--they increase the value of a property! Several nationwide surveys (source HGTV) show that mature trees in a well- landscaped yard or lot can increase the value of a property by 7 percent to 19 percent.

Annual Value: **$1,556,747**
Net Benefit Per Tree: **$46.47**

Reduce Electricity & Natural Gas Use

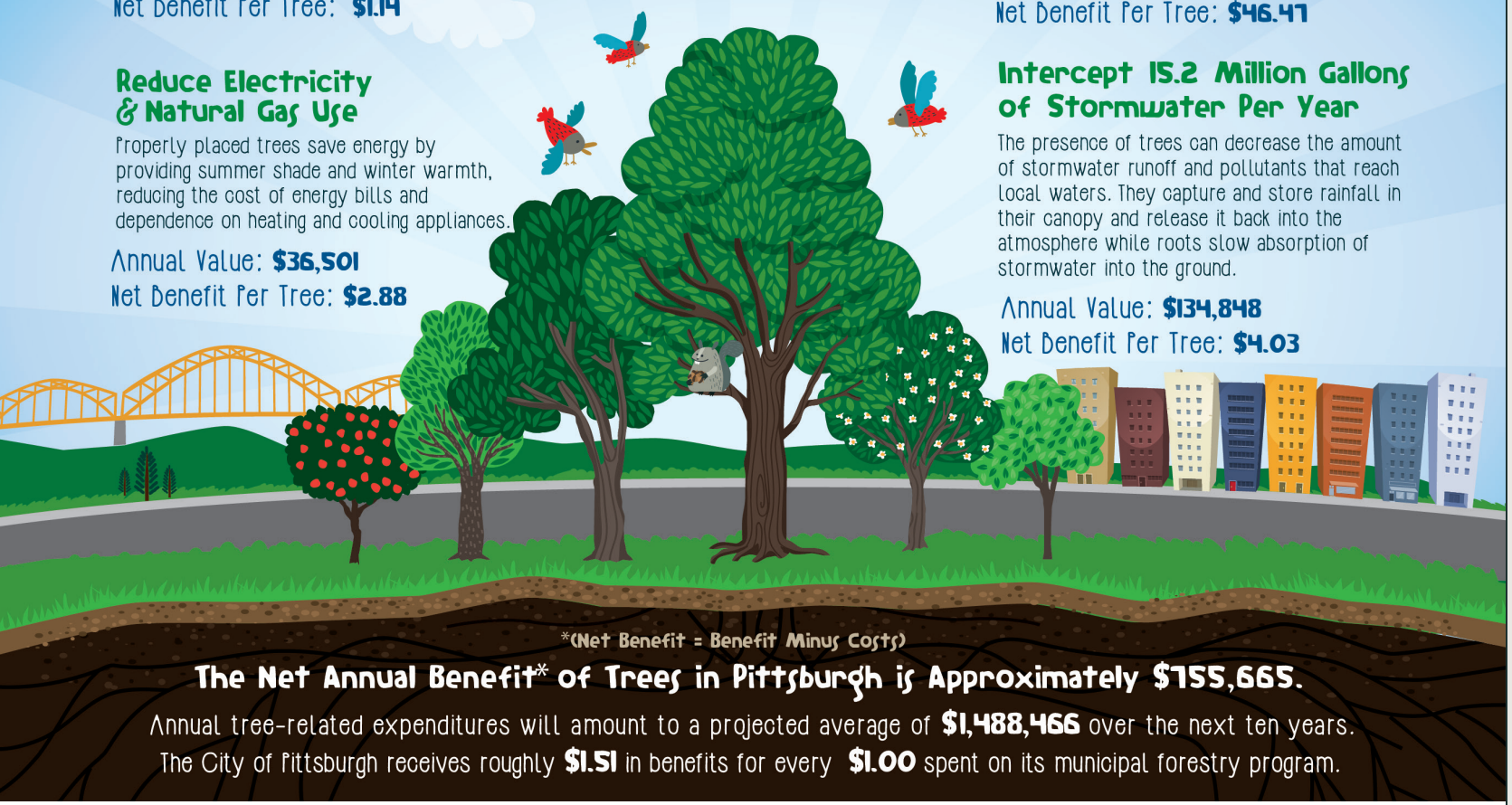
Properly placed trees save energy by providing summer shade and winter warmth, reducing the cost of energy bills and dependence on heating and cooling appliances.

Annual Value: **$36,501**
Net Benefit Per Tree: **$2.88**

Intercept 15.2 Million Gallons of Stormwater Per Year

The presence of trees can decrease the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants that reach local waters. They capture and store rainfall in their canopy and release it back into the atmosphere while roots slow absorption of stormwater into the ground.

Annual Value: **$134,848**
Net Benefit Per Tree: **$4.03**



*(Net Benefit = Benefit Minus Costs)

The Net Annual Benefit* of Trees in Pittsburgh is Approximately $155,665.

Annual tree-related expenditures will amount to a projected average of **$1,488,466** over the next ten years.
The City of Pittsburgh receives roughly **$1.51** in benefits for every **$1.00** spent on its municipal forestry program.

Streets With Trees VS. Streets Without Trees

Tree-lined streets have many benefits including noise absorption and home energy savings. The cooling effect of one tree equals 10 air conditioners running 20 hours a day!

Streets without trees feel incomplete and have real world impacts such as more UV exposure for kids and more harmful pollutants that are not being filtered from the air.