



Health and well being

Trees play an important role in reducing the risk of skin cancers by providing shade from harmful ultra-violet radiation.

Our stress and illness levels are often lower where trees are planted, as trees provide psychological refreshment and a sense of well being through softening the urban environment. As trees mature, they create character and a sense of place and permanence whilst releasing scents and aromas that create a positive emotional response.



Climate change

As well as absorbing carbon dioxide (the main green house gas) and producing oxygen, trees filter, absorb and reduce pollutant gasses including ozone, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide.

Trees work all year round for us by reducing localised extremes in temperatures – cooling in the summer and warming in the winter. Large leaf canopies catch rainfall – slowing down the water's progress from sky to ground, thus helping to reduce flash flooding.



Social and environmental

Community focal points, which include trees, provide amenity and aesthetic value as well as historical continuity. Our trees offer habitats for a broad range of wildlife – large and small – throughout the year. Trees also mark the changing seasons with leaf changes and floral displays.



Economic

The presence of trees can increase the value of residential and commercial property by 5%-18%, while the value of undeveloped land – which can provide mature trees – can be increased by 27%.

When planted strategically they can reduce fossil fuel emissions by reducing fuel costs for heating and cooling buildings.

The London Tree Officers Association

The London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) provides an information network for the exchange of views, experiences and ideas on trees. The Association dates back to 1982 and aims to enhance the management of the Capital's trees and woodlands.



It involves local authority Tree Officers in all 33 London boroughs from which there are approximately 90 members and an associate membership scheme with about 50 members.

The content of this leaflet is from the LTOA Risk Limitation Strategy for tree root claims May 2007, page 22. This is available by free download from the LTOA website at ltoa.org.uk

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Trees do more than you think

"A Londoner born and bred I grew up street wise in a city blessed with the virtues of many trees. Trees are the high rise guardians of the urban environment. Your support is essential to their future."

Professor David Bellamy OBE.



Why trees are good for us

Trees are an important part of our lives and have many hidden benefits that are not always obvious. For example, trees reduce skin cancers and help reduce flash flooding.

