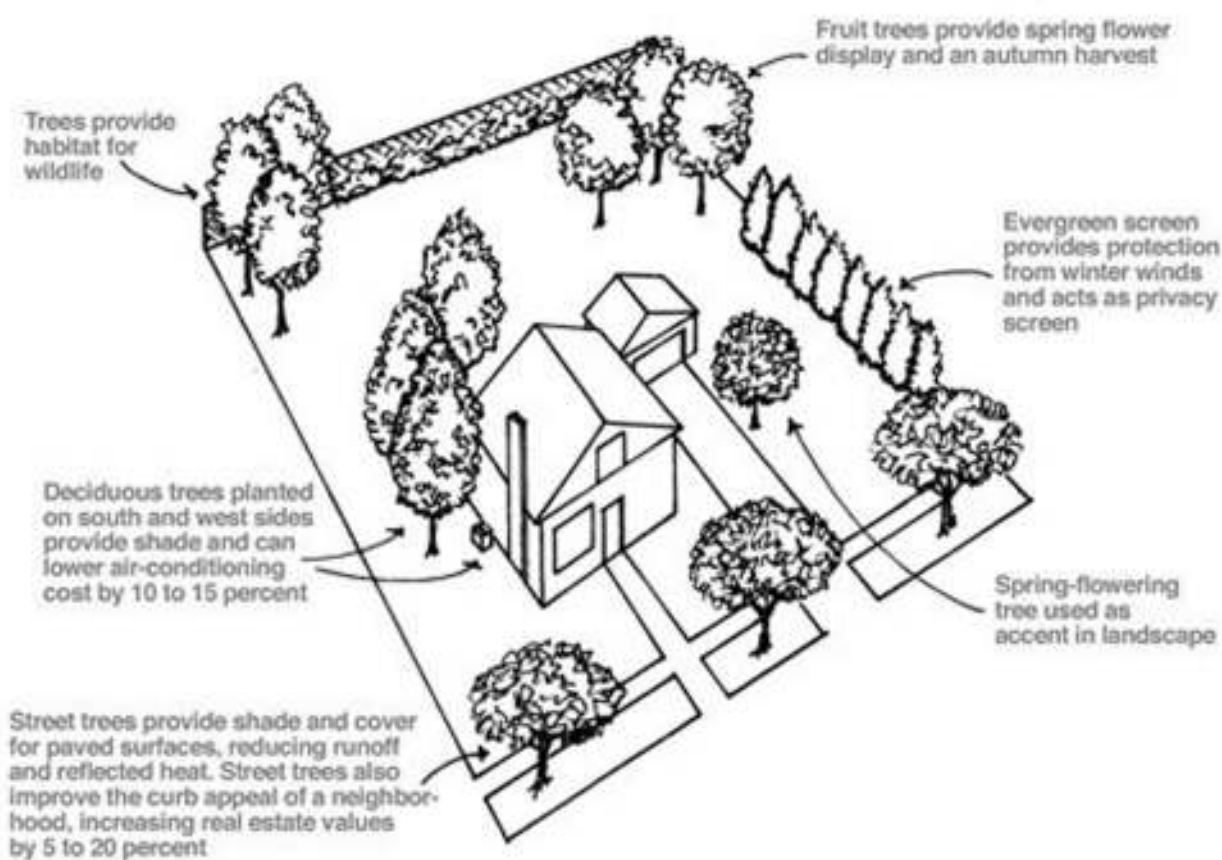


Conservation Corner: There's money in trees . . . no really it is true



DAN PERKINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Spring is in the air and getting outside and tending to the yard is a top priority. It is also prime time to plant any new trees. You might wonder; is it really worth planting one tree and how much are trees worth? Most likely more than you think. A tree over a 50 year period, will generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, and recycle \$37,500 worth of water. You invest a lot of time, care, and money into landscaping your property, expecting beauty and shade in return.



Many options exist for having trees on your property.

But the unexpected "return" on that investment is that trees have monetary value as well. When you stop to consider that landscaping can be worth up to 20 percent of your home's total property value, you'll understand why it's worthwhile to protect the investment you've

made in your greenery. According to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), a tree's value is based on four factors: tree size, tree type, tree condition, and overall tree location based on its functional and aesthetic purposes. Try out this website, you

tree type, and size and it gives a rough dollar value for that tree <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm> While it's impossible to prevent storms, accidents, and air pollution from causing damage to your trees and plants, it is possible to recapture your landscape losses

through an insurance claim, or as a deduction from federal income taxes, advises ISA. If your trees and landscape are damaged, ISA recommends that you:

- Contact your homeowner's insurance company.
- Have the insurance company send a profes-

Photo Contributed

sional tree and landscaping appraiser out to your property immediately after the damage has occurred.

- Have the appraiser determine your financial loss, including the cost of removal and repair.
- Contact a local ISA Certified Arborist if repair or replacement is needed.

Just as you would with any other valuable asset, document your investment in landscaping to help establish its worth. ISA suggests taking pictures of trees and plants while they are healthy to make insurance processing simpler with "before and after" examples.

Article information was drawn from www.treesaregood.com. If you think you have a big tree on your property and want to register it as such, please contact our SWCD office. 219-866-8008 ext 3.

Reminder: Tuesday, April 6th is the Jasper County SWCD Annual Tree Sale at the Jasper County Fairgrounds from 10am to 6pm. We have extra trees, native plants, rain barrels, and composting kits for purchase!

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