



Landscaping - Scenic Texas Fact Sheet

Scenic Texas supports continued funding of the Green Ribbons Program and an encouragement that TxDOT use low maintenance and non-exotic, non-invasive species of trees, shrubs, flowers, or other plantings that are in context with the region's climate, natural landscape, and geography. This legislation will be authored by State Representative Garnet Coleman, Houston, who carried the 2001 Green Ribbons legislation.

It has been demonstrated that landscaping, particularly with trees, results in increased real estate values, savings in energy costs, and the reduction of pollution and, at the same time, produces more intangible results such as creating a sense of place and unity with nature. Relocation experts have reported that people want to live, work and play in beautiful places. And it has been repeatedly shown that tourists prefer to travel to places of beauty.

- Planting a tree is a smart economic move:**
 - Each year, one 50-year-old urban tree supplies
 - Air conditioning worth \$73
 - Soil erosion and storm water control worth \$75
 - Air pollution control worth \$50
 - Wildlife shelters worth \$75

Compounded at 5%, over its lifetime a tree's total value is more than \$57,000
 - Well-positioned trees save 20-25% on household energy when compared with one in a wide-open space
 - The presence of trees in neighborhoods increases the market values of homes by 13%

- Texas trees result in less pollution and high value because they trap dust, ash & smoke:**
 - Austin—2800 metric tons pollution removed/year or \$14.5 million value
 - Dallas—2600 metric tons pollution removed/year or \$14 million value
 - Houston—2300 metric tons pollution removed/year or \$11.9 million value
 - El Paso—400 metric tons pollution removed/year or \$1.96 million value

- Trees result in heat reduction:**
 - Cities are “heat islands” that are 3-10 degrees hotter than the surrounding areas. Trees emit moisture, therefore cool the air.
 - In large urban parks, temperatures can be 7 degrees lower than in the surrounding neighborhoods.

- Landscaping makes good business sense:
 - instrumental in attracting new businesses and residents to Texas.
 - University of Washington survey reported that shoppers would be willing to:
 - pay more for parking in a well-landscaped area, and
 - pay 11% more for products in landscaped districts.
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- Landscaping has grassroots support:
 - 57% of Texans are in favor of spending more public funds to make Texas more beautiful (Texas Environmental Survey conducted by Stephen L. Klineberg, PhD., Rice University from December 2000 through January 2001).

- Planting low maintenance native or adaptive non-invasive materials will result in a cost savings:
 - The requirements of low maintenance native or adaptive plants will mean that maintenance costs will be minimal and that Texas roads will look like they’re in Texas rather than in anystate, U.S.A.
 - No mowing of grass.
 - After initial installation/establishment period, little or no maintenance will be required.

** According to studies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the American Forestry Association.