

## Planting Trees in Aberdeen

History has shown that people who live in cities want the benefits that trees provide. Cities and towns established in the northern plains 100 plus years ago knew the importance of planting and establishing trees for the many benefits they provide. Those benefits haven't really changed, but the value placed on city trees in some communities has. We are very lucky to live in a community (Aberdeen) that still values trees and continues to care for those planted many years ago and continues to establish new trees for the future. We are not alone. Cities and towns across the country are revitalizing their aging urban forests as more and more research and educational information is being disseminated about their benefits. We really do plant trees for the same reasons they were planted in our history. These benefits include: Shade, beautification, wind and snow protection, wildlife, combatting climate change and many others.

The City of Aberdeen alone has over 12,000 trees growing in our boulevards. This does not include all the others growing in public, residential and commercial areas. It is vital that we and other communities continue the progress of establishing new trees as we expand and also as we fight new invasive insects brought over from other parts of the world. We also need to continue caring for our older trees and remember to replace trees that have died or have had to be removed. Most importantly, we need to learn from our mistakes and plant a more diversified urban forest. We need to make sure we are planting as many different kinds of trees as we can to combat future insect and disease threats. We are benefiting from those who planted trees in the past; it is our job to plant for those in the future.

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