

Why Urban Forestry ...

Trees play critical roles in the quality of life. Trees make our community more beautiful and they also provide us with many environmental benefits too.

- Leaves work as air cleaners by removing sulfur and nitrogen oxide - major components of acid rain and ozone pollution.
- Trees reduce water pollution by acting as natural water filters for storm water runoff. By absorbing storm water, tree roots can reduce peak runoff by 10 - 20%.
- Tree roots prevent erosion by holding soil in place.
- Trees provide shade for more pleasant summer living and savings on your electric bill. Shade can also help counter urban "heat island" effect of downtown streets and parking lots where the air temperature can be 7 to 9 degrees hotter than surrounding areas.
- Trees add dollar value to residential and commercial properties.
- Trees create habitat for plants and animals.
- Trees improve health. The health benefits of cleaner air and water are self-evident. But it is also known that green environments reduce stress.

Trees are major capital assets in our cities and towns - as much an integral part of the scene as sidewalks, streets, and buildings -- they represent a major component of the green infrastructure.

The best friend on Earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources of the Earth.

— Frank Lloyd Wright

Urban Forestry Contacts

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All About ...

Waxhaw Urban Forestry



Town of Waxhaw
North Carolina

www.waxhaw.com

Plant. Live. Grow.

Urban Forestry Is...

the care of trees that grow in and around our Town. The goal of an urban forestry program is to extend the life of trees, safeguard public safety and produce a reliable source of shade, beauty and other non-commercial benefits that results from healthy trees in parks and along streets.

Waxhaw's Urban Forestry Program

The Town of Waxhaw was a 2009 recipient of the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources' Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant Program. The goal of the U&CF Grant Program is to develop, enhance and support sustainable urban and community forestry programs throughout North Carolina by encouraging citizen and community involvement.

Waxhaw's Tree Inventory and Management Plan Project was selected among 24 other proposals and received a grant award of \$10,950.

Waxhaw's project is well underway. In December 2009 Arboguard performed an inventory on trees located in and around Historic Downtown Waxhaw, on all Town owned parcels and along street right-of-ways. The data collected from the tree inventory will be used to develop an urban forest management and maintenance plan for public trees.

Waxhaw residents, elected officials, and staff realize the benefits of trees and their role in our Town character. The implementation of an Urban Forestry Program is an important step in qualifying and quantifying trees as a part of Waxhaw's infrastructure. Waxhaw is the only municipality in Union County to implement a program of this caliber to incorporate trees into future planning efforts.

Tree Survey Summary

Number of Trees Surveyed:	774
Most Common Species:	Loblolly Pine, Willow Oak
Pollution Removal:	1,996.12 lbs/yr
Carbon Storage:	993.6 tons
Carbon Sequestration:	31.98 tons/yr
Replacement Value:	\$40 million dollars

What do these Results mean?

Simply put, Waxhaw's public trees are in good shape. There are 48 different tree species identified, indicating a good species distribution. Of the trees surveyed 94% are in good condition.

Environmental Benefits

Poor air quality is a big problem. Waxhaw's urban forest helps to improve air quality by directly removing pollutants from the air. Waxhaw's trees are working to keep us healthy.

 The total amount of carbon stored in the tissue of Waxhaw's trees is the equivalent of almost 138 cars emissions for one year!

 The top 3 pollutants removed are Ozone, particulate matter less than 10 microns and Nitrogen Dioxide. The estimated value of the pollution removed annually is approximately \$5,000.

Next Steps...

Staff is working on the following to complete the establishment of Waxhaw's Urban Forestry Program.

 Development of a tree maintenance and management plan based on tree inventory.

 Update Town Ordinances to reference Waxhaw's Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Waxhaw's Urban Forestry Program is an ongoing, joint effort between the Town of Waxhaw Public Services, Planning & Community Development Department, and Union County Urban Forester.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.

~ Chinese Proverb