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West End's Natural Canopy: The Power of Trees



The West End is fortunate to have many mature tree specimens. These trees contribute to the historical character and sense of community of our neighborhood. Some even pre-date the houses that they shade. Not only do trees contribute to historical character, but they also...

Improve property values: Homes with tree canopies over streets sell faster and for higher prices than identical homes without street trees. **Decrease energy costs:** Properly selected and sited trees can reduce your heating and/or cooling costs, thereby reducing the amount of fossil fuels used to provide energy for heating and cooling. Reducing the use of fossil fuels also decreases the air contamination generated when such fuels are burnt. A deciduous tree on the southwest side of your home will shade the house from the afternoon sun during the summer, and the absence of leaves during winter will allow the sun's rays to heat your home. **Improve air and water quality:** Trees improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen and trapping airborne pollutants such as dirt and chemical particles. Trees improve water quality by reducing soil erosion, controlling stormwater runoff and protecting the aquatic life that acts as natural water filters. Unfortunately West End's only stream is lacking trees on its banks. The few nearby trees that shade the stream have been marked to be cut down. **Provide buffers:** Trees can buffer us from noise pollution and unattractive sights. A row of dense evergreen trees such as the Red Cedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*) makes an excellent screen.

For all these reasons and more we need to preserve the trees we have. Although West End has more trees than most neighborhoods it is important that we recognize threats and plant additional trees to replace those that may be lost. Our investments will be rewarded with many of the benefits mentioned above. Future segments will highlight notable West End specimens and will describe each species in more detail. Some of West End's characteristic species that may be highlighted include Hemlocks, Oaks, Poplars, Maples, Golden Rain trees, Redbuds, Deodor Cedars and more. For sources used or more information feel free to contact me at 722-2881. -- Kevin Lindsey.

West End Association Membership Application

Join the West End Association and help create a friendly and beautiful neighborhood. Membership is as low as \$15 for families in 2002. You will help support the newsletter, park and roadway enhancements, and monitoring of zoning and the Historic District Commission. You can join the West End email list (<http://www.actionsspeak.org/westend>) to receive information on houses for sale and their prices, notes from your Alderman, crime statistics, invitations to monthly gatherings, and much more! **Annual Dues for 2002 are due NOW. Send to: WEA, POB 10055, W-S, NC 27108**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

() New Member () Renewal

Enclose \$15 for Family Membership; \$75 for Business Membership

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