

Trees Make Neighborhoods a Better Place

With the storms that have recently hit Knoxville, awareness of the hazards of trees is likely at an all-time high. The destruction indirectly caused by trees is very visible, so it's easy to lose sight of their benefits to us and our neighborhoods. But the benefits are great: for example, did you know street trees have been shown to reduce vehicular speeding, making neighborhoods safer for pedestrians and bicyclists? Or that the temperatures in neighborhoods with more trees are significantly lower than in those with less, providing comfort, protection from heat-related ailments, and lower utility bills? Or that neighborhoods with greater tree canopy cover have overall higher property values?

With proper care and maintenance by reputable licensed and bonded tree care professionals, homeowners and neighborhoods can maintain a healthy tree canopy without sacrificing safety. Before purchasing a property that has large trees, it's a good idea to have a certified arborist do a tree inspection as part of a home inspection. Current homeowners should look after their trees regularly as well, having tree care such as pruning of dead branches performed regularly. The benefits far outweigh the risks, and healthy trees make for healthy people and healthy neighborhoods.