

# Model Neighborhood Tree Plan: Working Together to Improve the Treescape of Indianapolis

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## Introduction

1. Start off by gathering tree data for the neighborhood as well as data about the history and demographics of the neighborhood.
  - Then seek out neighborhood leadership and walk through the neighborhood with them.
2. Next, identify key areas of interest and establish goals that are clear and realistic.
  - Set general guidelines for the project and outline a useful and practical way that will ensure goals are met.
3. Identify how progress will be tracked and measured.
  - Set a timeframe for the project in which reporting will be done and given to the community for analysis.
4. Identify when you will conclude the project and how the report on the work done will be presented and published for the community.
  - If goals are not met there should be a new plan created to meet these goals unless a disclaimer at the beginning of the project that if goals aren't met no further project will be created.

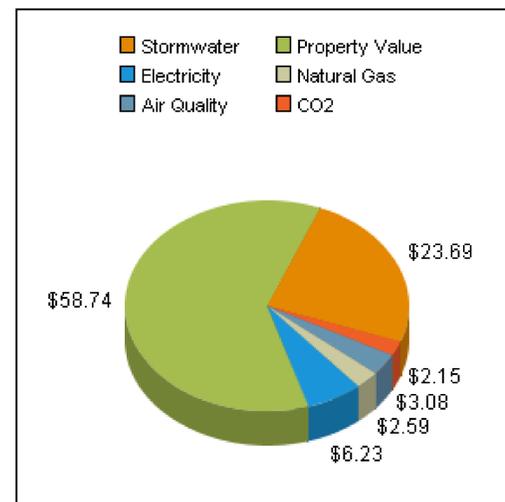


## Neighborhood Plan

It's hard to get where you want to go without a road map, and affecting neighborhood change is a complex matter made even more difficult without an informed and prioritized agenda.

- Here the plan would include information about how the plan could directly affect some issues that the neighborhood and surrounding area are facing regarding urban forestry.

Trees provide many benefits to you and your neighbor. Check out the diagram below generated from the national tree benefit calculator depicting the benefits of one 15 inch white oak tree.



Trees can also offer benefits that are not seen on this diagram. These benefits include reduced temperatures, increased air quality, increased aesthetics of the neighborhood, and links to increased physical, mental and social health.

In order to get the most benefits out of the trees it is important to plant a diverse crop of trees. The general rule to follow is no more than 10% of the same species, 20% of the same genus, and 30% of the same family. In terms of species that do well in and around Indianapolis here are a few examples: American Elm, Northern Catalpa, Red Cedar, and Bur Oak. You will want to choose species that are native to the area as they will provide the most benefits to you as well as to the wildlife.

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### Step One: Assessing your current tree population

Tree canopy cover in the entire city of Indianapolis has been calculated at 33%, with neighborhoods ranging from 3%-69%.

What is your neighborhood's canopy cover? Information can be found on Keep Indianapolis Beautiful's Tree Canopy Planning and Master Tool found online at [www.kibi.org](http://www.kibi.org)

### Step Two: Establish shared neighborhood goals

The city of Indianapolis Tree Board, in its 2014 Master Plan stated a goal to increase the tree canopy cover and quality for the entire city of Indianapolis.

How many trees would you like to add to your street? What types are trees is your neighborhood interested in planting?

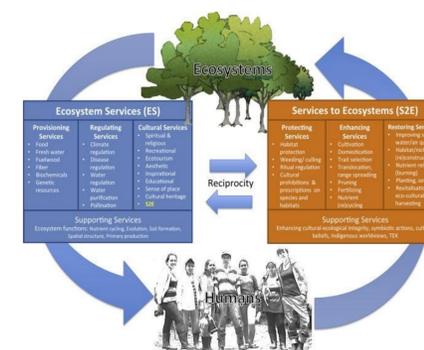


Image: sciencedirect.com  
Trees offer us many benefits beyond their beauty!

### Step Three: Make a plan to achieve the goals and identify actions

- Apply for a planting with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
- Volunteer to water and care for a tree or group of trees and encourage your neighbors to do the same
- Enjoy your communal green space with your neighbors!

### Step Four: Plan for the trees of your neighborhood's future

Schedule a future tree inventory to assess success of the trees you have planted and to make plans for more plantings and a greener, leafier future for your block!

## Additional questions to ask neighborhood leaders

1. How much time do you anticipate putting into tree upkeep and maintenance?
2. If possible, are you interested in fruit or nut bearing trees you could harvest when in season?
3. Have you ever planted a tree before?
4. Do you envision the trees you plant helping you and your neighbors spend more time outdoors together?
5. Do you envision any challenges for you or for your neighbors involving the planting or upkeep of trees in your area?

## Citations

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