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Plant for the future…

No sweat. Plant trees

If you walk a tree-lined Village of Perry street, let's say Spring St., on a 90-degree day, what might you notice? Possibly the cool shade from the trees lining much of that street.

At the intersection of Spring and Dolbeer, head west. What will you notice? It's much hotter on Dolbeer's sidewalks than on Spring's, until you find spotty shade.

Trees' ability to moderate temperatures on hot days is just one of their many advantages, whether they line our village streets or shade our backyards.

Though it's difficult to put an exact number on the temperature difference between streets with a tree canopy and those without, various studies peg it at a 10- to 45-degree difference at peak heat.

"Plants cool the surface of the planet in two ways," explained Melanie Lenart in a 2019 article, *Trees and Local Temperature*. "They cool the air by evaporating water through their leaves." Released water vapor carries off heat.

Trees "also moderate the temperature of the ground surface by shading it from direct sunlight. Both of these processes have the greatest impact on sunny summer afternoons," Lenart wrote.

The temperature difference between shaded and non-shaded ground can be as much as 36 degrees, according to some studies. In a year-long study in New Mexico, peak temperatures of soil exposed to direct sunlight reached about 18 degrees warmer than soils under shade on a typical July afternoon. The reverse is true in winter; January soil temperature was slightly higher under tree canopies than in non-shaded areas.

You don't have to look to New Mexico to understand the importance of trees to moderate temperatures on hot days.

When a large street tree was removed from in front of Jody and Dana Skinner's house on Buckland Ave., their front porch became too hot to enjoy on summer afternoons.

"We have a sun porch and with a large tree gone, it was too hot," Jody Skinner said.

The village replanted a tree at the Skinners' request. "We were so happy to get a new tree," Jody said. "Now we're waiting for it to grow. With a tree in front, the house looks so much nicer, and the house is so much cooler."

Even in winter, trees can affect temperatures, protecting you and your neighbors from cold winds. "Trees, even though they are defoliated in the winter, disrupt the air as the wind blows toward your house, which slows the wind down before it comes into contact with your walls," said Philip Pohyondy, a sustainable forestry coordinator with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. "Some 25% of home heat loss is due to wind and the related mechanically induced pressures. So reducing the wind that hits your home improves energy savings." (Source: *Cold Climate Benefits from Trees* by Nicole Peterson.)

"The trees we plant on our streets are important to different residents for different reasons," said Dan Zerbe, chairman of the Village of Perry's Tree Board. "Some, like the Skinners, request them for shade to make their porch usable in the summer. Some pick a tree variety that was a childhood favorite."

You can do your part to support the Village of Perry's program to enhance and diversify our urban forest. You can request a tree street to replace one removed from in front of your property. And if one is planted, take care of it properly so it will prosper.

"Trees are like our village," said Steve Deaton, DPW superintendent. "Seeds of growth are planted, but it takes care to make them strong, beautiful and to help them grow for our future." *—By Eleanor Jacobs*

Village of Perry Arbor Day Event Scheduled

Mark your calendars for the Village of Perry's Arbor Day celebration, Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 10 AM. The event will take place at the Masonic Temple on Main St., Perry.

Don Gasiewicz with Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension will discuss Common Tree Diseases, Disorders and Pests.

He will present issues and disorders you might see in your yard or public plantings each season of the year.

Don will cover such pests as caterpillars, Japanese beetles, birds, and fungus, both foliar and wood decaying. The presentation will include information on current invasive and emerging invasive species like emerald ash borer, Asian long horned beetle, hemlock wooly adelgid and spotted lanternfly. Gasiewicz will point out insects' life cycles.