



# WHY TREES MATTER

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Learn more about our programs and team members at: [treesmatter.osu.edu](http://treesmatter.osu.edu)

**Why Trees Matter** is an interdisciplinary program of educators, program assistants, researchers and specialists working together to enhance awareness and provide educational resources and programs focused on the benefits of trees in Ohio communities. As one of OSU Extension's Signature Programs, we work across the state in all program areas to teach Ohioans **Why Trees Matter**.

**Our Mission: To develop science-based educational resources to document and demonstrate the social, economic and environmental benefits of urban and community forests.**

## Why Do Trees Matter?

Powerful new research-based models developed by the U.S. Forest Service and public and private partners provide information about the dollar value of trees in terms of energy savings, storm water remediation, air quality benefits, carbon sequestration and aesthetic benefits. The **Why Trees Matter** program helps communities quantify the importance of their trees and make decisions related to tree selection and care through community networking, teaching and participation in tree inventories.

## Tree Identification and Selection Matter

Tree identification is an essential component of **Why Trees Matter**: to make decisions about selection, care and pest management practices, people need to learn how to identify trees and be able to determine which trees are sustainable over time.

We teach decision-makers which trees provide the biggest bang for the buck in Ohio's urban forests, and for that matter, which trees are in your yard, in your community forests, in Ohio woodlands. Land-owners, gardeners and others learn how to identify trees through hands-on workshops, taught by OSU educators. Youth, including 4-H members, develop an awareness of the value of trees, and learn how to identify trees through classroom activities, walks, and hands-on learning activities.

Two **Why Trees Matter** powerpoint programs are available for download and use: "The Importance of Trees in our Communities," and "Basic Tree Identification" on [treesmatter.osu.edu](http://treesmatter.osu.edu).

## Tree Research

**Why Trees Matter** coordinates over 130 research sites throughout Ohio, evaluating trees in community forests through our Ohio Street Tree Evaluation Program (OSTEP) in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Tree Research Evaluation and Extension (TREE) plots are being developed at OSU's Secrest Arboretum and OSU Extension Clark County. Findings from these research projects help to inform educators and decision makers about tree selection, care and maintenance now and into the future.

## **Trees Matter to Everyone**

*Community leaders, decision-makers and green industry professionals* make choices about tree selection and care based on research conducted at OSU and other universities. Learning takes place in workshops, through personal consultation and by partnering with researchers, educators, arborists and community leaders. *Volunteers*, including 4-H volunteers, Master Gardener volunteers, and community tree volunteers, expand our outreach by teaching, participating in projects such as tree inventories, and developing community networks focusing on trees. Many OSU Master Gardener volunteers are trained to deliver educational programs, on tree identification, tree planting and care, and the value of trees in our communities.

*Ohio's youth* learn about trees and their environmental benefits with schoolyard tree inventories, hands-on programs and tree trails at 4-H camps.

### **Agency and Organization Partners:**

Cincinnati Area Professional Green Infrastructure Network  
Community Tree Commissions  
Davey Tree Expert Company  
Klyn Nurseries  
ODNR Division of Forestry  
The Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association  
Ohio's Urban Foresters  
OSU College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
OSU Secrest Arboretum  
Urban Forestry Institute of Minnesota  
Vineland Research Station in Ontario



Why are these 2<sup>nd</sup> graders so excited? – Is it monkeys, spiders, a videogame projection screen? No! – They are looking up at umbrella magnolia trees at OSU's Secrest Arboretum in Wooster. Photo by Ken Chamberlain, OARDC

To learn more about OSU Extension's Why Trees Matter Signature Program, including team members, resources and projects, visit our website at [treesmatter.osu.edu](http://treesmatter.osu.edu).