Spotlight Topic: Benefits of Trees

Did you know that **trees** have a big effect on both flooding and heat island effects (heat island is when an urbanized area is hotter than outlying towns)?

- ✓ Neighborhoods with trees are seven (7) to nine (9) degrees cooler than those without. Think about the difference between 93 and 86 degrees when you're in the sun!
- ✓ After the remnants of Ophelia put Long Branch into a state of emergency because of flooding, let's remember that trees absorb between 10 and 150 gallons of water a day.

In the midst of climate change, let's keep in mind we can all help cool our city by planting **trees**, as many trees as you can fit comfortably on your property.

- Trees reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings and protecting them from winter winds
- Green space plays a major role in improving mental and physical health
- Trees help absorb the sounds of traffic in urban areas by 40%
- Planting and maintaining trees absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change
- Trees are a major line of defense against greenhouse gas emissions and the heat island effect
- Canopy cover cools our streets, prevents urban flooding, cleans our air, expands wildlife habitats, prevents soil erosion, increases the population of birds & pollinators and beautifies our town
- A diverse urban forest is better able to resist pests and diseases and has the best chance for good growth and long-term survival

Expanding our tree canopy and maintaining the health of our tree population is a top priority for the LB Environmental Commission & Green Team Shade Tree Committee.

URBAN FORESTRY