

RESIDENTIAL

Urban woodlots offer wildlife habitat, add visual interest and provide numerous recreational opportunities.

Urban woodlots add diversity at the bird feeder. According to research by Purdue University, small woodlots are very important “stopover” habitats for migratory songbirds. 76 different migratory songbirds were documented utilizing small woodlots in Tippecanoe County.

Urban woodlots are not just a collection of trees. Even small urban woodlots contain diverse populations of plant and animal life. Many urban woodlots in Indiana contain over 150 different plants.



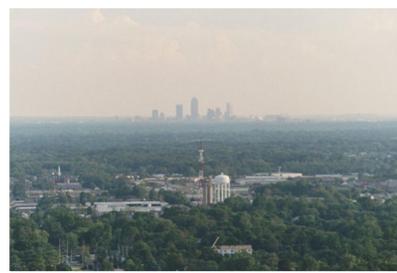
On average, a 10-acre healthy woodlot in Indiana provides clean air for 80 Hoosiers.

MUNICIPAL

Urban woodlots reduce storm water runoff and improve local air and water quality.

Urban woodlots help cities and towns achieve their tree canopy and outdoor recreation goals.

Urban woodlots bring the forest to the city providing unlimited opportunities to connect residents with the cycle of nature.



A 10-acre urban woodlot in Indiana will remove an average of 915 lbs of airborne pollutants a year.

COMMERCIAL

Urban woodlots can be used as focal points for development, adding variety, interest and economic value to commercial and residential properties.

Retaining woodlots during construction can offset landscaping requirements, resulting in less up-front costs and maintenance than traditional tree and landscape plantings.

Urban woodlots can create income through responsible timber harvesting, allowing the landscape to create income rather than requiring expense.



Urban woodlots sequester carbon and can create income through carbon trading.

CHALLENGES

As Indiana cities and towns expand, development often replaces forests and woodlots.

Urban woodlots are often viewed as vacant spaces, waiting for a “productive” use.

Invasive species are often prevalent in urban woodlots, requiring ongoing control measures.

Often it is thought that the urban woodlots can be “replaced” by tree plantings after the woodlot is cleared. Unfortunately, this is not the case, as newly planted trees do not provide the same benefits as large existing trees.

SOLUTIONS

Consideration should be given to urban woodlots in the decision-making process. Woodlots are not unused spaces; they are hard at work every day.

Encourage preservation and creation of urban woodlots with developers, city departments, land trusts, neighborhood associations, and private landowners.

Public urban woodlots provide a positive natural experience, fostering understanding of their value.

City and County zoning ordinances should be written to encourage retention of urban woodlots, providing incentives for preservation during construction.



Public and private urban woodlots are essential environmental, educational, and recreational components of a community's urban natural resources. This fact sheet produced by the Indiana Urban Forest Council, Inc. (IUFC) in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Community & Urban Forestry Program, will promote awareness that a healthy urban forest is an investment in economic health.

The IUFC is a not for profit organization dedicated to the public awareness of protecting, expanding, and improving Indiana's urban forests. It promotes public understanding of the need for trees and other natural resources in and along parks, green space areas, streets, and urban woodlands. The IUFC assists Hoosier communities in protecting, expanding and improving their urban forests.

CONTACT US

Visit the Web site at <http://www.iufc.org>.
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RESOURCES

- Nowak, Hoehn, & Crane; *Oxygen Production by Urban Trees in the United States*; Arboriculture & Urban Forestry; 10/09/09.



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INDIANA URBAN

FOREST COUNCIL

Urban Woodlots: Connecting Communities to Nature

