

Tall Tree Tales

Circle T (true) or F (false) next to each statement below. Then, next to each statement, write the appropriate symbol(s) to indicate the nature of that statement:

A = Aesthetic, \$ = Economic, E = Ecological, H = Health, and S = Social.

T F 1. Trees increase the natural beauty of an area and make cities more livable.

T F 2. The presence of nature and parks helps ensure regular physical activity, which can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, hypertension, colon cancer, osteoporosis, arthritis, and diabetes.

T F 3. Seeing green prevents people from being mean (i.e., it lowers their levels of aggression). One study found that apartment buildings with high levels of greenery had 56 percent fewer violent crimes than apartment buildings with little or no greenery.

T F 4. The number of rats increases as tree coverage decreases.

T F 5. More trees and grass in the common spaces of neighborhoods lead to better relationships between neighbors.

T F 6. Trees slow and absorb storm water and reduce runoff, thereby reducing flooding and stream degradation. The job done by trees for free in the Seattle area would cost \$2.4 billion if it were part of a storm water management system.

T F 7. Generally speaking, the larger a park, forest, or nature preserve, the more diverse the *species* of wildlife and plants it will contain.

T F 8. Prisons that incorporate some element of nature—even just a pleasant view—show higher rehabilitation rates.

T F 9. Trees can lower the temperature of a city by 6–10 degrees. They can thus reduce energy use and even save lives during heat waves.

T F 10. Tree leaves filter air pollutants. In large cities, those green filters are worth tens of millions of dollars in air pollution abatements each year.

T F 11. One acre of trees provides enough oxygen to support 18 people.

T F 12. Green settings can help relieve the symptoms of attention deficit disorder (ADD).

T F 13. Trees can add from 7 percent to 20 percent to a home's value.

T F 14. Habitat fragmentation is the greatest worldwide threat to forest wildlife and the primary cause of species extinction.

T F 15. An average tree can absorb 26 pounds of carbon dioxide (the primary greenhouse gas) each year.

T F 16. Across the nation, our parks, protected rivers, scenic lands, wildlife habitat, and recreational open space help support a \$502 billion tourism industry.

T F 17. Green views and access to green spaces can help urban residents cope with the stresses of daily activities.

T F 18. Patients whose hospital rooms overlook trees require less pain medication and recover more quickly than those whose rooms overlook brick walls.

T F 19. New York City avoided spending \$6 billion to \$8 billion for the construction of new water treatment plants by instead spending \$1.5 billion to purchase and protect the upstate watershed that had traditionally accomplished those purification services for free.

T F 20. Tree-lined streets have the effect of reducing driving speeds, thus making neighborhoods safer for bikes and pedestrians.

Sources: American Forests 2005 (E). Carnegie Mellon University 1995 (C). Envision Utah 2003 (E). GreenInfrastructure.Net 2005 (E). Lerner and Poole 1999 (C). Lyman 2002 (E). Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2001 (E). TreeScape 2005 (E). University of Illinois Human-Environment Research Laboratory 2005 (E).