

The Benefits of Trees in Richmond Hill



Trees are vital natural assets that provide numerous benefits to Richmond Hill's community. They are the green lungs of the city, enhancing our health and wellbeing, saving us money, and providing food and sanctuary for wildlife. Richmond Hill has approximately **2.96 million trees** that cover 30% of the municipality.



The city's trees provide shade and shelter, reducing annual energy demands for owners and tenants, providing a savings of over **\$1.6 million**.



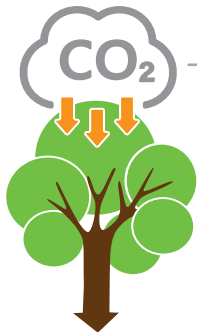
Trees absorb and filter rainwater, which helps improve water quality and reduces flash flooding. The city's urban forest **keeps 537,553 m³ of stormwater out** of storm sewers. This is equivalent to 215 Olympic-sized pools.

Richmond Hill's urban forest improves the air we breathe by **removing 107 tonnes** of air pollutants annually and **produces 11,611 tonnes** of oxygen.



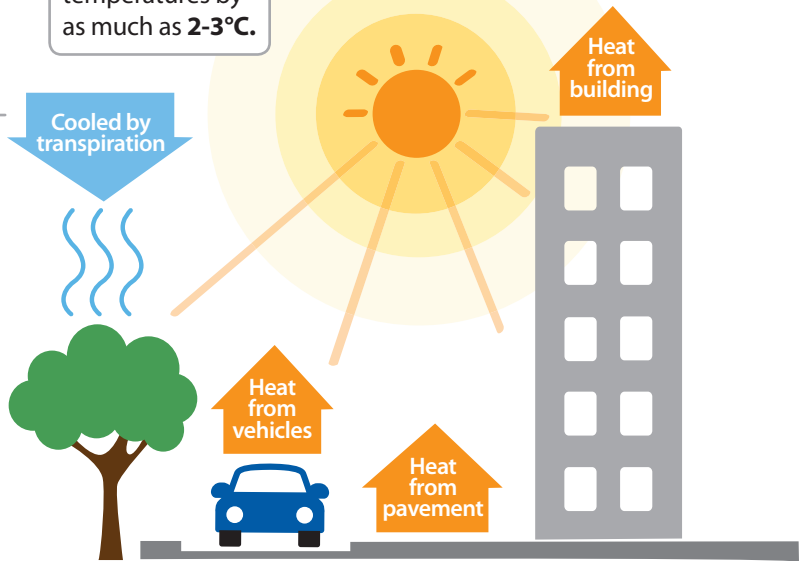
Trees cool air temperatures by as much as **2-3°C**.

Roads, buildings, parking lots and hard surfaces make up 31% of Richmond Hill's area.



Urban forests help Richmond Hill mitigate climate change, **removing 28,036 tonnes** of carbon dioxide per year from the atmosphere. This is equivalent to taking **6,041 vehicles off the road**.

Green spaces and woodlands provide opportunities to **enjoy the outdoors**. Spending time outside has been linked to **improved physical, mental, and emotional well-being**.



The urban forest provides shade and cooling, **reducing the average UV index by 47%** in residential areas in Richmond Hill. Paved and hard surfaces trap heat, making them warmer than surrounding natural areas. This is called the Urban Heat Island Effect.



For more information visit RichmondHill.ca