

# LET'S TALK ABOUT TREES!

Let's set the record straight on the rumors circulating about trees and talk about the facts!



OUR ROOTS  
CHICAGO

## I've Heard

## Let's Talk About It!

**Trees break and crack sidewalks and create plumbing issues**

- Trees can lift concrete when planted too close to walkways. To avoid damage, plant trees at least 5 feet from sidewalks.
- Tree roots do not break underground pipes, but rather, broken drain pipes can attract tree roots seeking moisture.
- Did you know that tree roots only go down 2-3 feet?

**Trees increase crime**

- There are no scientific studies that prove that trees increase crime. Studies actually show that tree lined streets have lower crime rates.

**Trees are high maintenance and costly to maintain**

- Taking care of trees takes less time and money than taking care of grass because you don't need a lawnmower that requires maintenance, gas, oil, and/or electricity.
- The City will trim your parkway tree at no cost to you.
- Did you know you can rake leaves to the base of the tree in the fall and leave them there as mulch for the winter and spring months?

**Planting more trees will disrupt our natural ecosystem**

- Trees provide oxygen, improve air quality, help keep soil in place, and absorb water which prevents flooding.
- Trees also absorb carbon and attract a lot of wildlife such as birds that feed on insects like mosquitoes.

**Trees are dangerous for homes. They can damage property**

- Trees that are not properly maintained may have weaker limbs.
- Trees can protect your home from flooding.
- They can also lower your air conditioning costs by providing shade and lowering air temperature. Trees can block cold winds in the winter lowering your heating costs.

Now that you know the facts, find more information on how you can request a free parkway tree by visiting [chicago.gov/OurRoots](https://chicago.gov/OurRoots)