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Shade trees and landscaping along paved streets can cut the cost of street repairs, lower the costs of maintaining nearby buildings, and make people more comfortable by moderating the effects of the weather.

When asphalt is exposed to the direct, intense rays of the sun, it can reach extremely high temperatures, causing it to break down more quickly and requiring more frequent repairs. One study¹ has shown that protecting streets with a shady canopy cuts costs.

Well-planned landscaping also protects buildings from the sun's pounding rays in summer and the biting conditions of winter. Situated properly, plants can create buffers between the buildings and the elements.

Plants Make Life Better

Plants save energy and maintenance costs.

Not only does landscaping cut costs associated with cooling in summer and heating in winter, plants also protect the walls themselves, so wear and tear and the costs of upkeep are reduced.²

By absorbing heat and sunlight, leafy trees, shrubs and other greenery reduce the reflected heat from paved surfaces and buildings, and create a more pleasant urban environment.

By Elizabeth Petersen

SOURCES:

¹McPherson, E.G., & Muchnick, J. (2005). Effects of street tree shade on asphalt concrete pavement performance. *Journal of Arboriculture* 31:303-310.

²Hall, Charles R., & Dickson, M.W. (2011). Economic, Environmental, and Health/Well-Being Benefits Associated with Green Industry Products and Services: A Review. *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* 29(2):96-103.

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