Designers and city planners need to be aware of the benefits that successful tree planting projects bring.

A few useful and interesting facts are shown below:

- The crown of a large tree is also a freestanding antiflood reservoir. One hundred mature trees capture about 1,137,500 litres of rainwater per year by absorbing rain and slowing the flow of stormwater, allowing some water to evaporate and the rest to soak into the ground.

- Just one hundred trees remove 5 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air a year and about 450 kilograms of pollutants.

- A big tree does 60 to 70 times the pollution removal of a small tree.
STREETS AND SQUARES

Suitable Tree Species

Below is an assortment of trees suitable for planting in city centre areas. In the selection of the assortment, things such as ornamental value, hardiness, and maintenance were also taken into consideration. In general these are trees that do not require high levels of maintenance. Of course, the centre is usually that part of the town or city that receives most attention. That means that maintenance is likely to be more intensive. How much maintenance is required is subject to a number of factors, such as the number of trees per ft² and the size of the trees at the time of planting. Therefore, it is essential when setting up a maintenance plan, to also map the budget needed for maintenance.

**Maple - Acer Campestre 'Elrjuk'**

Robust, medium-sized tree with close, broad pyramidal and ultimately egg-shaped crown. Reaches about 40 feet in height. The leaves are deeply laciniated and in autumn change colour to a striking bright yellow. Almost immune to mildew. Ideally suited to planting as a street tree or in squares. Prefers a heavy, calcareous soil, but also grows on sandy soils, provided they are not too dry. Using Acer campestre cultivars it is possible to create very attractive block, cube, or cylinder shapes.

**Birch - Betula Utilis 'Doorenbos'**

Originates from forests in the high mountains of China and the Himalayas, hence the name Himalaya birch. Has attractive, snowy white bark. The bark is thin and peeling. In the Himalayas, this bark was used for paper.
**BEECH - FAGUS SYLVA TICA ‘DAWYCK’**

Because of its narrow growth habit (maximum of 10 feet wide) it is ideal for places where space is limited or where a tree of tight shape is required. Height at maturity is 65 to 80 feet. Shallow rooting so it is sensitive to winter road salt. Requires a broad clear area around the trunk or a position in a plant bed. The leaves are dark green and change to yellow and brown in autumn. Beechnuts or 'mast' also develop in autumn. Soils should ideally be well-drained, humus rich and not too wet. Cultivar Fagus sylvatica ‘Dawyck Purple’ has dark purple foliage and ‘Dawyck Gold’ has light green foliage which sprouts yellow. The common Fagus sylvatica and the red-leaved Fagus sylvatica ‘Atropunicea’ are ideally suited for use as trained trees.

**ASH - FRAXINUS AMERICAN A ‘SKYLINE’**

Beautiful, orange-red autumn colour. Grows narrow and upright in its early stages but in later years forms a broad, egg-shaped crown of about 35 feet. Grows up to 50 feet in height. Prefers a sunny or semi shaded position in moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates slight acidity and is wind-tolerant. This cultivar bears no seeds because it is a male tree. The Emerald Ash Borer is an introduced insect pest from Asia that attacks and kills all species of ash trees. This invasive pest has devastated ash tree populations across eastern North America.

**OAK - QUERCUS ROBUR ‘FASTIGIATE KOSTER’**

Narrow, upright growing variety of the common oak. Reaches between 50 and 65 feet in height and 10 to 15 feet wide. Branching often starts low on the trunk and because the branches grow upright, the tree has a pleasing, closed shape. Perfect for narrow streets and has no problems with surfacing. Prefers a humus rich, moist, but well-drained soil that allows the roots to grow deep. In autumn, the green foliage turns yellow and egg-shaped acorns appear.

**POP L AR - POPULUS SIMONII ‘FASTIGIATA’**

An initially narrow, upright growing tree, which becomes broader later on. The small leaves produce continuous movement. Grows up to between 115 and 165 feet in height. Grows on both clay (not too heavy) as well as sandy soils and also tolerates wet soils.
STREETS AND SQUARES
Suitable Tree Species

Tilia Cordata ‘Rancho’

Good Linden tree for the urban environment because this variety is (sea) wind-tolerant and also survives in closed road surfacing. Furthermore, almost immune to honeydew and sooty mould. Height 35 to 40 feet. The tree forms a narrow, conical or egg-shaped crown, ultimately 20 to 26 feet wide. The light green leaves are small heart-shaped and turn a lovely yellow in autumn. In summer, it bears bunches of sweet smelling bright yellow flowers. Grows in any soil and tolerates drought. Many types of Linden tree are suitable as trained trees.

Sorbus Latifolia ‘Henk Vink’

Vigorous robust tree with a narrow pyramidal crown. Reaches 35-40 feet in height. In May, the off-white flowers appear in bunches, followed by many striking brown-red berries. The leaves are shiny green on the surface and grey and felt-like underneath. Ideally suited to an urban environment and can even be planted in the surfing. Tolerates wind, even in coastal locations.

Ulmus ‘Columella’

Narrow upright growth habit with transparent crown. Reaches between 50 and 65 feet in height. Resistant to the current strains of Dutch elm disease. The leaves are small, scalloped and green in colour. Ideally suited to planting in urban environments and coastal areas. Grows in sandy soils as well as clay soils. Can also be grown in wet soils. Alkaline-loving.