

## Hope is a Tree #6: A Review

Ken Baker, January 22, 2024

In the concluding piece of this monthly series of six short essays on the value and care of our urban forests, let's review some of the main points we've covered over the past five months. The 100-question exam to follow will count for 50% of your final grade. From the column in:

Sept: We plant a tree because it matters. Tree-lined streets not only improve property values, but also have measurable effects on residents' physical and emotional health. They markedly enhance the appeal of a downtown shopping experience, and have even been shown to reduce crime rates compared to treeless areas.

Oct: It's almost always best to hold off trimming unwanted limbs until the colder months when trees are dormant. And never saw off a limb flush with the trunk. Rather, cut just beyond its branch collar—the swelling at the base of the branch.

Nov: Trees are a critical component of a city's living infrastructure, extending the life of street surfaces, lowering household energy expenses, slowing traffic, improving the management of stormwater runoff, and strengthening social bonds within communities.

Dec & Jan: But town trees live under very different conditions than the forest environments in which they evolved and they require specialized care. It's the job of the city's professional arborists, supported by dedicated and knowledgeable members of its Tree Commission, to see that the town's investment in its urban forest provides the quality of life we all want for a thriving business district and livable neighborhoods.

Just kidding about the test. Probably.

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A. Tree-lined suburban street

B. Tree-lined city street



#### A. Tree-lined suburban street.

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#### B. Tree-lined city street.

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