

AIA ABQ / NMASLA

# Celebrate Earth Day Get a Free Tree

## What can we do?

Healthy trees are vital to mitigate the effects of Urban Heat and designing for healthy trees in the City of Albuquerque lands in the hands of those who can advocate for healthy sites. Architects, landscape architects, and planners can support trees in our urban landscape, leading towards a greater appreciation of how environmental design impacts our community, our health, and our futures.

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- »Urban core temperatures are +5° during the day and +8° at night vs surrounding desert temps.
- »Trees are the most cost effective strategy to mitigate heat and related air quality problems
- »**ABQ plant hardiness zone is expected to move from 7b to 9a over the next 70 years**
- »Plan for the lifespan of a tree by selecting climate-ready trees

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- »Don't blame trees, blame the poor growing conditions
- »Select a climate-ready species
- »Manage the micro-climates
- »Provide roots with healthy soil volume
- »**Tree roots occupy the top 3 feet of soil**
- »Healthy tree soil needs to be uncovered, uncompacted, and irrigated

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- »Follow IDO for requirements and guidelines
- »**5-6 General Landscaping Standards**
- »75% canopy or groundcover coverage of site
- »Street trees within 20ft from curb
- »Use a sidewalk width waiver to give trees more soil volume
- »Mulching of uncompacted soil is required
- »Credits for preserving existing trees
- »Capture storm water with landscaped areas



Heat Island is a major public health issue that will only increase, and trees are an important part of mitigation. Elevated temperatures affect a community's environment and quality of life in multiple ways: -Increased Energy Consumption -Elevated Emissions of Air Pollutants and Greenhouse Gases -Compromised Human Health and Comfort -Impaired Water Quality

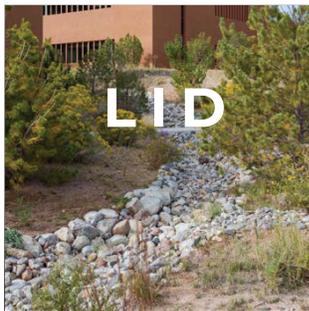
Shading buildings to reduce energy use is one of the strategies used to provide shade and cooling through evaporation and can also be used to reduce stormwater runoff and protect against erosion. Strategically placed trees can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent. Reducing the energy demand for cooling we reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution emissions.

Trees also improve air quality (improve public health) with their absorption of carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change.

Site planning for tree health and heat mitigation requires certain skills and project management methods.

## How can we do it?

Collaborate early and often. Emphasize the importance of site features and opportunities to collect storm water. Think about how site features can enhance built structures. Then think about how the built structures can provide and protect resources for the site. Skilled project management can bring a diverse team of professionals to work toward a common vision. Challenge those experts to do better.

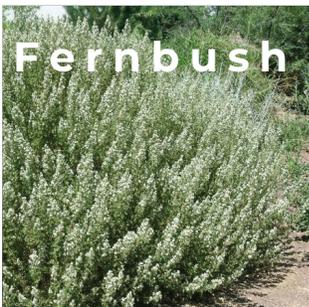


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- »Low Impact Development = resilience
- »CELEBRATE RAIN + WELCOME RUNOFF better yet: don't create runoff
- »PAVE LESS and only where absolutely necessary
- »PLANT MORE TREES + ENSURE THEY THRIVE urban forests everywhere!
- »EDUCATE YOURSELF + BE AN ADVOCATE push clients and policy makers
- »COLLABORATE BETTER + MORE OFTEN ask the experts, work together

## Links

[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)  
[www.statesummaries.ncics.org/nm](http://www.statesummaries.ncics.org/nm)  
[www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu)  
[www.nature.org/newmexicotrees](http://www.nature.org/newmexicotrees)  
[www.jamesurban.net/soil-volumes/](http://www.jamesurban.net/soil-volumes/)  
[www.root2shooturbanforestry.com](http://www.root2shooturbanforestry.com)  
[www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/news](http://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/news)  
[www.cabq.gov/sustainability/climate-action-plan](http://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/climate-action-plan)  
[www.dpsdesign.org](http://www.dpsdesign.org)



Chamaebatiaria millefolium / FERNBUSH

Growth Rate: Moderate  
Mature Height: 6-8 feet  
Water Requirements: Low  
Alkalinity Tolerance: Moderate  
Preferred Elevation: 3000 - 7000  
Cold Hardiness: Good  
Color: It has white flowers in mid-summer.  
Suggested Uses: windbreaks, wildlife plantings, and erosion control.  
Pest Problems: no major pests.

Tree Description: This shrub has fragrant fern-like leaves. It produces an array of white flowers in the spring. The plant remains an evergreen in warm climates and becomes deciduous in colder climates. It is also very drought tolerant once established. It has high calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. Optimum soil pH is 7.0 to 8.0. It is shade intolerant. The width is 5 feet.