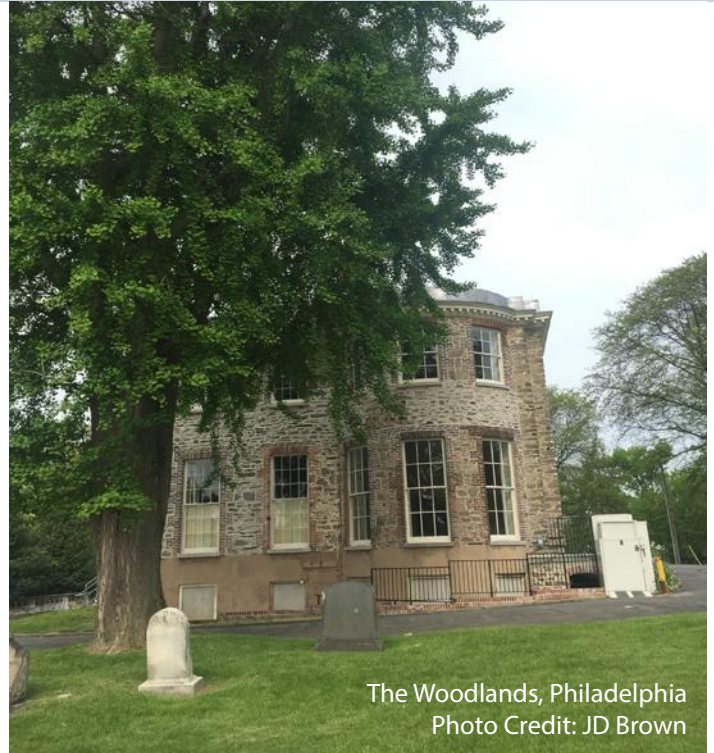




Mature street trees
Photo Credit: JD Brown



The Woodlands, Philadelphia
Photo Credit: JD Brown

“In trees, we see ourselves.” Book Review of Urban Forests by Jill Jonnes

By James D. Brown

In her book *Urban Forests*, Jill Jonnes provides a detailed discussion of our nation’s fascination and love for the largest of urban denizens: trees. The book traces the history that began with early city pioneers who recognized the multiple benefits provided by urban trees and who proselytized this message to the masses. Jonnes also documents the history of epidemics that have continued to ravage and reshape the composition of urban forests. These epidemics mirror the complexity of cities with origins in both the natural world and in the action and inaction of humans. A history that is particularly apt in the face of our changing world and the knowledge that climatic conditions will alter to favor different species.

Jonnes leaves no doubt that urban forests are a necessity for healthy cities. She documents the evolution of the science to support what urban residents have known for decades: that there is no

replacement for the shelter and companionship of the green fabric provided by urban forests. What remains frustrating is that, despite this obvious understanding and agreement that urban forests must play a role in the future of cities, policies continue to fail to protect what we cherish most.

Resources

Jonnes, Jill (2016). *Urban Forests: A Natural History of Trees and People in the American Cityscape*. Viking. New York City.