

Sand Springs has the highest number of trees per acre in Tulsa County. There are 100,000,000 trees in Tulsa County, 900,000 of which are in Sand Springs. Up With Trees Executive Director Steve Grantham attended the Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce open forum Monday to talk about a plan to beautify Sand Springs and boost the local economy. "People shop more and stay longer in well-treed areas--I call it the Utica Square effect," Grantham said. "People spend more, so tax receipts go up. A well-placed, well-maintained tree can affect the price of a home." Since 1976, Up With Trees has planted more than 30,000 trees and maintains more than 20,000. He stressed the importance of strategic planting to maximize benefit and avoid public safety issues. "We educate about having the right tree in the right place," Grantham said. "I would have you think today, trees are an asset. We want to bring this process to every municipality in Tulsa County." To learn more about Up With Trees or to provide input about whether more trees should be planted and where, visit www.upwithtrees.org.