



Trees of Life

Trees are critical in the ecosystems of God’s creation. In the beginning, we read that God created trees for the Earth and placed the “tree of life” in the garden. This woodland garden represents what God intended: beauty, biodiversity, and abundance where trees give life for all on Earth. In the last chapter of the Bible, we see the “tree of life” again producing fruit and leaves for healing the world.

The vision is of a healthy, vibrant planet where God’s abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation. Trees play an essential role in this vision. Trees are not niceties but necessities as they provide essential ecosystem services and valuable benefits for our communities. Trees...

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| Store CO ₂ and cool the planet | Provide shade, food, comfort & beauty |
| Clean the air of pollutants | Raise property values |
| Improve soil and water quality | Stimulate local economy |
| Curb storm water runoff | Enhance physical and mental health |
| Decrease noise pollution | Improve performance at work & school |
| Reduce energy consumption | Reduce aggression and crime |
| Support biodiversity | Promote social interaction |

For evidence-based findings on these benefits, see Jessica B. Turner-Skoff and Nicole Cavender, “The benefits of trees for livable and sustainable communities” in *Plants, People, Planet*. 2019; 1:323–335.



JoinTrees to Restore the Earth

Participate in the JoinTrees campaign to plant one million trees by 2030 to help restore the Earth.

We call on all ages and genders to participate in this campaign to address climate change with its harmful impacts on God’s Earth, creatures, and people. We’re joining trees as the best, most cost-efficient natural climate solution. Trees not only sequester carbon, cool the planet, and slow climate change, but support biodiversity and provide an array of amazing benefits described above.

JoinTrees involves tree planting on...

- Private, business, and church properties
- Marginal farmland set aside for afforestation
- Public rights-of-ways along roads and in parks
- Large-scale international agroforestry projects—which also support vulnerable communities and reduce deforestation

Working to establish one million trees, we...

- Locate land for planting and protection
- Provide plans for establishing trees
- Coordinate tree planting opportunities
- Receive and direct contributions for projects

Join the campaign. You and your group can...

- Devote areas on your land for planting trees
- Help with tree planting and tree care
- Pay carbon offsets for your fossil fuel emissions
- Provide financial support for planting trees
- Leave a living legacy of trees for future generations

Visit mennonitemen.org/jointrees or contact Steve Thomas, U.S. Director of Mennonite Men and ISA certified arborist, at:

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