Why Plant Trees?

Contributes to:

   health of whole ecosystem

   healing the web of life / harmony in Creation

Benefits:

- Watershed stewardship

- Restore habitat for wildlife

- Filter pollution, prevent runoff, improve water quality

- Prevent soil erosion

- Reduce carbon footprint

AND create sources of Beauty, Enjoyment, and Meditation
now and for future generations

+**Watershed stewardship**: Our faith tradition calls us to be good stewards of the earth – to "keep and tend the garden" Gen. 1: 28 Planting trees as an expression of our faith results in the following benefits to God's Creation:

+**Restores wildlife habitat:** Reforestation provides homes and food for native plants, animals, and birds to flourish. E.g. A native oak tree provides food for 534 species of beneficial insects and small mammals.

+**Filters pollution:** In one day, one large tree can lift up to 100 gallons of water out of the ground and discharge it into the air. For every five percent of tree cover added to a community, stormwater runoff is reduced by approximately two percent, increasing the cleanliness of water for all human and other-than human inhabitants.

+**Prevents Soil Erosion:** Tree roots hold soil in place, and tree branches help lessen the impact of rain on the soil. Fallen leaves improve soil quality. Forests act as reservoirs, providing natural flood control.

+**Reduces Carbon Footprint:** A tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, and can sequester one ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old. Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating. The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

Examples from: from American Forests, Tree Facts http://www.americanforests.org/discover-forests/tree-facts/

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