

JoinTrees to Restore the Earth

Participate in the JoinTrees campaign of Mennonite Men 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 creation and people. We're employing trees as the best and most cost-efficient means for sequestering climate-warming carbon dioxide. Trees not only sequester carbon, cool the planet, and slow climate change, but also sustain biodiversity and human life.

JoinTrees involves tree planting projects on:

- Private, business, and church properties
- Marginal farm land set aside for reforestation
- Public rights-of-ways along roads and highways
- Land in city, county, and state parks
- Mennonite agency and retirement center land
- Land with international programs

For this campaign, Mennonite Men is working to:

- Create a network of resources and participants
- Locate land for planting and protection
- Provide plans for tree planting and care
- Coordinate tree planting opportunities
- Receive and direct contributions for projects

Join the campaign. What you and your group can do:

- Devote areas of your land for planting trees
- Help with site preparation, planting, and tree care
- Provide financial support for planting & caring for trees

For more information, visit [JoinTrees](#) or contact Steve Thomas, U.S. Director of Mennonite Men and ISA certified arborist, at:

- +1-574-202-0048
- SteveT@MennoniteMen.org

Trees of Life

Trees are critical in God's design for the earth. 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.

Trees provide many benefits for our ecosystem and community.

For our ecosystem, trees...

- 🍃 Store CO₂ and cool the planet
- 🍃 Clean the air of pollutants
- 🍃 Improve water quality
- 🍃 Curb storm water runoff
- 🍃 Decrease noise pollution
- 🍃 Cool urban heat centers
- 🍃 Reduce energy consumption
- 🍃 Support wildlife biodiversity

For our community, trees...

- 🍃 Provide shade, food, comfort & beauty
- 🍃 Raise property values
- 🍃 Stimulate local economy
- 🍃 Enhance physical and mental health
- 🍃 Increase attention, memory and focus
- 🍃 Improve performance at work & school
- 🍃 Reduce aggression and crime
- 🍃 Promote community interaction

With all their community and ecosystem services, urban trees provide a high return on investment. For each \$1 invested in trees, we receive nearly \$4 in benefits.

For scientific findings on these points, 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.

