



# SOLUTIONS

## I. LAND PRESERVATION and CARBON SEQUESTRATION

### A. Sylvan Remedies

#### 1. Plant Trees

Trees are beautiful, spiritually inspiring and naturally nurturing to the earth and its residents. Planting trees is easy, builds camaraderie and the results are instantaneous and long-lasting. Trees for a congregation can be commemorative, symbolic and decorative. Their location can upgrade disadvantaged neighborhoods, an example of climate justice.

According to an article by Steve Nix,<sup>1</sup> there are eight reasons trees are valuable. Trees:

- a. Produce Oxygen, Cleanse the Air, Reduce Heat and Absorb Pollutants. “A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as ten people breathe in a year.”
- b. Clean the Soil and water runoff into streams. This process is called phytoremediation.
- c. Control Noise Pollution by muffling urban sounds including air and car traffic..
- d. Slow Storm Water Runoff, reduce flash flooding and restore water-holding aquifers.
- e. Are Carbon Sinks by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide in their wood, roots and leaves, so it is not available to the atmosphere.
- f. Provide Shade and Cooling, reduce the need for air conditioning and can reduce the temperature in areas of a city by as much as 12 degrees.
- g. Act as Windbreaks on the windward side of a house reducing heat bills in winter by as much as 30%, reduce snow drifts, soil and vegetation dehydration.
- h. Reduce Soil Erosion through tree roots and windbreaks.

Imagine if 1000 UU congregations committed to planting 25 trees each (minimum) either on church property, on the property of congregants or in nearby green spaces or urban deserts.

Examples of the best trees for sequestration are: London plane, oak, conifers, American Sweet Gum, Horse Chestnut, Black Walnut, Blue Spruce, and Yellow Poplar. It is best to note which trees are most suitable to your area. Mangroves, in the southeast, preserve the coastline.<sup>2</sup> Check your city for special tree planting programs and organizations, eg. Portland, OR - [friendsoftrees.org](http://friendsoftrees.org)

Create a tree journal for yourself or your congregation to track your results and tell stories. Celebrate! every 25 trees planted and the amount of sequestration accomplished.<sup>2</sup> Adopt/Restore a Forest, join a coalition to organize a mass tree planting for Arbor Day.

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3. Lobby to Prevent Clear-cutting

4. Work with your City on Tree Removal Rules, Providing Street Trees and Becoming a “Tree City.”<sup>3</sup>

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1 Steve Nix, Reasons Living Trees Are Valuable, ThoughtCo. [https://www.thoughtco.com/reasons-living-trees-are-valuable-1343514?utm\\_source=emailshare&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=mobilesharebutton2](https://www.thoughtco.com/reasons-living-trees-are-valuable-1343514?utm_source=emailshare&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=mobilesharebutton2)

2 <https://www.conservation.org/stories/11-facts-you-need-to-know-about-mangroves>

3 Tree City USA; <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm>