



Plant A Million Fact Sheet

A project of the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council

Serving Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Shelby Counties

HELP US PLANT A MILLION TREES- Not that long ago, central Indiana was largely farms, forests, and prairies. Today, 80% of us live in urban and suburban areas. Through the years millions of trees have been removed from the area due to development, ice, storms, fire, pests, and disease. As our population continues to grow and sprawl into the surrounding environment, our neighborhood of trees and forests is being lost. Central Indiana includes two of the fastest growing counties in the nation (Hendricks and Hamilton). We have less parks, green space, and tree canopy cover than most major metropolitan areas in the country. According to American Forests most communities in the U.S. should strive for an overall tree canopy coverage of an average of 40% in order to have livable, sustainable communities – we are far below that average in the Hoosier Heartland area!

Trees are indicators of a community's health. The greater the tree cover and the less the impervious surface, the more ecosystem services are produced in terms of reduced storm water runoff, increased air and water quality, storage and sequestration of atmospheric carbon and reduced energy consumption due to direct shading of buildings.

A HEALTHIER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL- Central Indiana is on the way! Our environment will be friendlier to wildlife and people. Our heating and air conditioning costs will be reduced. Why? Because of our efforts to **PLANT A MILLION** trees in the yards, parks, school grounds, farms, and by-ways of Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Shelby Counties. The ten **Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)** are working in partnership with Hoosier Heartland to make it happen

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Residents** can plant trees in their yards.
- **Businesses** can green up property with shrubs and trees.
- **Corporations** can fund tree plantings and provide volunteers to plant and/or organize a local event.
- **Communities** can plant trees in public spaces, and help measure benefits by conducting inventories and surveys.
- **Civic clubs** can conduct fundraisers and tree plantings.
- **Personal donations** can be made to purchase and plant trees.

TOP 10 REASONS TO PLANT TREES!

1. Trees modify local temperatures, reducing heating and cooling costs.
2. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and replace it with oxygen.
3. Trees smooth out the harsh and straight lines of buildings.
4. Trees shade parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, vehicles, and other heat islands.
5. Trees buffer urban noise and screen out unsightly views.
6. Trees, planted in harmony with the home or building add property value.
7. Trees provide nuts fruits, and other food for human and wildlife.
8. Trees add color to the landscape.
9. Trees help relieve stress and reduce recovery time for sick and injured people.
10. Trees promote harmony among people reducing acts of aggression and crime.

The Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council and its partnering organizations are equal opportunity program providers and employers.

Share our vision and become a part of our commitment to creating a healthy and beautiful environment!

JOIN US

You can help make good things happen in your community! Many dedicated volunteers, organizations, and businesses make Hoosier Heartland successful. To join our highly successful organization, or to donate to our cause, please contact us at 317-290-3250. **Contact** your county's local Soil & Water Conservation District to get involved!