

Tuesday's Tip from your friendly EAC: Arbor Day

Trees. They're beautiful. They make our properties more valuable (mature trees can increase property values by as much as 15%!). Planted strategically, they help cool our homes in the summer and shield them from bitter winter winds. From a homeowner's perspective, they're all kinds of good.

Did you know that the trees that line our streets and shade our yards have the same ecological value as *forests*? It's true. You know all that carbon dioxide that's heating up the planet and contributing to global climate change giving us all eco-anxiety? Trees suck it up like nobody's business. They not only keep it out of the air, but they actually convert it to clean oxygen and energy for their own growth.

Trees also keep our creeks and streams clean by slowing the down the rate at which rain hits the ground beneath them, giving the earth the time to soak that water in rather than letting it roll on by, taking whatever fertilizer or pesticides or other nasties it's picked up along the way into our water. And they're a great support system for our soil, keeping it safely in place to support all the other plant life that needs it.

They're heavy groundwater drinkers, too, and sleep off the party by exhaling that water back into the atmosphere as a clean vapor which ultimately helps regulate precipitation rates and quantities. They house and feed any number of our wildlife friends and they're good to us, too, reducing our stress and minding the environmental shop, so to speak. Trees are like hard-partying superheroes - saving the planet *and* they're fun to hang with!

We need more trees! So plant some. The Township is here to help. On Saturday, April 23, 2022, the Township will be giving away free trees at Gazebo Park from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Get there early and become a superhero sidekick.

For more information on how to become a forest steward in your own backyard, see <https://extension.psu.edu/forest-stewardship-backyard-trees>