

MILTONVALE REFORESTATION PROJECT

How to Plant a Tree

- dig a **hole 2-3 times wider than your plant pot/root ball** and the same depth
- place the soil in a pile - you are going to need it later. Don't put sod in the tree hole - it ties up nitrogen that the tree needs
- the **sides of your hole should be straight up and down** (not cone-shaped)
- remove your trees pot or any wrapping that is around the root ball
- check for girdling or circling roots and prune them if needed (circling roots - prevents the roots from growing outwards and can prevent uptake of water or nutrients and make the tree unstable; girdling roots - circle the lower trunk and stop the tree from transporting water and nutrients up the trunk)
- set the tree in the hole. **The tree should be planted at the same depth as it was in the container or planted so that the root flare is just visible above the soil**
- if your tree is a bit too low, add a mix of top soil and compost to the bottom of the hole and test your root ball depth again. When planting large trees, measure your root ball depth with your shovel and adjust your hole depth to avoid placing the tree more than once
- now that you have your root ball at the right height, stand back and **make sure your tree is standing up straight**
- start to **back fill the hole with a mixture of compost and the topsoil** that you dug out of the hole
- when your hole is $\frac{1}{2}$ full tamp the soil down firmly
- back fill the rest of the hole up to the top of the root ball and **tamp firmly**
- **place a tree guard around the trunk** to protect the tree from rodent damage
- **add a several layers of newspaper** over the soil and cover with 2-4" of **mulch**
- **keep the mulch away from the trunk** of the tree to avoid moisture and insect problems

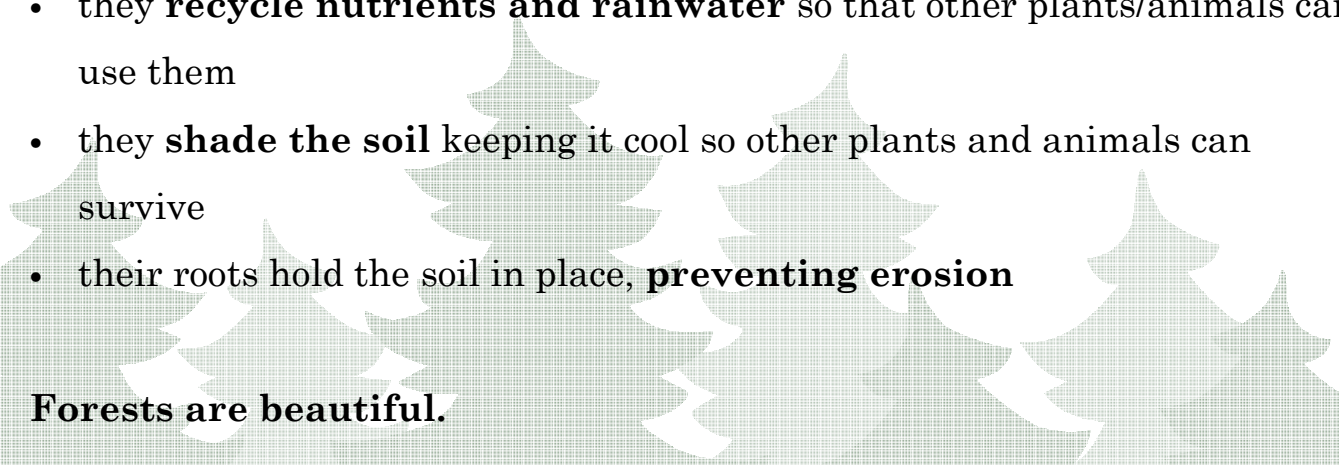
"The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best is now."

~ Chinese proverb

Why plant trees?



Trees are good for the environment:

- they **clean pollutants out of the air and water**
 - they **use carbon dioxide** (a greenhouse gas) and **release oxygen** (something we need)
 - they provide **food, shelter and homes for wildlife**
 - they **create shade** so that we are cooler in the summer
 - they **buffer the wind** so that our houses are warmer in the winter
 - they **recycle nutrients and rainwater** so that other plants/animals can use them
 - they **shade the soil** keeping it cool so other plants and animals can survive
 - their roots hold the soil in place, **preventing erosion**
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Forests are beautiful.

Urban forests are a place for people who live in the City to learn about nature.

