

# Trees give us the breath of life!

## *Literally.*

By James Donegan, May 2016 • Edited by Donelle Sawyer



Photo by Donelle Sawyer

Trees absorb odors and pollutants out of the air (like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ammonia, ozone, etc.) and trap it in their bark, store it, or process it for their own energy, and, in exchange, release oxygen back out into the air through the leaves. They are nature's very first air purifier! One large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for 4 people. And an acre of trees, in the course of a year, absorbs the CO<sub>2</sub> produced from a car driven 26,000 miles. Just imagine what the loss of trees would do to us!

They provide us with shade in the summer, make excellent wind screens, food for animals and humans, habitats for wildlife, save water and help prevent water pollution and soil erosion through their network of roots that are like an absorbent sponge. Three trees placed purposefully around a home can cut summer air-conditioning bills by 50% and by doing so reduces the carbon emissions from power plants that run our HVAC systems in businesses and homes.

Trees even attract and heal. The more trees that a home, business or district has, the more people will instinctively be attracted to it. Studies have shown that patients with views of trees out their windows heal quicker, and that exposure to trees and nature restores humans from mental fatigue, providing a retreat for people from the stresses of daily life.

But most people never even notice them until one falls on their home or car. Your trees should be attended to, and inspected every year for disease, infestations, hazards or pruning by a Certified Arborist. Donegan's Tree Service will do a complete inspection of your trees to inform you of any potential problems. We look for signs of toxic pests, disease symptoms, stress cracks around the trunks or girdling roots that can strangle out the vascular cambium. It's important to have any major deadwood removed, not only for the health of the trees but for safety in areas where children play, and where high traffic, people and vehicles are present. Pruning a tree improves it's vigor and assists in a healthy root zone.

Our team at Donegan's Tree Service provides several types of pruning:

- Crown Cleaning, removal of dead, dying or decayed limbs and 10-15% thinning.
- Crown Reduction, drop crotching only if needed. NOT topping.
- Elevating, raising lower limbs.
- Root Collar Inspection for possible failure.

Give us a call and we'll help your trees be the healthiest they can be!

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