

# **Plant A Tree For Your Tomorrow**

## **Exploring Kentucky's Mighty Oaks 2020 Conservation e**

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According to ourworldindata.org, humans make up only 0.01% of life on Earth, animals make up 2.5%, while plants make up close to 80%. Approximately 98% of Earth's oxygen is from those plants, which our lives depend on; but, oxygen isn't the only thing that plants offer to us. For example, trees are used for more than you think. Most people know that they are used for making building materials, furniture, fences, and heating for stoves. However, they are also used for making everyday necessities you may not have thought of, such as toothpaste, coffee, facial tissue, medicine, and dishwashing liquid.

In our part of the United States, the oak tree is very common. If you've ever seen an acorn on the ground and wondered where it came from, it came from an oak tree. Oak trees can produce thousands of acorns in one season. Even acorns, the fruit of the oak tree, have many purposes. Acorns not only provide nutrients for over 100 wildlife species, but they are seeds to grow more oak trees, which even help to clean our water. Most of the water we drink starts as surface water, which is cleaned by trees. Surface water is restored by rainfall. Tree's canopies slow rainfall speed before it hits the ground, which decreases pollution in the water. Yet, with all that they offer, we do very little to protect them.

Approximately 3.5 to 7 billion trees are being cut down each year. As we clear more forested areas, erosion and land decay are becoming more frequent. If we keep cutting down all these trees then our economy and even our lives could be in grave danger. Currently, there are approximately 3 trillion trees in the world. At our current rate of deforestation, in a matter of hundreds of years, all of our trees could be gone. According to sciencefocus.com "Eighty percent of land animals and plants live in forests and without the trees, most of them will die." This could put our ecosystem in a very dangerous place.

Therefore, our generation must work to preserve our environment more than we are now for the benefit of future generations. So you may be asking yourself, what can I do to help? There are many things you can do to support this effort. First, if things that you're finished using can be recycled, simply recycle them! That way, instead of being put into a landfill those items can be made into other products. Second, you can plant a tree! The more trees there are, the more oxygen-rich air and clean drinking water there will be. The added trees will also help strengthen our animal population. Also taking care of a tree can be very fun and gives you a story to tell future family members. For more ways to help you can simply search "what can I do to help the environment?" and get to saving our surroundings!

In closing, remember the words of musician John Denver,

*Plant a tree for your tomorrow  
It's your tree that clears the air*

*Plant a tree today for all the world to share*

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