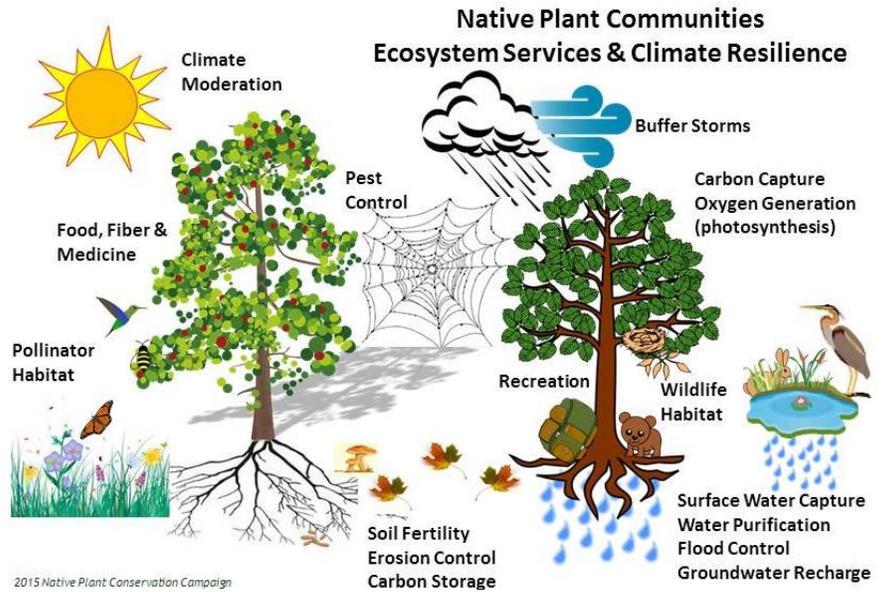




Save Plants, Save Ourselves! Plants Deliver Ecosystem Services

Native plants, and the ecosystems they sustain, are irreplaceable support systems for life on earth, including humans.



Water Purification

Plants purify water by trapping and absorbing contaminants. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, protected watersheds in the Catskill Mountains purify and deliver 1.4 billion gallons of water to nearly 9 million people in New York each day.



Food & Shelter for Pollinators & Other Wildlife

Relationships between native plants and wildlife have evolved over millennia, creating specialized local habitats. For example, native plants support insects that are food for birds and other animals, and also are critical to pollination, food production and pest management. Photo the Xerces Society.



Storm Protection

Mangroves and other native plants protect coasts during hurricanes and strong storms. For more information see the Mangrove Action Project.



Food, Fuel & Fiber Production

Plants provide food, clothing and shelter. Kenya's Greenbelt Movement has planted more than 50 million native trees to empower women, control erosion, provide food and fuel, and buffer climate change. Photo the Greenbelt Movement.

Flood Protection & Groundwater Recharge

Wetlands slow water and absorb its energy, allowing water to percolate to aquifers, and protecting communities from extreme rainfall events, rising sea levels, and flooding. Photo New England Wildflower society.



Landslide Protection & Carbon Sequestration

Native plant communities are shields against natural disasters and climate change. Forests buffer the destructive forces of heavy wind and rain, while roots stabilize slopes against landslides. The Forest Service estimates that U.S. forests capture about 27 million tons of C/year, mitigating greenhouse emissions.



Waste Disposal & Soil Fertility

Soil organisms break down waste, capture and recycle nutrients, and build soil organic matter, water holding capacity and fertility.



Pest Control

Spiders, bats, birds, carnivorous plants and other species help to control pests. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, one bat, such as these Mexican Free Tailed Bats, can eat between 600 and 1,000 insect pests in just one hour.



Climate Moderation, Mental Health & Oxygen

Plants keep us alive, happy and comfortable. Through photosynthesis, plants provide the oxygen we all breathe. Studies show green spaces keep us happier. Also, according to NASA, even partially vegetated areas are up to 2° C cooler than areas dominated by pavement.

