People have their own ways of looking at trees. To
grown-ups, trees may be the key that unlocks child-
hood memories. To children, they represent adventure.
To landscape architects, trees are a tool for creating
different landscape effects. To loggers and foresters,
they are a livelihood.

Nearly everyone agrees that trees are important, even
crucial. They provide shade, protection from the wind,
a place to play for active children, a canopied
backrest for dreamy grown-ups or weary hunters,
fruits, nuts, beauty, building materials and much, much
more.

What most people may not realize, or only realize
subconsciously, is that trees can be used in many ways
for many reasons. The following is a list of ten ways
trees can be used:

1. _Reduce soil erosion:_ rows of trees break the
   wind on flatter lands and healthy forests protect soil
   from water erosion on hillsides.
2. _Improve air and water quality:_ a forest floor of
   leaves, needles, and decaying wood acts as a giant
   sponge by absorbing, filtering, and holding water.
   One acre of trees provides enough clean oxygen for
   seven people and cleans many pollutants from the
   air.
3. _Increase income:_ properly managed trees can
   provide excellent sources of income through the sale
   of timber and other wood products, Christmas trees,
   boughs, and other special forest products.
4. _Save energy:_ recent studies show windbreaks
   can reduce winter fuel consumption by 10 to 30
   percent. Trees also save energy by shading – one
   large tree can have the cooling effect of five air
   conditioners.
5. _Protect livestock:_ trees reduce the wind and can
   significantly reduce animal stress by decreasing
   exposure to wind. Livestock not only need less feed,
   but their weight gains are higher. Shade provided by
   trees can help keep animals cooler on hot summer
days.
6. _Sound barrier:_ trees and windbreaks reduce
   noise from high-speed traffic and other sounds.
   Leaves, branches, and twigs all absorb sounds of
different frequencies.
7. _Home for wildlife:_ wooded areas make valuable
   cover, nesting, and breeding areas for upland game
   and songbirds. In winter, when all other food is
   blanketed with snow, seeds and fruits of trees and
   shrubs provide food for many species.
8. _Living snow fence:_ in snow country, properly
   locating a living fence of trees and shrubs parallel to
   your driveway or highway helps hold snow on the
   fields and off the roads. Proper distance is critical or
   it can increase snow on a road.
9. _Improve crop yield:_ soil particles blown by
   strong winds frequently damage small crops (similar
   to sandblasting). Yields may also be lowered by the
   drying effects of hot winds. Trees protect against
   these hazards.
10. _Beautify the countryside:_ well kept wooded
    areas, windbreaks, and other tree plantings undeni-
    ably enhance the aesthetic value of individual farms
    and the countryside.

So, if it has been on your mind to beautify your
outdoor surroundings, or you just like the idea of
planting trees, go ahead, there are at least ten good
reasons for planting and using trees.