



Trees and other plants are essential parts of our environment. Plants clean our air and our water. They even clean the soil. Plants also provide us with food by harvesting the energy of the Sun. They use the Sun's energy to convert water and carbon dioxide into sugars, complex carbohydrates and oxygen. In some cases, they even make proteins like those found in beans and nuts. Plants also make pigments like the red found in an apple's skin, or the orange found in a carrot. The chemistry of plants is amazing, and it is also essential for our survival.

Without plants, the carbon dioxide that we exhale would build up to toxic levels, and there would be little oxygen for us to breathe. But plants need us too. We use up the oxygen that is toxic to them, and we produce the carbon dioxide that they need to live. Together, plants and animals are in balance. If either one were to die out, the other would not be able to survive. That is why it is important for us to preserve green spaces in and around our cities. It is also why we must pay attention to what we do to our environment.

