



## Tree Cards: Ecosystem Functions

(Print two copies on purple paper and cut into 22 individual cards)

<p><b>Holds soil in place so the tree does not wash away in rain and wind; takes up nutrients in the soil</b></p>	<p><b>Provides shade and evaporates water; absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen; provides food for animals and insects</b></p>	<p><b>Stores carbon dioxide, reducing greenhouse gases; provides material for products such as paper and furniture</b></p>	<p><b>Often a source of food for wildlife and humans; may be used for medicinal purposes, dyes, or cosmetics</b></p>
<p><b>Transfers sugars (food) the tree creates from sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide, making this energy available to the ecosystem (including humans!)</b></p>	<p><b>Provides food in the form of nectar to bees, birds, and other pollinators</b></p>	<p><b>Absorbs water from the ecosystem and stores it for use in dry times; produces sap such as maple syrup</b></p>	<p><b>Provides habitat and food for many insects; when decomposing, releases nutrients back into the soil; may be used for paper products and mulch</b></p>
<p><b>Strong wood ideal for building materials; may eventually hollow out from the center of the tree and provide prime animal habitat</b></p>	<p><b>Enables the tree to grow strong for protection from wind and storms; produces pectin, used in jellies, jams, and candies</b></p>	<p><b>Provides habitat for animals and insects; organic material for soil; and shelter from wind and rain</b></p>	