

Why we need climate resiliency

Climate change is here, and cities all over the world are working to protect their community members from harmful climate effects like rising average temperatures, heat waves, flooding, and severe weather. While our leaders keep building, working and planning, we can adapt! These activities will help you develop strategies to help you, your family, and your community thrive. Be the change in climate change. Learn how from our best teachers: trees, parks, and nature.

This is my climate.

Climate describes the pattern of weather conditions in a particular place that happen over a long period of time throughout the seasons. For example, the climate in Florida is known to be hot in the summer, and mild in the winter. You might experience a tropical storm or a hurricane if it is hurricane season. These are weather patterns that are normal for a region. In Oregon, winters might be rainy, and summers sunny and mild. You can expect to see lots of snow in a Minnesota winter, and the desert in Arizona might be hot and dry in the summer. What is the climate in Wisconsin?

Draw or describe your climate. What is it like?

What is your climate like throughout the seasons? (draw or describe)

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

Climate change effects.

When climate changes, there may be a disruption in normal weather patterns of temperature and precipitation for your neighborhood. People and even animals can be surprised by unexpected or intense weather events.

How trees help.

Trees have superpowers in their ability to protect us from climate change.

Trees cool by evapotranspiration. They also remove carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, from the air and store it in their roots, trunks, branches and leaves. They remove air pollution so we can breathe better, and absorb



excess precipitation, decreasing the chances of flooding and erosion. Trees also provide us with cooling shade to enjoy by ourselves, with family, or with our friends and neighbors.

How I can help. Changes you make to the places you live, learn, play and work can help slow the process of climate change and help you be more adaptable to its effects. Learning about trees and helping them grow in your park or neighborhood helps build climate resiliency for your neighborhood and community. Spending time getting to know and caring for your favorite trees helps build your strength and resiliency, too.

Time in nature helps you be healthier and happier by reducing stress, builds strength and motor skills, improves focus and encourages discovery. Spending time among trees helps you be more creative, encourages play, helps you rest better, and can provide a cool, quiet, cozy, or sheltered place to build happy relationships with your friends, your family, and your community.