



## **Our Environment: Why Clean Land is Important**

Land pollution, often caused by human activities and their misuse of land resources, degrades the earth's land surfaces. Haphazard disposal of urban and industrial wastes, exploitation of minerals and improper use of soil by inadequate agricultural practices are a few factors. Pesticides and herbicides contaminate the soil as do various other chemicals. Litter can dirty what was once a beautiful landscape and through deforestation, large areas of trees can be decimated quickly.

The importance of trees to our life is often understated and underappreciated. It's not too hard to believe that, without trees, we humans would not exist on this beautiful planet. Trees are essential to life as we know it and are the ground troops on an environmental frontline. A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in an entire year! As the Earth's population continues to grow over the next years and decades, it will become increasingly important to take care of our natural resources. More people can lead to more waste, more littering and more deforestation.

This land is a beautiful place, and we must make sure that we keep it in good shape. While not littering and recycling are good habits to form and keep, it is important to be mindful of our planet, keeping in mind the delicate nature of the land on which we live. The coming years will likely provide numerous environmental challenges, and it's critical we are prepared to meet them and take action to protect our planet.