



Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

US Senator Lugar to Lead Plant A Million Trees “Kick Off” Campaign on June 25th in Indianapolis

Indianapolis, IN- Want to be part of something really big?? **“PLANT A MILLION”** is here! Senator Richard Lugar will officially kick off this massive tree planting program on June 25th at 10:30 AM in front of the 4-H Buildings on the Indiana State Fairgrounds. You are invited to be part of this tremendous event as Honorary Campaign Co-Chair Senator Lugar speaks about the importance of trees in our lives and our communities and relates some of his personal experiences as a Hoosier Tree Farmer. Mrs. Judy O’Bannon is also an Honorary Co-Chair of the project and will be taking part in many future activities to stress the importance of tree planting. A beautiful specimen of Indiana’s State Tree, the Tuliptree, will be planted on the grounds during the ceremony, which with an informational plaque will be a permanent reminder of the importance of planting trees in Indiana.

Plant A Million is a combined effort of Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Shelby Counties to plant a million or more native trees in the next six to ten years.

Central Indiana will be a healthier and more beautiful place when a million new trees have been planted all across our area. Why plant a million or more trees? Two big reasons are --

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to replace the trees being removed for urban development and to replace those that have become old or are being lost to storms, pests or other reasons.

There are hundreds of other reasons to plant trees. Here are a few.

- Trees reduce carbon dioxide in the air by using it to make their food, while releasing oxygen back into the air.
- Tree leaves help settle particle pollution such as dust, ash, pollen and smoke that can damage human lungs.
- Tree plantations in rural areas help control erosion and to ensure a future supply of building supplies and furniture material.
- Trees along streams filter sediments, chemicals and other pollutants from runoff water before they enter the stream.
- Trees store large quantities of water in their trunk, roots and leaves making it available during times of low humidity.
- Trees absorb enough carbon dioxide on each acre to equal the amount produced by driving a car 26,000 miles.
- Trees lower the temperature around homes by providing shade.
- Workers are more productive and have less absenteeism in office space surrounded by trees.
- Future jobs in the building industry and furniture manufacturing depend on adequate raw materials.

What can you do to help with the Plant a Million effort? Plant a tree or trees in your yard. Encourage neighbors to do the same. Donate trees to be planted at schools, parks or other open spaces. Make a personal tax-deductible donation to the Plant a Million effort by sending a check to Hoosier Heartland RC&D. Businesses and corporations can green up their property with shrubs and trees or become sponsors of the Plant a Million campaign by contacting Hoosier Heartland RC&D or their local soil and water conservation district. To learn more about the Plant A Million Campaign or the Hoosier Heartland RC&D visit the appropriate web sites:

www.plantamillion.org or www.hhrcd.org

If your service or civic club, church group or other community group would like to learn -

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more about the benefits of trees or the “Plant a Million” project contact Bob Eddleman, Plant a Million Coordinator at 317-271-4413 and he will arrange a program for your group.

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(below is a graphic that you may want to use in your story)



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